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Email kellie.hardie@hainkelhome.com
On the Cover

Happy Holidays from the Editors of Lagniappe! Photography Editor, Jessica Fridge; Editor, Jessica Chin and Assistant Editor, Kelly Walsh pose in front of a gorgeous holiday spread featuring recipes found in JLNO cookbooks and holiday decorations found at Bloomin’ Deals.

Photo By: Elizabeth Hayes

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Publisher

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

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Layout & Design
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www.jlno.org
Within the Junior League of New Orleans, the lesson we learn over and over again is that when we give, we also receive. This age-old message is as applicable to our vibrant, ever-changing organization in our 90th year, as it was in our first year.

In 1923, Mrs. Hillard E. Miller and nine friends gathered in a New Orleans home to establish an organization that would provide a framework so that the act of giving could have a ripple effect on the underserved in Metropolitan New Orleans. Did those ten visionary women know that their generous efforts would endure today?

This time of year, we consider the act of giving in all of its various forms. We make lists of gifts for our loved ones and those who have been important to us in the preceding year. These lists vary from person to person, and they consist of everything from cards to clothes, toys to tools, and electronics to event tickets. And yet, which of these is as time-less as the gift of philanthropy that JLNO’s founders gave to Metropolitan New Orleans in 1923?

This is a list of a few of the many “gifts” that we give all year long:

• $50.00 funds a one hour craft project for senior citizens at a local day center.
• $200.00 provides story books to 105 first grade students at Lafayette Academy Charter School.
• $1,500.00 provides Rescue Breathing training for 348 “Safe Sitter” participants.

Your financial contribution to the Junior League of New Orleans this year allows you to participate in the ripple effect of giving, as designed by our founding friends. That same financial gift adds even more value to the 35,000 volunteer hours JLNO members put into the community each year.

If your gift list this year includes “cards and clothes,” please add “contributions” and join JLNO in the act of giving this season and all year long.

Be remarkable in your volunteer endeavors,

Jeanne
At Fidelity, we believe that our organization should be a true reflection of the communities we serve, and that a diverse professional staff can more fully anticipate and fulfill the needs of our customers.

To that end, Fidelity is a community leader in supporting women in business. We appreciate the unique strengths that women bring to the financial industry, and in fact, are proud to have the only female Chairman of the Board in banking in the Greater New Orleans area.

Since her appointment in 2010, Katie Andry Crosby has been instrumental in building Fidelity’s diversified professional management group. Her efforts have helped make Fidelity a better institution for our customers and our employees.
Happy Holidays! With the holiday season in full swing, your life (like mine) is probably a little harried right now. Looking at my growing to-do list, I wonder how I can complete it all before the holidays arrive: family, friends, work, parties, gifts, meals and volunteering. Luckily, I know I have an amazing support system that I can count on to assist me when needed. I am extremely grateful to have so many dependable people in my life. Asking for help may not always be easy, but sometimes we have to put our pride aside in order to accomplish our goals.

While being able to count on others is reassuring, it’s heartwarming to know that others can count on you, as well. My high school English teacher always said, “If you can be one thing, be dependable.” This statement has stuck with me for all of my adult life. Dependability leads to other desirable traits that people look for when establishing a relationship: honesty, fairness, thoroughness and accountability.

However, dependability isn’t just limited to people. Businesses and organizations must commit to that value as well. As you’ll read in “Getting Back to Basics with JLNO”, word of mouth is now more reliable than advertisements. Meaning, the more satisfied customers you have, the better your business or organization will be. By allowing others to count on you, you will generate high levels of customer satisfaction and a better reputation. Due to the individual commitment of each Junior League of New Orleans member, our organization has a long-standing reputation for being dependable.

In these pages of Lagniappe, I invite you to read why so many people count on the Junior League of New Orleans. Rebuilding Together assists homeowners in renovating their homes to make them safer and works to bring neighborhoods back to life. The annual Freret Halloween Festival provides 800 local children with costumes for the holiday. Get on Board effectively trains future leaders for local nonprofits. Junior Leagues’ Kids in the Kitchen promotes healthy eating and lifestyle choices in young children. JLNO offers support to our members who are in need with our Membership Outreach Committee, also known as the “Egg Salad” Committee. The Esprit Committee is committed to providing our members with fun-filled activities, including family activities, allowing for members to take a break from community commitments and relax. JL University and the Training and Education Committee work together to effectively train members in a variety of ways, thus improving personal development.

For the past 90 years, local women have led a group effort to give back to this community and make it a better place for all to live. I am so proud to be a member of the Junior League of New Orleans.

Before I close, I would like to give a BIG thank you to Kelly Walsh, Jessica Fridge, Sherri Zeller-O’Bell, Olivia O’Bell and Elizabeth Hayes for working with me to prepare the gorgeous holiday meal and table decorations featured in the “Meaningful Holiday Entertaining” article. Thank you for being so dependable!

Happy Holidays,
Jessica
Laissez les bons temps rouler
(Let the good times roll)

It’s a good time to start planning your delivery at Ochsner Baptist.

The new Women’s Pavilion at Ochsner Baptist is on a roll…and we have finalized the special touches that make this the region’s premier maternity center. Our new facility delivers the ultimate in safety and comfort.

When it’s time to deliver, you’ll have your choice of the latest options like water births and Certified Nurse Midwives. You’ll enjoy a spa-like environment with state-of-the-art delivery suites, private patient rooms with comfortable sleeping areas for dads, too—even mani-pedis, massages and more. And, you’ll rest easier knowing that we offer the highest level neonatal ICU available…just in case.

To learn more or to find an Ochsner-affiliated obstetrician, call 504.842.4155 or visit ochsnerbabies.org.
JLNO Member Bulletin Board

Get ready to shop! - The Buy, Save and Serve Holiday Marketplace (formerly the Holiday Marketplace) is December 17th at 7pm at JLNO HQ.

Do you want your event featured in League Faces? Email the event information to editor@jlno.org.

Keep us updated! To update your contact information, please visit the JLNO website: www.jlno.org.

Share your idea! Do you have a story idea for Lagniappe? Send your idea to editor@jlno.org!

Happy Holidays from the Lagniappe staff.

Celebrate the New Year! New Year's Eve is Tuesday, December 31st!

It’s Carnival Time! Time for king cake! Twelfth Night is January 6th!

Get on Board with JLNO! - Get on Board’s Spring Session - February 8th and 15th. For more information, email getonboard@jlno.org.

Gutter ball, Spare or Strike? Esprit is hosting a family friendly bowling event at Rock n’ Bowl on Saturday, January 18th from 1pm – 3pm!

Mark your calendars! The January General Membership Meeting is January 21, 2014 and has two convenient times - 9am and 7pm, both at JLNO HQ.

Will you be my Valentine? Remember your loved ones on Valentine’s Day, February 14th!

It’s pARTy time! - Esprit is hosting an Uptown Art Gallery event on Thursday, February 20th from 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm. More information to come soon!

Re-“member”

Dues for the 2014-2015 Junior League year are due by March 1, 2014. You can pay online at www.jlno.org.

Throw me something, Mister!
Mardi Gras is Tuesday, March 4th!

Save the Date!
The 9th Annual JLNO Kitchen Tour is Saturday, April 5th!
Have you…

☐ Liked JLNO on Facebook?
☐ Liked Bloomin’ Deal’s Thrift Shop on Facebook?
☐ Followed Bloomin’ Deals on Twitter?

☐ Completed your Fundraising Shift?
☐ Planned your holiday menu using one of JLNO’s cookbooks?

☐ Completed your Thrift Shop Shift?
☐ Met a new JLNO member?
☐ Made your rummage donation?
☐ Completed your Community Shift?
☐ Told someone new about JLNO?
☐ Attended an Esprit event?

☐ Liked JLNO on Twitter? @JuniorLeagueNO
☐ Visited our website? www.jlno.org

☐ Completed your Thrift Shop Shift?
☐ Met a new JLNO member?
☐ Made your rummage donation?
☐ Completed your Community Shift?
☐ Told someone new about JLNO?
☐ Attended an Esprit event?

☐ Shopped Bloomin’ Deals for Mardi Gras costume ideas?
☐ Made a donation to the Endowment Fund?
☐ Downloaded the Digital Cheetah app?
One of the best parts of fall (besides the cooler weather of course!) is the resumption of Junior League activities. Reminiscent of the first week back at school, it’s a chance to catch up with people you haven’t seen all summer, and learn about all of the new and exciting things going on with JLNO. And since the Junior League of New Orleans chapter is the 12th largest chapter in the world with over 2,300 members, new and exciting takes on a whole different meaning here. New Orleans is a very social city, and each weekend boasts a different festival or activity. Eighty-two percent of JLNO members work outside the home, and despite the fact that all members are busy working, raising families and managing households, these women still commit more than 35,000 volunteer hours, along with over $500,000, to community programs and membership training each year. With all of the extra-curricular activities in members’ lives, it is particularly amazing that they manage to commit so much time and resources to the mission of JLNO, which is one of voluntarism.

Specifically, the Junior League of New Orleans focuses on rebuilding New Orleans, children’s wellbeing and education, and healthy families. JLNO programming also benefits multiple community projects serving the at-risk population of New Orleans through charter school outreach, nutritional programming, children’s health services and youth development. So how are Junior League women so successful? By raising community awareness and involvement for the myriad JLNO programs. And the best way to accomplish that? By being a brand ambassador for JLNO.

Wikipedia defines brand ambassador as “a person employed by an organization or company to promote its products or services within the activity known as branding. The brand ambassador is meant to embody the corporate identity in appearance, demeanor, values and ethics. The key element of brand ambassadors lies in
their ability to use promotional strategies that will strengthen the customer-product/service relationship and influence a large audience to buy and consume more.” The Online Slang Dictionary provides a Cliff Notes version: a satisfied customer who tells others about his positive experience with products of a particular brand name. The common refrain among all definitions, however, is the idea that all brand ambassadors exhibit one overarching characteristic—passion.

JL University is a new Junior League program, which seeks to focus that passion by offering training events for members, with a goal to make an even bigger impact in JLNO placements throughout the community. In other words, to be a more passionate and effective brand ambassador for the Junior League. Soshable, a social media marketing blog, notes that peer recommendations hold four times as much weight as advertisements, which means that every member needs to recognize that they are the embodiment of JLNO, and their actions, whether in the workplace or in volunteer or social activities, represent JLNO. This can be as simple as wearing, with pride, products that bear the Junior League logo. But it also means presenting a persuasive and interesting introduction whether selling a cookbook or a Buy, Save & Serve card, or asking friends, families and the people you already do business with to follow your lead and support the mission of the Junior League. Members are the most effective customer review for the Junior League of New Orleans.

The first session of JL University took place October 5, 2013. JL University presented sessions on Brand Standards, Finance and Fundraising. Junior League President, Jeanne Boughton says, “After 10 years as a member, even I learned several new things about JLNO. I recommend this session to everyone who wants to understand the how? what? when? where? and why? of our organization. You can see why we are 90 years old and going strong.”

Brand ambassadors have the capability to bridge the gap between a business and its customers, in this case, JLNO and future members or community partners. They deliver the message the company wants to share. An effective brand ambassador program can help take a company to a new level of success, and for the Junior League of New Orleans, JL University is worth the homework.

Remember that you are a brand ambassador for the Junior League of New Orleans the next time someone asks you about what our organization is all about.

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K-5
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Voluntarism Rebuilds Homes and Spirits

By: Ann Conger

Rebuilding Together, a long-standing joint project between the Preservation Resource Center and the Junior League of New Orleans had its biggest year yet. JLNO assisted in the rebuilding of four homes over two weekends in October. In past years, Rebuilding Together has worked on two or three homes, but this year; Chairs Virginia Ellis and Katie Burlison embarked on the most ambitious project yet by rebuilding four homes. Aiding JLNO, as in years past, are volunteers from Shell, who have been valuable partners in this endeavor. Additionally, this year Rebuilding Together had the help of a brand new group of volunteers: members of the All Hands On Deck placement, who work on a variety of community shifts.

This year’s co-chairs combine a newcomer, Katie Burlison, and a veteran, Virginia Ellis. While it is Katie’s first year on the committee, she has had experience in other placements, as well as building experience with Habitat for Humanity. Virginia has been with Rebuilding Together for three years and enjoys being part of it because it is "com-
pletely different from what I do in real life.”

Rebuilding Together New Orleans began in 1988 as a one-day building project by the Preservation Resource Center, originally called “Christmas in October.” Since its beginning, Rebuilding Together has grown into a major force for neighborhood revitalization and JLNO members have contributed countless hours toward Rebuilding Together’s mission, “to improve the quality of life of low income homeowners, particularly those who are elderly, disabled, or single head of households with minor children, through home repair and revitalization of New Orleans’ neighborhoods.”

The four homes chosen this year are all in the Carrollton-Hollygrove-Leonidas neighborhood, which is still getting back on its feet eight years after Hurricane Katrina. Many people have not been able to return to their homes and the neighborhood has suffered. According to Katie, the most important thing about Rebuilding Together is getting the families back in their homes, as it is a major step in revitalizing the neighborhoods. The homeowners chosen by Rebuilding Together are often elderly or disabled, who are not able to afford necessary repairs. Through the assistance of Junior League and Rebuilding Together, the house and the owners’ living conditions are improved. The most important aspect to the project is allowing the homeowners to return to the area they used to call home.

The work that was executed on this year’s homes was similar to that which has been done in the past; mostly exterior work in nature, but some interior work as well. However, the changes were not all cosmetic. One house in particular, had a fence built around the yard that allows the children who live there to have a secure and safe place to play. Additionally, Rebuilding Together brought the homes up to building code. Said modifications include: building new entrance-way stairs, new handrails and new landings on the stairs. By partnering with Shell, the JLNO volunteers can learn important manual skills such as carpentry or proper painting techniques. Co-Chair Virginia says that volunteers can get as physical (or not) as they want, stating “There are plenty of jobs for everyone, from administrative jobs, such as conducting safety briefings, to cutting lumber, hanging windows and many other tasks in between.” Additionally, volunteers are able to learn useful skills and tips for fixing some of their own home repair issues.

In spite of the threat of Tropical Storm Karen, Rebuilding Together had a busy and productive October under the leadership of its co-chairs and with the help of the rest of the committee, volunteers from All Hands on Deck, Shell, the Preservation Resource Center, and even the homeowners themselves, who often help with their homes. Both Katie and Virginia say that is the most rewarding part; having the opportunity to meet the people they are helping and seeing the neighborhoods heal.
You may have noticed this summer that we had a change at the Junior League of New Orleans’ headquarters. Carrie Moulder, JLNO’s new Communications & Operations Administrator, joined the staff in late July to fill a vacancy left by Emma McCreight, former Communications & Operations Administrator. Emma’s tenure with JLNO and the Big Easy came to a close this summer when she moved to Philadelphia. With this opening, an opportunity developed for Carrie, who left her previous role as an Active member to fill the position. Emma took with her the knowledge and training imparted upon her and has been able to “pay it forward” with her new role in Philadelphia.

One thing Emma stressed before she left was the importance of train-
ing. Reminiscing about her favorite part of the League, she immediately replied that JLNO is a wonderful and seamless example of the importance of training and education. When Emma assisted all of our projects in the office, she was able to have a high-level view of everything JLNO. She observed and participated in numerous trainings (Get on Board, Emergentics and Digital Cheetah) and a variety of guest speakers also provided her with a vast knowledge of the nonprofit world.

While learning more about nonprofit leadership, Emma was also able to provide training on our best marketing tool - the website/database system. The Junior League’s software database tool is critical to the success and tracking of how much time and energy our members give to the community. Working with such granular details of database management, while keeping the JLNO mission in mind, helped Emma to sharpen the JLNO website and the Junior League as a nonprofit organization. This skill building shows that JLNO trains not only our members, but our staff as well.

As Emma packed her new skills and headed for success up North, Carrie brought perspective of a former Active member to the role. In fact, she was beginning her first Active year, serving as a Lagniappe writer, when this opportunity presented itself.

When asked what motivated Carrie to be a full-time worker on JLNO’s mission, Carrie replied that its members inspire her. “Our volunteer strength combined with the financial strength we provide to other nonprofits and the opportunities for individual growth (as we have seen with Emma’s career jumpstart with her new skills) embodies a hard-working, intelligent, and compassionate organization.”

While she originally joined to link with like-minded women improving the Metropolitan New Orleans area, Carrie is proud to use her professional experiences in support of our mission as a staffer. She is inspired every day when members come in from their jobs or with their children, balancing life commitments with volunteering for those in need. Carrie’s previous role as Technical Communications Director for a toxicology laboratory may not seem a seamless transition. However, she was with the same organization for 14 years, showing her loyalty and adaptability through her roles that began as Marketing and Communications, and transitioned into more technical writing — including developing the thousand-page Standard Operating Procedures! Immediately prior to leaving, she worked with the IT department to identify areas of improvement in manual processes, tested software, as well as created and conducted training.

Carrie believes being a former member helped her reduce the learning curve in her new role because she already knew how JLNO operated and was familiar with our unique terminology. She knew our fundraisers and our committees, the user side of Digital Cheetah and could get right to work on identifying, as well as fulfilling, the needs of the Board and our members. She wants to help us use technology to operate more efficiently and effectively - imagine the future of an even stronger Junior League!

Though Emma has departed for another life adventure, we have a great future with Carrie helping us through the "early-year" bumps and "year-end" crunches. Carrie noted that since joining JLNO as a staff member, she has recruited prospective members AND received a great idea for a future project. Emma, Carrie and JLNO all have fantastic futures ahead!

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When searching through potential committees during Placement season, the Member Outreach Committee, also known as the “Egg Salad Committee”, usually jumps out if for no other reason than it has the most creative name. Yet, many Junior League members are unaware of exactly what this committee does on a regular basis. Do the committee members literally make and deliver egg salad sandwiches?

To find out the answer to this important question, you need to get to know Co-Chairs Nini Scriber and Ann Heslin, who share an enthusiasm for serving JLNO members in need of support during tough times.

When a JLNO member faces a difficult time whether it is a death in the family, delivering a new baby, recovering from an illness, or just going through a tough stretch, the Egg Salad Committee is eager to help. The committee may send a note, a flower, or a meal as a way...
to help and show encouragement.

This is the first year on the committee for both co-chairs, but they feel fortunate to have last year’s Co-Chairs, Michelle Ogden and Heather Passler, as committee members, along with a handful of other members to serve the entire JLNO family.

Nini finds that a well-timed letter, meal or flowers can make a real difference to a member. “The most rewarding part of working on this committee is knowing that you have reached out to someone in need or congratulated someone on a special moment in their lives,” she said.

Nini also points out that this committee is like no other; there are no meetings, as everything is arranged via email. In order to thrive on the Egg Salad Committee, members just need good writing skills and a willingness to communicate often.

Even though this is Ann’s first year on this committee, she has wanted to be a part of the Egg Salad team since the placement was announced in 2011, knowing it is a way to put a smile on a Junior League member’s face. According to Ann, the committee is extremely rewarding and the only challenge the committee faces is finding out when a JLNO member may be in need. “We rely heavily upon the membership to let us know when someone could use a little cheer,” she said.

If you know a fellow member who can use the assistance of the Egg Salad committee, send an email to the committee at eggsalad@jlno.org. You can be assured that the Egg Salad committee will take it from there.

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www.jlno.org
Break out the glitter, sequins and wigs –
it’s Carnival Time!

By: Amanda Wingfield Goldman

From glittering accessories to creating sparkly costumes, Junior League of New Orleans’ members have been busy preparing to laissez le bon temps roule! Many of our members also belong to one or more of the city’s fabulous Mardi Gras Krewes or marching clubs. Muses member, Jennifer Bernard notes that riding or marching in a Mardi Gras parade doesn’t end when the parade is over. “Preparation for the Mardi Gras ahead begins almost as soon as the final float finishes rolling. There are theme meetings, bead selection meetings, shoe and glitter acquisitions, and bead orders, all taking place to get the Krewe ready for the next Mardi Gras,” she says. Although it takes a great amount of work and preparation to ride or march in a parade, these JLNO members agree that it’s worth it. “It’s a completely different kind of fun. I love getting to see how the whole city celebrates instead of just staying on my block. I also love a great dance party – and this one lasts for miles!” exclaims Candy Girl Lauren McCulloch, who marches in Hermes.

What have you been doing to prepare for Mardi Gras 2014?

We have marching practice on Sundays — sometimes in the morning to avoid Saints games and a weekly practice on Wednesday night. For the members that can make it, we also do a lagniappe practice on Thursdays. We’ve been performing in festivals all over the city, including the YoMaYa parade and Fringe Fest.”

—Cherry Bomb Samantha Fritz

“I just restocked my glitter supply and have been purchasing amazing shoes at Bloomin’ Deals to glitter! The best part, they’re only $2!”

—Muses member Jessica Chin

“I’ve started working on designs for decorating my share of the Krewe’s signature throw, purse! I have a feeling I will be finding glitter around the house for years to come.”

—Nyx member Melissa Guidry

“We have been busy assembling our costumes for the Hermes parade and working on our dance moves to wow the crowd.”

—Candy Girl Lauren McCulloch

What are you most excited about this year at Mardi Gras?

“The thing that I am most excited about for Mardi Gras 2014 is seeing my daughter truly understand what is happening around her. She loved the music and the spectacle last year, and we occasionally will pull her ladder down and play Mardi Gras in the backyard. So I know she is really going to enjoy herself this year.”

—Muses member Jennifer Bernard

“I’m looking forward to how much fun we’re going to have. Even though it’s a ton of work, the whole process of preparing to march is a fantastic excuse to spend time with a great group of girls.”

—Candy Girl Lauren McCulloch

“Chris Rose simply put it, ‘Mardi Gras is the love of life. It is the harmonic convergence of our food, our music, our creativity, our eccentricity, our neighborhoods, and our joy of living. All at once.’ I absolutely love Mardi Gras- the beautifully designed floats, the marching bands, and of course, riding in Muses! But I’m most excited that the whole family will be in town and this will be the first Mardi Gras for my niece and nephew!”

—Muses member Lisa Yip

“I love the parades! They are the best part of being a Cherry Bomb. The crowd is awesome. The energy is really fun.”

—Cherry Bomb Samantha Fritz

What charitable events is your group involved in?

“Similar to JLNO, The Krewe of Muses is a women’s organization that is highly involved with this community and is committed to the betterment of this city and its citizens by offering volunteer hours and generous monetary donations. The Krewe hosts events throughout the year, with all proceeds being donated to area nonprofits. Recipients of donations include: The Juvenile Diabetes Foundation, Grace House, Dress for Success, Raintree, St. Jude Community Center, Hagars House and the St. Bernard Project.”

—Muses member Jessica Chin

“The Krewe is involved in the Light the Night Walk, the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure and Lindy’s House. A substantial donation is being made to the Brees Dream Foundation from Krewe cookbook sales. There are also sisters involved with Rebuilding Nola and Gleason Gras.”

—Nyx member Melissa Guidry

“Candy Girls partners with Lifesavers, Inc. to provide aid to needy children in New Orleans.”

—Candy Girl Lauren McCulloch

“Like JLNO, the NOLA Cherry Bombs are a women’s organization that truly wants to improve the lives of New Orleans residents by spreading good cheer and good will. We are partnered with The Birthing Project this year and will donate proceeds from our annual fundraiser, The Cherry Smash.”

—Cherry Bomb Samantha Fritz

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What happens to the donated clothes that don’t meet Bloomin’ Deals standards or to the items donated — like toys and tools — that the store doesn’t carry?

Fondly,
Sharon Mythings

Dear Sharon Mythings,

Bloomin’ Deals is well known throughout the city for its high-quality items offered at very low prices. If an item doesn’t meet our particular standards, but could be of use to someone in need, Bloomin’ Deals in turn donates it to Volunteers of America, who comes once a week for pick-up. Donations of toys or tools cannot be accepted and will be turned away.

I’m interested in becoming an officer in the League. Who is eligible and how does the nominations process work?

Sincerely,
Ready Anne Willing

Dear Ready Anne Willing,

Each year, the Nominating Committee slates the Offices of President-Elect, Secretary and Assistant Treasurer, as well as the Council Directors. Eligibility is open to members with at least three years Active membership who have not previously been slated (with the exception of President-Elect). This slate is then voted on by the membership at the Annual Business Membership Meeting. JLNO experience, outside work, volunteer activities and personal experience are considered when slating for these board positions. Eligible members are encouraged to self-nominate by noting their interest in the Fall Leadership Survey, which is posted each November. For a more detailed review of the nominating process, please click on the “Leadership” tab in the members-only section of our website, www.jlno.org.

I just received news that my job will be transferring me to another city. I don’t want to leave the Junior League and would like to transfer, but I’m not sure how. Can you help?

Yours truly,
Move N. On

Dear Move N. On,

The first step in the transfer process is to contact the Corresponding Secretary at correspondingsecretary@jlno.org, to express your interest in transferring and to let her know which Junior League you are hoping to transfer to. Once she receives your request, she will pass that information on to AJLI, who will transfer your membership to the new Junior League, who will in turn contact you with instructions on how to proceed. Please note that you are entitled to a partial dues reimbursement once your transfer is final. And remember that only members in good standing are eligible to transfer!
Future Leaders Train to Get On Board

By: Kelly Walsh

For many nonprofit organizations, it is often hard to find energetic, talented and qualified leaders with the proper skill set to serve as nonprofit board members. This is where Junior League of New Orleans comes in. Every spring and fall, JLNO organizes and hosts Get On Board, a nonprofit board training program, which provides nonprofit organizations with board members while giving participants the skills which will make them successful board members.

During the program, the “ins and outs” of being a board member are taught over a two-day period. Several topics pertinent to developing a successful nonprofit leader such as board roles and responsibilities, financial policies and fiduciary duties, legal considerations, strategic planning processes, fundraising and effective leadership development are addressed by community members with nonprofit expertise.

The goal of the program is to help participants develop the leadership skills necessary to govern the area’s nonprofit organizations, providing insights into the complexities and challenges of making an all-volunteer board highly functioning in light with the mission of the nonprofit organization. Participants complete the program with a clear understanding of the responsibilities and interplay of the various elements of well-run nonprofit organizations including board and staff roles, oversight and implementation, planning for and preparing for the future, development of adequate resources to do the job at hand.

The Get On Board program has been such a success that it was recognized in 2012 as the Association of Junior Leagues International’s Community Impact Award. AJLI noted that since the inception of the program, over 300 participants had been successfully trained for active roles in 60 nonprofit organizations within the Greater New Orleans area.

The Fall 2013 program was led by Nancy Burris-Perret, Susan Mancuso and Charlie Heim. Each expert has an extensive background working with nonprofits. Nancy Burris-Perret is owner and management consultant at Burris & Associates, d/b/a MindShare, specializing in organizations anticipating or experi-

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encing substantial change. She has wide-spread experience with nonprofit boards, having served on and chaired multiple nonprofit organizations throughout her career. Susan Mancuso has over 20 years of experience and has worked with both local and national nonprofit organizations. Since 2004, she has been operating her own consulting practice, Susan Mancuso Consulting. Charlie Heim, a 35-year fundraising veteran, is Vice President of Philanthropy at the Ochsner Clinic Foundation. He has shared his nonprofit expertise with a wide variety of organizations for the past 20 years.

Get On Board Co-Chair, Kim Abramson, has confirmed that these experts will also be returning for the upcoming workshop in Spring 2014. This session will be held on February 8 and February 15, 2014. Applications for the February 2014 session can be found on www.jlno.org and are due by January 24, 2014. In addition, Kim plans to have a presentation about grant writing led by former JLNO President, Dee McCloskey. Some of the nonprofits who are partnering with Get On Board for the upcoming spring session include: American Red Cross, Save Our Cemeteries, Birdfoot Festival, Chard Gonzales Dance Theater, Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, Dancing Grounds, Easter Seals Louisiana, Greater New Orleans Muscular Dystrophy Association, Hope Stone New Orleans, House of Ruth, Kedila Family Learning Services, Louisiana Landmarks Society, Luke’s House Clinic, National Kidney Foundation of Louisiana, New Orleans Faith Health Alliance, New Orleans Kid Partnership, New Orleans Speech and Hearing Center, Orleans Parish 4-H, Slidell Unit – Girls and Boys Club of Southeast Louisiana, Southern Rep, South Broad Community Health, Teaching Responsible Earth Education, Unified Nonprofits of Greater New Orleans and World Affairs Council of New Orleans.

For more information about this amazing program, you can email the Get on Board Co-Chairs, Kim Abramson and Julie Kenter, at getonboard@jlno.org.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ADMISSION OPEN HOUSE TOURS</th>
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<tr>
<td>8:30 – 10:00am January 9 (PK - 4)</td>
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<td>8:30 – 10:00am January 16 (PK - 4)</td>
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Holiday cooking brings family and friends together unlike any other time of the year. Coveted recipes are shared, taste testers are eager to perform, and the aroma of good food permeates the air — or at least it should in theory. Dishes served during this special time of the year represent family, culture, region and faith. In a city that places more emphasis on ‘living to eat’, it is no wonder that holiday menu planning is as important as the holiday itself.

The great thing about holiday cooking is that the playing field is somewhat leveled. We have the advantage of traditional recipes passed down that can take the mystique out of cooking. Both the overachieving chef and the person who thinks the oven is for extra storage have equal footing in executing a great “tried and true” recipe. Holiday fare puts the fun back into cooking, especially for those of us who may not have the time or desire to cook regularly in our everyday lives. It is like that moment when your mother-in-law tasted your oyster dressing and gumbo and finally understood your culinary experience extends beyond making reservations. The fact is we all have the capability to deliver something outstanding during the holidays regardless of our frequency in the kitchen dur-
Hailing from a region rich in fresh local produce, game and seafood it is no wonder that, regardless of where we sit to eat, we are bound to have dishes that broadcast our regional pride. Sweet potatoes, mirlitons, collard greens, tomatoes, okra, pecans, pumpkins, rice, shrimp, oysters, crab, duck, quail, deer, and fresh caught fish are common fare on our tables during the holidays. Nothing says holidays in New Orleans like oyster dressing, fresh game stew, seafood gumbo and sweet potato casserole. You will not find these items on a menu in Kansas – unless of course you are a transplant and someone special is sending overnight care packages to your home.

Holiday cooking is also a terrific time to bring our children into the kitchen and teach them the recipes and cooking traditions of our families. Their little hands can assist in the chopping, peeling, mixing and, of course, tasting! They may not recall the recipes verbatim, but they will remember the textures, smells and experience of holding the electronic mixer in the air as the mashed potatoes take flight across the kitchen. They will also take the credit, as they should, for the meal they help to prepare.

The spirit of holiday cooking is also about sharing. We put forth our best recipes and a labor of love to nourish the bodies and souls of those whom we love – and we always seem to receive more than we give. It is why we spend hours roasting and stuffing turkeys, cutting the lattice designs for pie tops, and splashing the extra rum in the annual rum cake recipe. There is something magical about sharing a meal and having the same recipes somehow improve year after year. If the holidays are about family, love and faith then the food we serve is the chorus of the season.

In addition to the glorious recipes and

**Lagniappe’s Holiday Menu (pictured)**

**Course 1**
Turtle Soup (The Plantation Cookbook, p.115)

**Course 2**
Spinach and Bacon Salad (Jambalaya, p.56)

**Course 3**
Crown Roast of Pork with Apple Stuffing (Crescent City Collection, pgs. 138 and 139)
Sweet Potato Casserole with Praline Topping (Crescent City Collection, p.167)

**Course 4**
Gingersnap Pumpkin Cheesecake (Crescent City Moons, Dishes, and Spoons for the Growing Chef, p.220)

If you would like to recreate this meal for the holidays, we made your shopping easy by compiling a list of everything you’ll need for the five recipes featured in this article. Don’t forget to check your pantry for items you may already have in stock!

**Meats**
- 2 lbs. turtle meat (or if making mock Turtle Soup, use brisket or ground meat)
- 1 ham steak
- ¼ lb. of bacon
- 8 lbs. crown of roast pork

**Produce**
- 1 package of celery
- 4 onions
- 2 carrots
- 1 head of fresh garlic
- 1 bunch of green onions
- 1 lemon
- 2 10 oz. packages of fresh spinach
- 2 ½ lbs. or 4 medium sweet potatoes

**Dry Goods**
- 1 bag of all-purpose flour
- 1 bag sugar
- 1 box cornstarch
- 1 bag of brown sugar
- 1 small bag of chopped pecans
- 1 box of gingersnap cookies
- 1 box of graham crackers

**Wet Goods**
- 1 package of unsalted butter
- 1 dozen eggs
- 1 small bottle of vegetable oil
- 24 oz. of cream cheese
- 12 oz. of cottage cheese
- 1 bottle of cider vinegar
- 1 bottle of cooking sherry
- 1 bottle of apple cider
- 1 bottle of brandy
- 1 bottle of maple syrup
- 1 small bottle of molasses
- 1 gallon of water

**Canned Goods**
- 1 large can of evaporated milk
- 2 cans of solid pack pumpkin
- 2 cans of beef broth
- 1 16 oz. can of pureed tomatoes
- 1 can tomato sauce

**Spices/Herbs**
- 2 bay leaves
- 6 cloves
- Dried thyme
- Lemon juice
- Cayenne pepper
- Cinnamon
- Nutmeg
- Salt
- Pepper
- Dry mustard
- Poppy seeds
- Dried sage
- Vanilla extract
- All spice

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Meaningful Holiday Cooking
continued from page 25

rich decadent meals, the presentation of these grand meals is also part of the full dining experience. A holiday meal is special because we take the time to dress the table, break out the china and silver, and use the serving pieces that remind us of our bridal registry days and family heirlooms. (All those items that take up so much shelf space are useful after all!) Those fabulous serving pieces that sit on the bench most of the year finally get polished to their full glory on game day. It is like a live performance that has been well rehearsed with fine actors and a good script and all that remains is the staging. The lighting, tableware and linens add to the experience. It is how a good meal can become a great meal – that and having the people who make you smile at the table.

For this holiday season, know that your

A delicious holiday meal made completely from the Junior League of New Orleans’ cookbooks.
JLNO cookbooks are here to lend you a helping hand. The Plantation Cookbook, Jambalaya, Crescent City Collection, and Crescent City Moons, Dishes and Spoons for the Growing Chef have a blend of classic regional recipes and holiday must-haves that have passed the taste-test of our talented membership. Our recipes are rich with local produce and fresh market items so ingredient hunting can be achievable and a fun family outing to a local farmers market or local farm. In our cookbooks, you'll find the roadmap to the best soups, casseroles, sauces, and desserts that will make your holiday menu planning one step easier. Don't forget our cookbooks make great holiday and housewarming gifts, too. Visit www.jlno.org to order your books today or swing by Bloomin' Deals Thrift Shop to pick-up some last minute serving platters and table decorations for the holidays. Happy Cooking!

Local Farmer's Markets:

- **Georges Produce Company** - 129 Terry Parkway, Terrytown, Hours: 8am-7pm, Monday–Saturday
- **Hollygrove Market and Farm** - 8301 Olive St., New Orleans, Hours: 10am-7pm, Monday–Friday; 10am-5pm, Saturday and Sunday
- **Crescent City Farmers Market** - 200 Broadway St., New Orleans, Hours: 9am-1pm, Tuesdays
- **Crescent City Farmers Market** - 3700 Orleans Ave., New Orleans, Hours: 3pm-7pm, Thursdays
- **Crescent City Farmers Market** - 700 Magazine St., New Orleans, Hours: 8am-12pm, Saturdays
- **Marketplace at Armstrong Park** - 901 N. Rampart St., New Orleans, Hours: 3pm-7pm, Thursdays
- **Gretna Farmers Market** - 300 Huey P. Long Ave., Gretna, Hours: 8:30am-12:30 pm, Saturdays
- **Sankofa Farmers Market** - 3819 St. Claude Ave., New Orleans, Hours: 10am-2pm, Saturdays
- **German Coast Farmers Market** - 13786 River Rd., Destrehan, Hours: 8am-12pm, Saturdays
- **Vietnamese Farmers Market** - 14401 Alcee Fortier Blvd., New Orleans, Hours: 6am-9am, Saturdays

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Did you know… The Junior League of New Orleans cookbooks are a gift that continues to give? The funds raised from our cookbook sales go directly back into our community and support our community partners and projects. Visit our website, www.jlno.org, to purchase a copy or learn more about our community partners and projects.
Let JLNO help you with your New Year’s Resolutions

We all make our New Year’s resolutions, but few actually keep them! Let the Junior League of New Orleans help you stay on track with your New Year’s resolution, all while advocating our mission of promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women and improving communities!

If your resolution is to:

**Lose weight** – use our JLNO cookbooks to find healthy recipes!

Below is a complete and healthy meal using all the JLNO Cookbooks:
- Spinach Salad, page 191 of *The Plantation Cookbook*
- Lemon Chicken, page 147 of *Jambalaya*
- Marinated Asparagus Bundles, page 156 of *Crescent City Collections*
- Healthy Snack Granola Bars, page 204 of *Crescent City Moons, Dishes and Spoons for the Grooming Chef*

**Get fit/exercise more** – If you missed the Freret 5K on December 7 and want to race next year, use a “Couch to 5K” running program and start training! Maybe you’ll be the 2014 race winner!

**Read more** – Find bestsellers and classics at Bloomin’ Deals for as low as 50 cents!

**Volunteer more** – Sign up for a rewarding Community Shift and help out our amazing Community Partners!

**Learn something new** – Find a Placement outside your comfort zone and learn a new skill!

**Save money** – Shop Bloomin’ Deals for great items and unbeatable prices! Also, remember the Buy, Save and Serve card in November for even more great savings!

**Redecorate your kitchen** – Attend the JLNO Kitchen Tour to get a variety of ideas!

**Reorganize/decrease clutter** – Donate your unwanted items to Bloomin’ Deals!

**Socialize more/meet new people** – Attend a fun-filled Esprit event!

**Spend more time with family** – Invite your family to one of the many enjoyable family events! The Children’s Easter Egg Hunt and Touch a Truck are coming up this spring!
SUSTAINING THE SPIRIT:
JUNIOR LEAGUE MEMBERS CONTINUE SERVING AFTER THEIR ACTIVE YEARS

By: Lea Witkowski-Purl

Sustainer-thood is the last chapter of a member’s Junior League story and another way that women of the Junior League of New Orleans continue to build a greater city. Sustainers are given all the privileges of membership but have no requirements to stay active. According to the JLNO Bylaws, Sustainers “are those members who have reached the age limit for Active membership and who continue to support the League and community.” The support provided by Sustaining members ranges from participating in Community Shifts to bestowing advice to younger members.

Colleen Timmons is chair of the newly formed Sustainer Transfers Committee, which works with sustainers who have transferred to New Orleans from another city and

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Sustainer Transfers gather to celebrate JLNO. Front Row Seated: Maria Skalos, Larlene Kaplan and Sandra Chapman. Back Row Standing: Janetanne Mears, Keely Crowder, Madeleine Blessey, Charlotte Spooner, Colleen Timmons, Kim Davis and JLNO President Jeanne Boughton.

Photo By: Emily Remington
SUSTAINING THE SPIRIT
continued from page 31

links all members to the JLNO network. She said Sustainers are like alumnae of the Junior League. “They are the history of the organization,” she said. “As an alum, I will still want the Active members to reach out for support and advice. Membership doesn’t stop with your Active years. We need all levels.”

Janetanne Mears is an example of how a Sustaining member can continue to support the Junior League long after her Active years are complete. She has been participating in the Junior League as a Sustaining member for 26 years. Janetanne was an Active for 10 years, serving as Chair of the Provisional Committee, Public Relations Committee and Vice President of the now defunct Project Development and Processing Committee. She has led both of her daughters into the Junior League, and some of her fondest memories are from her Sustaining years.

Janetanne transitioned to Sustainerhood in London where she was able to meet diverse ladies, share the common bond of links all members to the JLNO network. She said Sustainers are like alumnae of the Junior League. “They are the history of the organization,” she said. “As an alum, I will still want the Active members to reach out for support and advice. Membership doesn’t stop with your Active years. We need all levels.”

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Janetanne transitioned to Sustainerhood in London where she was able to meet diverse ladies, share the common bond of the Junior League and continue working in her community.

“It was a wonderful and easy transition,” she said. “I met ladies from not only all parts of the United States, but also from European countries!”

“As a Sustainer, some of my favorite experiences were being involved with the rebuilding of the Globe Theatre in London by helping to raise funds for the Musicians Gallery and serving on the Festival of Trees committee to benefit Save the Children Worldwide with Princess Ann,” she said.

Sometimes the transition to a Sustaining member can be challenging for members who want to remain involved in the Junior League. “It’s almost like you still want to participate, but you don’t want to step on anyone’s toes,” Maria Lathrop-Skalos said. “I’m struggling with how to be involved without overstepping. I’ve been involved for so long, and I don’t want to stop.”

Maria is beginning her first year as a Sustaining member after serving as a committee member and Chair for Lafayette Academy and as Community Shift Chair during her Active years. Becoming a Sustainer is poetic for Maria, whose Junior League story began when she was invited to the Sustainer Fall Party in 2007 to support her friend, Alice Wright, who was receiving the Sustainer of the Year Award.

At the party, Maria had a conversation with Sustainer Bonnie Waters about the diversity of volunteer opportunities available in JLNO. Maria offered the advice that Bonnie gave her that night, which she remembered clearly, but did not immediately understand.

“Make the Junior League what you want it to be,” Maria said.

She explained that although she did not recognize the value of that advice at the time, she has realized that the endless opportunities in the Junior League give each member a chance to learn new skills, expand on talents, make new friends and find their most valuable experience. Her involvement in JLNO during her Active years gave her the opportunity to find mentors, build a network and expand her horizons, which is the experience she sought. Maria said all members should use the opportunities available to shape their Junior League story, as she continues to shape her own.

The Sustainer Transfers Committee, the Sustainer Connections Committee and the Transfers Committee are all part of the Membership Council and planning exciting events to help ease the transition for Sustainers and Transfers, continue to expand networks and to provide opportunities to remain involved for all members of JLNO.
CELEBRATING A JOB WELL DONE

CAPITAL ONE BANK® IS PROUD TO SUPPORT THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF NEW ORLEANS.
Healthy lifestyles are being served up with **KIDS IN THE KITCHEN**

By: Rachel Stephens

*Kids in the Kitchen* is an international Junior League initiative that is making a local impact. This year, Junior League of New Orleans’ *Kids in the Kitchen* committee is energized and ready to build on last year’s success. Organized at the national level in 2006, the program is designed to help communities address the urgent issues of childhood obesity and poor nutrition. It aims to promote child health and wellness with a variety of programs, all directed towards reducing health problems such as type 2 diabetes, high blood pressure and high cholesterol.

*Kids in the Kitchen* operates programs throughout the United States, Canada, Mexico, and the United Kingdom, but seems particularly imperative in Louisiana. The United Health Foundation ranked Louisiana as the unhealthiest state in 2011 (and it tied for last with Mississippi in 2012). Educating children, especially at-risk youth about wellness and nutrition can go a long way in changing their immediate health and putting them on track for successful lifestyles in the future. It is with these ideas in mind that the Kids in the Kitchen committee established their programs.

Last year, the *Kids in the Kitchen* committee offered weekly health and nutrition activities at Dryades YMCA to at-risk youth from kindergarten to eighth grade. With a regular presence at that site, and...
by offering helpful activities that the students also enjoyed, the committee enjoyed a successful year. Second Harvest Food Bank continues to serve as an important partner in this initiative and Kids in the Kitchen has worked with them the past two years in cooperation with their Supper Feed program, offering nutritional education that aligns with their after school and weekend food program for the underprivileged.

This year, Kids in the Kitchen is further expanding their efforts, continuing their good work with children’s education, but hoping to make further inroads into the community, both in Orleans and Jefferson Parish. Under the direction of committee Co-Chair Renee Romain, they are strengthening their efforts. According to Renee, “We are starting to do community projects this year, both within the Junior League and reaching out into the community. Ideally we want to participate every month in community events.”

For example, the committee hosted a table at the Freret Street Halloween Festival, offering healthier alternatives to traditional Halloween candy, and educating youth on the amounts of sugar in their candy.

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With the assistance of ideas from the national organization, Renee provided committee members with training binders of between ten and fifteen core activities and exercises for weekly meetings and lesson plans. These included lessons on kitchen safety, the food pyramid, portion distortion, and “Think Before you Drink,” a lesson about sugar content in beverages.

The Kids in the Kitchen Committee is also forming new partnerships in the community, working with groups, such as The Good Shepherd School and the LSU Agricultural Center, to expand awareness and opportunities for their good work. The Kids in the Kitchen initiative has the potential to impact the lifestyles of so many local children, teach them healthier options and fun ways to incorporate healthy foods into their daily diet, but it needs your help to continue growing.

Junior League members should volunteer for upcoming community shifts and help increase the program’s presence.

Do you have ideas for programming or additional community partnerships? Suggestions? Questions? If so please contact renee.romain@gmail.com. In the meantime, keep the Kids in the Kitchen initiatives in mind for your own choices and especially for the impressionable ones around you!
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Relax and have fun with Esprit!

By: Qi Wiggins

Focusing on our mission of promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women, improving communities and training effective volunteers, left little time for members to unwind and mingle with others outside of their placements and general membership meetings.

Approximately ten years ago, the JLNO leadership team realized this need and thus, the Esprit Committee was birthed. The Esprit Committee is responsible for planning membership appreciation events, as well as other informal gatherings that promote membership interaction. This committee is busy throughout the year planning events such as Front Porch Fridays, wine tasting events, family holiday parties, the Corks N’ Canvas Social, the Easter egg hunt and various other events that may include working ladies lunches, happy hours and playgroups.

This year, the committee is led by Co-Chairs Mimi Wilson and Shon Baker. “The purpose of Esprit is to allow our members to break away from focusing solely on the Junior League community commitments and to relax with fellow Junior Leaguers and develop a comrade,” Shon says. Esprit hosts a myriad of events aimed at attracting and allowing JLNO members to settle back. “Being a Provisional can be a bit intimidating. Esprit wants to welcome them, show them a good time and let them meet other Provisionals outside of focusing on their requirements,” notes Mimi.

Together, Mimi and Shon have carved out three goals for Esprit this year. “Our goals this year are to have fun in a friendly environment while providing information to our members. We actively look for venues that will engage our community and enhance our neighborhood,” Mimi mentions. Shon follows up by stating, “We seek out women owned businesses to help us host our events. They are the community partners we need to encourage and show our membership support.”

Esprit recently held events at Blo Dry Bar, Sarita’s Grill and The Occasional Wife.

kitchen tour

JUNIOR LEAGUE of NEW ORLEANS

9th Annual Kitchen Tour

Saturday, April 5, 2014

Junior League of New Orleans presents a private tour of gorgeous kitchens.

TICKETS: $35 per individual in advance and $40 at the door
$320 Group Rate for 10 tickets

Visit www.jlno.org for more information and to purchase tickets.

Preferred Partners:
Opening up new opportunities for members in a loosened atmosphere is what the co-chairs are aiming for with the variety of events on the calendar for this year. “The Cheese and Wine pairing event held at St. James Cheese Factory sold out with 40 members attending and eager to learn about how to pair cheese with wine. I learned things I didn’t know and I now feel more comfortable about choosing wines with my meals; wines I wouldn’t have otherwise considered,” Shon said.

Be sure to check the Master Calendar on our website (www.jlno.org) for all the fun-filled events Esprit has planned.

The events for January, February and March are listed below:

- Saturday, January 18 at 1:00 pm – Family friendly event at Rock n’ Bowl
- Thursday, February 20 at 5:30 pm – Uptown Art Gallery Event
- Thursday, March 13 at 5:30 pm – Oak Wine Bar Social

1 Esprit Committee Member, Melissa Cossich, receives the full treatment at Esprit’s Blo Dry Bar event. Other Esprit Committee Members, Meredith Durham (top) and Erica Camese, participate in the fun as well. Photo By: Bobbie Klobas

2 Esprit Committee Members, Kate Sullivan, Kelley Mackenzie and Co-Chair, Shon Baker, welcome Junior Leaguers to St. James Cheese Company for an evening of wine and cheese tasting. Photo By: Michelle Fridman

3 Esprit Committee Member, Kristen Robinson, is all smiles at the St. James Cheese Company Wine and Cheese Tasting. Photo By: Michelle Fridman

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The costume drive that was a**SCARY** success story!

By: Jessica Chin

"Trick or Treat!" No matter how many times you say that phrase, it always conjures up a memory, either a fun childhood Halloween memory or a recent memory of trick or treating with your children or grandchildren. Halloween is a fun time of year for all, but especially children. Walking door to door, receiving goodies from neighbors and then pouring out your treasured loot when you get home to see what you gathered is nothing short of pure bliss! Pretending to be something or someone else for the evening fuels a child's imagination and excitement. Planning the perfect costume can take weeks, sometimes months.

However, a Halloween costume can be taken for granted. Many do not realize some local children are unable to fully celebrate Halloween because a costume is not in the family budget. The Junior League of New Orleans developed a solution by organizing a costume drive in the Freret neighborhood. For the past seven years, JLNO has partnered with The Freret Neighborhood Center to host a Halloween festival to allow local neighborhood youth the opportunity to celebrate a fun and safe Halloween. The Freret Neighborhood Center, formerly a JLNO community project, opened in 2007 to revitalize the Freret neighborhood. The center serves as a space for the community to gather and for the fostering of leadership and development in the Freret and Milan neighborhoods. This year's event was held on October 29, 2013, just in time the children to choose a costume for trick or treating Halloween night.

This year, the Freret Halloween Festival costume drive was part of a Provisional project and carried out by two groups of Provisionals; Upperline and Jefferson. Provisionals Susana Bobadilla, Tara Myers, Leigh Anne Gilchrist and Marion Newsom served as co-chairs for the costume drive for their respective Provisional groups. The two Provisional groups were charged with the task of collecting costumes for children ranging in ages from 0-16 years old.

Their goal was to collect over 500 costumes. "We don’t have an accurate number of costumes collected because costumes continued to come in until the last minute. We easily received over 800 costumes and accessories donations, which is more than double what they received for the party last year," Jefferson Co-Chair, Susana Bobadilla stated. With attendance of over 1400 people, all but about 50 items, mostly parts of costumes and accessories, remained, which will be stored for next year's event. Susana followed up by saying that, "Given the increased attendance, the popularity of the party has stretched well beyond the Freret Neighborhood."

The success of the costume drive was due in part to the support of over 50 local businesses, schools and churches that served as costume collection stations. "We could not have collected so many wonderful costumes without the help and support of these businesses and schools," Upperline Co-Chair, Leigh Anne Gilchrist said. The Academy of Sacred Heart's Daisy Troop collected the most costumes and personally delivered them to the Junior League of New Orleans. In conjunction with the delivery, the troop listened to a presentation given by JLNO, ricRACK (a nonprofit organization committed to keeping the costuming culture alive in New Orleans) and The Freret Neighborhood Center to educate the troop on the purpose for collecting the costumes, as well as how each organization works to better the community.

Jefferson Co-Chair, Marion Newsom said this experience was extremely helpful and rewarding. "Having the opportunity to co-chair and participate in a community project like this so early in our Junior League careers was an invaluable experience and gave us a lot
of insight into how the organization works to carry out our mission." Upperline Co-Chair, Tara Myers continued by saying, "This project fit perfectly with our mission. We promoted voluntarism, not only in our own organization, but throughout the community. We trained volunteers and we, as co-chairs, received further training from our partner organizations. This helped us expand and mold our ideas so that our goals would be accomplished within the parameters of the overall goals of the event."

Involvement in this event proved to be heartening for all four co-chairs. "Seeing the huge smiles of children’s faces once they were wearing the costumes they had chosen, was amazing," Susana said. Leigh Anne added, "I was excited to see the neighborhood come together to host such a great family friendly Halloween party for children. I am proud to say I played a part in giving these children the opportunity to spend time with their families and community to celebrate a fun, and most importantly, safe, Halloween." "For me, the highlight of this project was seeing the face of a child light up as soon as we found the costume that was "the one." It was great to see so much excitement and happiness beaming right at me," noted Tara. "A highlight for me was getting to spend time with children one-on-one while they chose a costume, and seeing how excited they were to get the perfect one," Marion concluded.

SUCCESS
BY THE NUMBERS:

32+ JLNO Volunteers
50+ Collection Stations
800+ Costumes
1400+ Participants

1 Freret Neighborhood Center volunteer, Barbara Bush, and JLNO Provisionals Jennifer Fowler, Mary Ann Pittman and Jennifer Stark organize the "big kids" costumes area.

2 Trischell Jones is all smiles as she spins and poses, showing off her new costume.

3 The co-chairs of the costume drive for the Freret Halloween Festival pose for a quick photo during the festivities on October 29, 2013. (L-R) - Jefferson Co-Chairs, Susana Bobadilla and Leigh Anne Gilchrist; Games Co-Chair Bessie Goggins; Upperline Co-Chairs, Tara Myers and Marim Newsom.

4 The line grows long waiting for the 2013 Freret Halloween Festival to begin. 6 year-old, Zyhuion Sylvan, was first in line for the celebration.

5 Robert Jones, aka Lighting McQueen, adds to his costume by pairing it with a Home Depot hat.

6 Alice Robinson helps her granddaughter, Rea Robinson, into her new Tinkerbell costume.

7 Provisional, Allison Reu, helps Kordell Francis pick out a Halloween costume at the Freret Halloween Festival. Kordell was very excited to find this pharaoh costume.
League Faces

JLNO members being active in the community and enjoying Junior League events!

1 Carol Scott taught JLNO members important fundraising techniques in the “Becoming a Culture of Askers” workshop held at JLNO headquarters on August 7, 2013. Pictured: (L-R) Alicia Corcoran, Tricia Phillips, Amber Beasley, Evelyn Pollevent, Carol Scott, Jiarne Roughton, Katherine Raymond and Paige Morrison. Photo By: Carrie Moulder

2 Katherine Raymond, Mary Beth Green and Enid Fahrenholt attend the Nonprofit Training on August 20, 2013. Mary Beth Green spoke to attendees about partnering their nonprofit organization with JLNO. Photo By: Elizabeth Wood

3 Sarah Peltier, Lacrecia Jones and Amy Flower discuss all of the new things they learned at the JL University training. Photo By: Elizabeth Hayes

4 JL University Co-Chair, Beth LeBlanc, leads a discussion for JL University attendees. Photo By: Elizabeth Hayes

5 JLNO members receive handmade thank you cards from the Lafayette Academy Pre-K classes. Photo By: Jessica Fridge

6 Ashley-Lauren De Armond and Miranda Fuller enjoy a beverage at the Provisional Welcome Party at Superior Seafood. Photo By: Emily Remington

7 Jennifer Jumonville, Amy Flower, Lacrecia Jones and Sarah Peltier are all smiles at the Provisional Welcome Party. Photo By: Emily Remington
9 Erin Perez catches up with Kim Fontenot and Mary Frances Gregorio at the Provisional Welcome Party. Photo By: Emily Remington

10 Jen Stagg and Barbara Caswell enjoy each others company at the Provisional Welcome Party. Photo By: Emily Remington

11 Lauren Crosby and Meredith Fuller mingle with Ruth Theineman (middle) at the Provisional Welcome Party on September 17, 2013. Photo By: Emily Remington.

12 Jennifer Knapp, Anne Carriere and Rebecca Bartlette assist with the restoration efforts at Rebuilding Together. Photo by: Erin Woods

13 Karen Kristensen and Kristin Moore work to help the community at Rebuilding Together. Photo by: Erin Woods

14 Jennifer Macias and Carol Miller practice team work at Rebuilding Together. Photo By: Erin Woods

15 Alexa Rotolo, Caitlin Williams and Megan Barnes eagerly await their wine and cheese pairings at Esprit’s Wine & Cheese Tasting at St. James Cheese Company. Photo By: Michelle Fridman

16 Gretchen Burghardt and April Hurry toast their first glass of wine at the St. James Cheese Company Esprit event. Photo By: Michelle Fridman

17 JLNO members at St. James Cheese Company. Photo By: Michelle Fridman
League Faces

JLNO members being active in the community and enjoying Junior League events!

18 JLNO members volunteer for the Louisiana Senior Olympic Games Team Dance competition. Photo by Trisha Verlander

19 Actives and Sustainers enjoy socializing with each other at the Fall Sustainer Party on September 26, 2013. Pictured: (L-R) JLNO President, Joanne Boughton, Sustainers Pat Denechaud and Courtney Sarpy, and Sustainer Connections Co-Chair, Betsy Laborde. Photo by Jessica Chin

20 Hostess Anne Fuselier mingles with fellow Sustainers Claudia Kelleher and Nell Nolan Young at the Fall Sustainer Party. Photo by Jessica Chin

21 Sarah Reid, Kaya Koban and Kaylee Smith attend the Grant Writing training during the October Training Palooza. Photo by Heather Guidry

22 Sarah Wilson and Sarah Harbison participate in a training session during the October Training Palooza. Photo by Heather Guidry
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