

Lagniappe

Bloomin' Deals Celebrates 55 Years on Freret



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Wants to Belong to**

**JLNO Commemorates
25 Years of Rebuilding Together**



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Photo by: Jessica Bachmann



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Letter

from the President



Photo by: Jessica Bachmann

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the Fall 2015 issue of *Lagniappe*!

It is with great pride that I introduce our Fall 2015 issue, which highlights some of the work that Junior League of New Orleans members perform in our community.

For more than 91 years, the JLNO has been promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women and improving our community. With more than 2,300 members, we are the twelfth largest League in the world.

Our membership is comprised of working professionals, entrepreneurs, business owners and mothers who give tirelessly of their time, money and ideas to improve our city and advance the wellbeing of women. They are some of the most passionate, compassionate, dedicated and determined women that share a spirit of WE CAN do it, WE CAN make things better and WE WILL accomplish our goals.

And, on this the tenth anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, we celebrate the resilience of our League. Like our city, JLNO has not only survived, but thrived. In the wake of Hurricane Katrina, we attracted new members and sponsors, which enabled JLNO to serve more people in our community.

The impact of JLNO can be seen and felt all over the city. Many of JLNO's best-known projects have grown into independent entities, such as The Parenting Center at Children's Hospital, the Preservation Resource Center of New Orleans and Parkway Partners. JLNO has also created and supported programs at Audubon Zoo, the New Orleans Museum of Art, the Louisiana Children's Museum, Charity Hospital, the Children's Art Council, Edible Schoolyard, Second Harvest Food Bank and Kingsley House. Current community projects include the Diaper Bank, Educational Support Services, Junior League's Kids in the Kitchen, Lemonade Day University, Safe Sitter and Senior Outreach. JLNO also aids local nonprofit organizations through the Community Assistance Fund.

The success of JLNO is attributable to the cumulative impact of the work of our previous leaders and members and the work of our current membership to build a lasting and meaningful impact on the city we love and call home. And, while we have a rich history, we are not afraid to forge a new path. The future is bright for our city and JLNO. Thank you for believing in our mission.

Gratefully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shannon McCloskey Able". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Shannon McCloskey Able

Junior League of New Orleans President 2014-2015

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3-7 PM

Letter

from the Editor



Dear Readers,

It's remarkable to think ten years ago, a hot topic of national discussion was whether to rebuild New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina. Our residents slowly returned, picked up the pieces of their lives and made the tough decision of whether to rebuild. Despite the skeptics, we rebuilt, we renewed and we rediscovered that magnificent spirit that defines New Orleans. With more than 2,000 members and its largest Provisional class in the year following Hurricane Katrina, the Junior League of New Orleans returned to assist the city in its rebuilding efforts.

Hurricane Katrina is not the only anniversary that JLNO will commemorate this year. 2015 marks the 25th anniversary of Rebuilding Together, a program integral to helping our displaced residents repair their homes after Hurricane Katrina. Bloomin' Deals, JLNO's largest fundraiser, is also celebrating 55 years on Freret Street. Along with Bloomin' Deals, the Freret Street neighborhood reinvented itself in a post-Katrina world, and now is home to more than 14 blocks of restaurants, bars, entertainment venues and shops.

This issue doesn't just highlight the strength of JLNO after Hurricane Katrina. It also exemplifies the personal strength of our members. In "The Club that Nobody Wants to Belong To," various members discuss their experiences surviving cancer; both their personal battles and those of their loved ones. As JLNO continues to its focus on Advancing the Wellbeing of Women, the article outlines some of the tools necessary to deal with cancer: advocacy, self-awareness, initiative, and most importantly, learning to lean on those you love when you most need their support.

I hope you will join me in not just commemorating the ten-year anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, but in celebrating the city's resiliency and the improvements the city has made since Hurricane Katrina. JLNO was there every step of the way, and we will continue to protect the progress that has been obtained.

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Amanda Wingfield Goldman". The ink is dark and the signature is written on a light-colored background.

Amanda Wingfield Goldman
Editor



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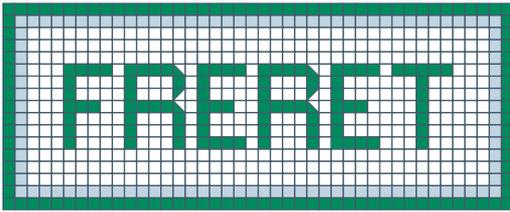
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Compiled by: Kristen Durand

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≡ **5K** ≡

**Saturday,
October 17th.**

CAF deadline is approaching!

Community Assistance Fund Grants help nonprofit agencies like JLNO thrive. The application deadline is **Friday, January 15, 2016**. For info, visit www.jlno.org/CAF



Rebuilding Together is celebrating 25 years!

JLNO's Rebuilding Together Celebration is set for **Saturday, October 10th.**

*It only happens
twice a year!*

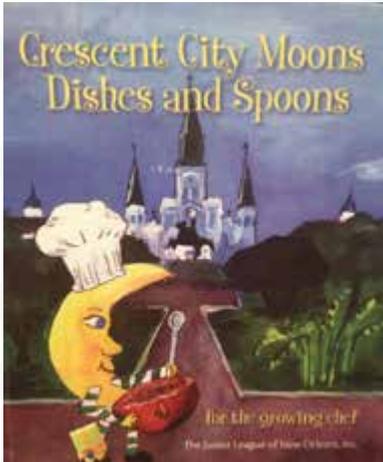
Get the biggest bang for your buck at Bloomin' Deals Bag Day on **Saturday, October 3rd.**

Then get your wardrobe tailgate ready with first dibs on new merchandise starting **Monday, October 5th.**

bloomin' deals

Heard of
Giving Tuesday?

Celebrate the season of generosity by giving to JLNO the Tuesday after Thanksgiving, **December 1st.**



During Lemonade Day, JLNO donated **7,000** copies of the Junior League cookbook, ***Crescent City Moons, Dishes and Spoons for the Growing Chef.***

The cookbooks were included in the registration backpack given to every child who signed up for Lemonade Day!

While kids are in the kitchen making their lemonade, the cookbooks will spark fun ideas for creating delicious meals from scratch, which will lead to healthier food choices in the future.

Laissez les bon temps roule!

The Association of Junior Leagues International Fall Conference is headed to the Big Easy.

If you see someone with an AJLI badge in the city from **September 17th-19th**, give them a smile and welcome them.

National Diaper Need Awareness Week is September 28 - October 4!



How many have you done?

- Visited the stylish Bloomin' Deals Bridal Boutique
- Donated to Bloomin' Deals during new store hours: 10am - 6pm, Monday - Saturday
- Registered for the Freret 5K
- Donated to the Junior League Diaper Bank
- Liked JLNO on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram   
- Started your CAF Grant Application

Headquarters
will be closed
November 26th-27th.



Bloomin' Deals
will be closed
November 26th.

Active members Mary Beth Green, Chalón Dominick and Meredith Beers show how JLNO keeps its Diaper Bank organized
 Photos by: Lacreia "Cree" Jones.



Filling the Diaper Gap

JLNO Diaper Bank has 90,000 reasons to celebrate and big plans for the future

By: Erin Oufnac

The Junior League of New Orleans Diaper Bank had a remarkable first year. It set out with an ambitious goal of collecting 90,000 diapers to celebrate JLNO's 90th year. It reached and exceeded its goal and encountered many more successes along the way. Diaper Bank Co-Chair Whitney Brooks said, "We were overjoyed at the response we have had from the community in our first year."

As the committee members began the ambitious task of establishing the Diaper Bank, they took on a mostly reactive role. First, they focused on securing donations and how to streamline the process. As the community generously donated diapers and sponsored diaper drives, the Diaper Bank responded to ensure the success of each willing participant.

The outpouring of community support has been phenomenal, and committee members are working diligently to keep pace with growing community involvement. "The biggest change coming up is that we're going to be proactive instead

DIAPER NEEDS

Average infant uses



4,000 – 5,000 diapers per year

90,000 diapers



will diaper 20 children for a full year

 = 100 diapers

 = 1 child

of reactive,” said Diaper Bank Co-Chair Anna Combes. This includes diaper drives, sorting dates, and pick-up and drop-off schedules to ensure a stable supply of diapers for the distribution partners.

The Diaper Bank has grown from one distribution partner to three distribution partners within the past year, and each serves a distinct role to enable diapers to reach as many families as possible. In order to identify the extent of our community’s needs, the committee has collected data throughout the year to determine the exact diaper need in the Greater New Orleans area. The average infant uses between 4,000 and 5,000 diapers per year. Based on those numbers, 90,000 diapers will supply 20 children with diapers for a year. These numbers reflect the extent of the diaper need in the community, which is why increasing awareness has been such a strong goal for the Diaper Bank.

As the committee looks ahead, the Diaper Bank will continue to bring awareness to the need for diapers while shifting its focus to education and advocacy. JLNO’s recent visit to the state capitol provided an important opportunity for members to share the magnitude and impact of the Diaper Bank with state legislators. “It really showcased the Diaper Bank as an extension of our focus on the wellbeing of women and their families,” said past Diaper Bank Co-Chair and current President-Elect Maria Huete. “It was interesting how many state legislators from north Louisiana spent time talking to us. They didn’t know that diapers weren’t covered under some of the safety nets. It was a really good opportunity for us to bring that awareness.”

**DIAPER BANK
DROP-OFF LOCATIONS**

- JLNO Headquarters
- East Jefferson General Hospital
- Palm Tree Playground
- The Parenting Center at Children’s Hospital
- The Parenting Center at Goldring-Woldenberg Jewish Community Campus
 - Feet First
 - Bloomin’ Deals

SEE: WWW.JLNO.ORG/DIAPERDRIVES
FOR DETAILS!



Active Member Meredith Beers sorts diapers for the Diaper Bank. Photos by: Lacreia “Cree” Jones.

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JLNO and the PRC Celebrate the 25th Anniversary of **REBUILDING TOGETHER**

By: Michelle Craig

In 1974, in response to an increased interest in the preservation of the city's rich and historic architecture, the Junior League of New Orleans organized the Preservation Alliance of New Orleans. Today, the organization stands independent from the JLNO and is known as the Preservation Resource Center (PRC). The PRC was created to merge historic preservation, community involvement and urban planning to preserve the legacies of some of New Orleans' most historic buildings and homes. Over the years, the PRC has educated the public, influenced public policy and ensured the preservation of many historic properties in the city.

Although the PRC is now an independent organization, JLNO continues to work closely with it on many revitalization projects. One of those projects, Rebuilding Together, began in the late 1980s as an initiative to assist elderly, low-income or disabled citizens with needed repairs to their homes. The program was originally called "Christmas in October" and has assisted thousands of homeowners with much-needed repairs. Today, Rebuilding Together volunteers work alongside JLNO and other generous sponsor organizations to build homes for the New Orleans community.

If you are interested in volunteering for a shift, please contact JLNO's Rebuilding Together Committee.

No experience is necessary to assist in the build.

Build staff will be on hand to help with the construction and to assist with the building process.

This year marks the 25th Anniversary of Rebuilding Together. The 25th Anniversary celebration is co-chaired by JLNO veterans, Karen Boudreaux and Katie Hardin. Karen spent her early years volunteering with Rebuilding Together as her placement. "I love one particular house we worked on just off of Louisiana Avenue," Karen said. "I always feel great when we pass it and have fond memories of the homeowner and the work we did. I love being able to point it out to my kids now and teach them about community service as well."

To celebrate, the JLNO will again partner with the PRC to build homes for community members. The build, which originated as a two-day event over a single weekend, now occurs over two weekends, usually during early October. This year JLNO and the PRC will invite the community to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of Rebuilding Together and commemorate the incredible contributions that have proliferated from this initiative.

The goal of the event is to celebrate JLNO members who laid the foundation for this program, which has performed incredible work in the community. It will also give provisionals a glimpse into the heart and the drive of members who came before them in JLNO. "My years on the committee and chairing Rebuilding have made me a stronger team player and leader," Karen said. With several first-year members on the committee, this is an opportunity for them to obtain first-hand knowledge about the dedication and hard-work that it takes to build a program that withstands the test of time.

Performing fulfilling work in a hands-on manner and assisting in the build, is a great way to bond and create lasting friendships with fellow JLNO and community members. "I think it shaped



Top photo: JLNO members give the stairs at the Eden House a fresh coat of paint. Above: Junior League members and other volunteers band together to Rebuild Together! Photos provided by: Junior League of New Orleans

In progress A Rebuilding Together home "in progress."

Photo by: Michelle Fridman



A Rebuilding Together "after" home. **After**

Photo provided by: Preservation Resource Center.



"By helping launch Rebuilding Together and through its ongoing participation, the Junior League has enabled PRC's Rebuilding Together to improve nearly 1,500 low-income owner-occupied homes in 34 neighborhoods, plus many other buildings such as churches and community centers. The Junior League has provided one of the strongest volunteer teams every year, working often in partnership with Shell Oil to do major improvements and restoration work on houses. The PRC is very grateful to the Junior League for its support and participation in so many ways since 1974."

— Patricia H. Gay, Executive Director, Preservation Resource Center of New Orleans

my entire experience," Karen said. "Working with the same committee for four full days over two weekends, you really get to know people."

In addition to meeting other members of JLNO, the build also provides an opportunity to meet other volunteers from our partnership organizations. Without these important community partners, this work would not be possible.

Shell New Orleans has been an ardent supporter of the Rebuilding Together initiative. Since its inception, Shell has been a corporate sponsor providing both financial assistance and/or volunteers to ensure that the build is a success.

"The best friends I've made in the League have all come from Rebuilding Together," Karen said. "We continue to keep in touch with some friends from the Toronto area Leagues."

JLNO is extremely proud of the success of this program and all of the members who committed their time and energy to the program over the years. As with all of our programs, JLNO is very pleased with the accomplishments Rebuilding Together has made, which have been maintained by the PRC. JLNO looks forward to seeing everyone at our 25th Anniversary event on October 10, 2015!

Please join event chairs
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Emergency Preparedness: Staying A Step Ahead of the Storm

By: Jennifer Hale

A single storm can drastically alter lives – and a community’s future – as so many in New Orleans and along the Gulf Coast learned ten years ago in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.

National forecasters are predicting this year’s hurricane season will be below average, so it is the perfect time to prepare a plan so you and your family are ready next time the Crescent City finds itself in the path of Mother Nature’s fury.

A solid plan starts with identifying where you and your family will go if a hurricane threatens our area. Decide on your primary evacuation route, as well as a backup route in the event of road closures or traffic. Draft a family communication tree just in case your family is separated when disaster strikes. Come up with a plan for your pets if you need to leave town.

It is also a great idea to have an evacuation kit ready and waiting to take with you. Include copies of all important paperwork for insurance, mortgages and bank accounts, as well as medical records and an ample supply of prescription medications.

It is not just the actual storm that threatens you, your home and your loved ones. According to the National Hurricane Center, storm surge has the potential to cause the largest loss of life during a hurricane. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA) warns that a mere six inches of fast-moving flood water can knock over an adult. NOAA also says two feet of rushing water can carry

away vehicles as large as an SUV. This is why it is so important to heed official recommendations and take tropical storms seriously.

There are a number of resources available online to help you and your family prepare now for future storms. The following websites provide advice for creating emergency plans:

www.weather.gov and www.ready.gov

Emergency situations can be frightening and difficult for children to understand. These websites will help parents walk their children through what happens in a hurricane and how the family can be prepared so they will be safe.

www.ready.gov/kids
www.weatherwizkids.com
www.weather.gov/media/owlie/nws_kids_fact_sheet2b.pdf
www.sesamestreet.org/parents/topicsandactivities/toolkits/hurricane

Kid’s Crossing provides interactive arts and crafts projects to help children understand how hurricanes work: <http://eo.ucar.edu/kids/dangerwx/hurricane4.htm>.

Preparing now can help ease anxieties and make the evacuation process smoother and more efficient for everyone involved.

Advice from JLNO Members on how to efficiently and proactively evacuate:

“If you’re fond of air conditioning, you have small children and you have a place that you can get to, evacuate. There’s a good chance that, even in the event of a Category 2, you will lose electricity for a week. We always evacuate to Gran and Pop’s house, and take work with us.”

—Amanda Wingfield Goldman

“Don’t wait until the last minute to evacuate. Getting stuck in contraflow is no fun! Pack a cooler of food and drinks to take with you. The fewer stops you make, the better. Place your photos and other precious/valuable items in a Rubbermaid container or in trash bags, on top of a bookcase or counter. This way, if flooding occurs, they will be safe and dry.”

—Jessica Chin

“If you’re planning on evacuating, don’t take the main routes. We avoided a ton of traffic during the Katrina Exodus by looking at an atlas and planning our route up to Mississippi using smaller highways. Then, on the way back to town post-Katrina, we stopped for gas and filled the tank pretty much everywhere we could, knowing that at some point it would get scarce. We wanted to keep the tank full for as long as possible.”

— Mary Lorenz Smith

“Take your meat and other perishables with you in a cooler if you want to save it, but be sure to clean out the fridge BEFORE you go!”

—Jessie Schott Haynes

“Buy a Go-Phone if you want to be able to text your loved ones. The cell phone struggle is real during and after a storm. Keep updated pictures of your home for insurance purposes, and take the pictures with you! Also, take out some cash before the storm. Cash is pretty wonderful when credit card machines are down. If you decide to stay at home, make friends with people who have generators. If you decide not to evacuate, invest in camping lanterns as opposed to flashlights. Hanging out at home without electricity is the perfect time to clean out closets and organize your home. But, it is pretty tough to do in the dark!”

— Laura Cotaya Carroll

“If it looks like we are in the strike zone, make hotel reservations as soon as possible in an area of high ground like northern Louisiana, the Mississippi Delta or further north - unless you have family that lives in locations like these. Make sure you have plenty of gas in your car and bring a flashlight with batteries. Make sure that you have enough water and food in car in case you get stuck in traffic. Make sure to have your picture ID with you and don’t forget your car charger for your devices! If there’s a weapon in your home, take it with you! Download NOAA/WDSU/Weather Underground/Fox 8 mobile apps for up-to-date weather information.”

—Colleen Carr Jarrott



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Thrift Shop Co-Chairs Aimee Redmann and Kate Samy have big plans for Bloomin' Deals this year! Photo by: Thomas Redmann



Bloomin' Deals Celebrates 55 Years on Freret

By: Etheldreda Smith & Tiffanie Brown

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Just like old times! Past and Present Bloomin' Deals Chairs and JLNO Leaders and Bloomin' Deals Staff: (Front Row L-R): Margie Woodsen, JJ Komman, Shannon McCloskey Able, Audry Robinson and Missy Barnett. (Second Row L-R): Christine Vinson, Ashley Brennan, Michele Miller, Ninette Eastman and Pat Wall. (Third Row L-R): Kate Samy and Valerie Cahill. Photo by: Jessica Bachmann



Past JLNO President Ninette Eastman was integral to the success of Bloomin' Deals. Photo by: Jessica Bachmann



Right: Due to the flooding in the Freret Street corridor, JLNO lost nearly everything at Bloomin' Deals after Hurricane Katrina. Photo provided by: Junior League of New Orleans

The thrift shop wasn't always on Freret Street and it wasn't always "Bloomin' Deals"

The shop's history began in 1927 on Royal Street in the French Quarter. In 1960, the Junior League of New Orleans made a big leap to what was then referred to as "The Freret Street District." This move was for a good cause because many thrift shop customers lacked transportation and the new location was accessible by public transit.

The Freret Street move was a big deal around town. Mayor Chep Morrison cut the ribbon on November 22, 1960 in the new location and sales boomed. Spirits were high and business was good. The next 30 years, however, were not kind to Freret Street.

By the early 1990s, "The Junior League Thrift Shop," as it was then known, and Eckerd's Drug Store were two of only a few businesses left in the once vibrant Freret Street District. Flooding soon ran Eckerd's out, ruined the bulk of the thrift shop inventory, and sales declined. It was time for a change.

Through tremendous efforts by the JLNO Thrift Shop Committee, which includes harrowing tales of League members braving questionable Tchoupitoulas

Past thrift shop Chairs in front of the new clothing displays at Bloomin' Deals. (Front Row L-R): JJ Komman and Maribeth del Castillo. (Back Row L-R): Michele Miller, Christine Vinson and Ashley Brennan. Photo By: Jessica Bachmann



Street warehouses to obtain clothing display fixtures, the shop expanded into the vacant Eckerd's space. JLNO held a naming contest and of the many clever suggestions, the League chose "Bloomin' Deals." Freshly renamed and boasting 8,000 square feet of retail space, JLNO turned the page on the third chapter of its largest fundraising effort.

Sip 'n Sorts: Social time, as you sort clothes

With membership requirements suspended after Hurricane Katrina, reopening the flooded Bloomin' Deals required creativity. Nearly everything in the shop was lost after the storm, so Junior League chapters from around North America pitched in to replenish inventory.

"We wanted to reopen the thrift shop, but there were no volunteers," said Blanche "Dee" McCloskey, past President of JLNO. The solution was social gatherings where League members sorted clothes. In those languid days when very little was moving in New Orleans, the ladies were delighted to gather at the thrift shop and regain some semblance of normal life; it was the place where people reconnected. In short time, Bloomin' Deals was a community center again.

As a constant cornerstone on the evolving Freret Street corridor, the thrift shop has been about community. "The Thrift Shop has always been at the heart of who we are as League members," said Dee, who also served as chair of the thrift shop Committee after Hurricane Katrina. For new JLNO members, the thrift shop is often their first project, their introduction to JLNO and where they form their first JLNO friendships. After the storm, Bloomin' Deals partnered with Dress for Success. JLNO members helped women find professional outfits at no cost. For the ladies of the community, it improved their capacity to support their families. To JLNO members who serve their community through Bloomin' Deals, it shaped their identity as members of JLNO.

This deep-rooted dedication and love for Bloomin' Deals continues to flourish. Co-Chairs Aimee Redmann and Kate Samy held a Sip 'n Shop exclusively for provisionals. This allowed provisionals to mingle with other new women to JLNO, and also check out some of the fantastic pieces Bloomin' Deals has to offer. From \$4 fashionable blouses to gently used handbags, provisionals were able to enjoy Bloomin' Deals as customers versus aiding in sorting and organizing donations during thrift shop shifts.

A gathering place for the Freret community

Not only is Bloomin' Deals a hit with provisionals, but it is also a hit with Freret Street locals. Since its relocation to Freret Street, Bloomin' Deals has played a vital role in the renewal of its beloved Uptown neighborhood. "It is the second oldest business

"We see regulars from the area shopping at the store all the time."

– Kate Samy

"Bloomin' Deals has definitely contributed to the rebuilding of the area."

– Aimee Redmann

on Freret Street," Aimee said. She added, "It definitely has contributed to the rebuilding of the area since it spans over five decades."

As community centers often do, Bloomin' Deals has its own cast of memorable characters. No memory of Bloomin' Deals is complete without a fond story of Stella Mae Johnson Porche. Ms. Porche, or "Miss Stella" as she was known to JLNO members, worked for Bloomin' Deals for more than 20 years. From sorting and stocking merchandise to grief counseling and life advice, she wore whichever hat necessary to get the job done.

The thrift shop not only provides jobs, but it also gives local residents an affordable place to shop in the neighborhood. What the store means to the neighborhood can be seen through one important pair of eyes: those of the customer. Dee tells a heart-warming story of a young woman for whom Miss Stella became a part of her milestone memories. Miss Stella helped her pick out a prom dress in high school, a formal dress in college and a suit for her first job interview. Bloomin' Deals has undoubtedly touched lives in ways that may never be told.

Additionally, the more recent success of the Bridal Boutique has helped the community in special ways through beautiful gowns donated by Yvonne LaFleur. "I believe these neighborhoods in New Orleans are thriving, and I look at Bloomin' Deals as an anchor of Freret Street," said Yvonne, as she took a break on a busy Friday afternoon from

helping several customers at her dress boutique. Yvonne helped JLNO start the Bridal Boutique at Bloomin' Deals in June 2012 by donating several gowns. Starting the Bridal Boutique coincided with JLNO's mission to help women in the community. She also believed the extra revenue generated from the Bridal Boutique would help JLNO pay off its mortgage on the Bloomin' Deals building. Wanting to assist with the rejuvenation of a neighborhood, Yvonne not only helped open the Bridal Boutique but still continues to donate her beautifully made gowns today. "It's very exciting to be a part of the revival of a street," said Yvonne.

Co-Chairs Aimee and Kate have big plans for the upcoming year at Bloomin' Deals. They want to incorporate more social events on Thursday evenings, like Sip 'n Shops and sales to draw in more customers. Bloomin' Deals is also working on a new website, which will launch this fall. It will provide another avenue to build awareness for the store and showcase awesome promotions and products for sale, in an effort to drive additional traffic into the store. The website will educate prospective shoppers regarding exactly what Bloomin' Deals offers, what it does for the community and how shoppers can help our cause.

Bloomin' Deals inventory is constantly being rotated and updated to give shoppers an abundance of choices. With Bloomin' Deals' continued success and good impression on JLNO members as well as the community, it is set on a path to soar to even higher heights.

Bloomin' Deals has new hours!

Monday-Wednesday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Thursday 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Friday-Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Donations will be accepted anytime during these hours in the store.

The Bridal Boutique is open on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Next Generation of Lee Michaels



Lee Michael Berg and his son, Chad Berg, celebrate their family's businesses' successes and look forward to the next generation of Lee Michaels.
Photo provided by: Lee Michaels Fine Jewelry

By: Amy Graham Hughes

Lee Michael Berg feels so lucky that his three sons, Ryan, Scott and Chad want to join the family business, Lee Michaels Fine Jewelry. "I built this business over the last 38 years and I am so proud and thankful that today it is a big enough business so each of my sons can take on a piece of it and have true ownership," Lee said.

The first Lee Michaels Fine Jewelry store opened in Cortana Mall in Baton Rouge in 1978. The firm now has eight stores in six markets. Louisiana markets include New Orleans, Baton Rouge, Lafayette, and Shreveport, and outlying markets, Jackson, Mississippi and San Antonio, Texas. The Lakeside Shopping Center location will celebrate 20 years in business next year. In addition, Lee Michaels also owns three Pandora concept stores, with their flagship location at Lakeside Mall.

Ryan is market president over San

Antonio, Scott is market president over Baton Rouge and New Orleans, and Chad is General Manager over New Orleans and Jackson. "It is a joy to work alongside my boys and watch them grow personally and professionally," Lee said. "We all share the same passion for building relationships with our customers and communities, and for that I am truly thankful." One of the firm's core values is focused on good corporate citizenship in the communities in which they do business. This especially rings true with their support and partnerships with the Junior League in all six markets.

As Lee starts to partially retire, his sons will assume more leadership within the company.

Although the definition of success is still evolving for Chad, his father has provided an excellent role model for him to look up to. "I'm still learning what the meaning of suc-

cess is for me. I look up to my father as being a success with his six grandchildren and the business that he started many years ago. I'm still in the early stage of my career, and I hope to grow the family business," said Chad Berg.

Chad started working in the family business at age ten, answering phones and wrapping gifts. Chad aspired to work on the sales floor as quickly as he could and spent every holiday vacation working in a Lee Michaels store. After graduating from college, he completed the Executive Development Program at Neiman Marcus and joined Neiman Marcus' buying team, which prepared him to help run his family's business.

"I came into Lee Michaels so that I would have the opportunity to work with my father and brothers," Chad said. "Family is so important and I couldn't ask for a better job than working alongside with the people you love the most."

Rebuilding After Hurricane Katrina, One *Junior League* at a Time

By: Katy Darrith

In early August 2005, Junior League of New Orleans President Liz Creel and the Board conducted their regular meeting and discussed hopes and goals for the coming year. They were completely unaware that in a matter of weeks, everything would change.

In the immediate months following Hurricane Katrina, JLNO



Current JLNO President Shannon McCloskey Able and 2005-2006 JLNO President Liz Creel. Photo by: Rhonda Stephens

faced a completely foreign challenge. For the first time in its history, the organization and its members were in need rather than assisting those in need. “We were used to doing good for our community. Hurricane Katrina reduced us to being utterly powerless,” said Liz.

JLNO kicked into survival mode to support its members by immediately suspending their dues and obligations. Many JLNO members were still picking up pieces of their lives, rebuilding homes, and juggling their careers and families. Sister Leagues across the country donated money to offset dues for two years to assist our membership.

Restoring Bloomin’ Deals emerged as a high priority for JLNO, and it became a beacon of hope for the devastated Freret neighborhood. Members came together to assist in the cleaning efforts and sort through donations from Leagues across the country. On December 16, 2005, Bloomin’ Deals reopened, bringing with it a sense of normalcy to the neighborhood and daily life.

JLNO reached out to its members to create a safe haven and foster community at Headquarters by hosting family movie nights and dinners. The first general meeting after Hurricane Katrina was held on January 24, 2006 with more than 150 members in attendance, filling them with the spirit of service that defines JLNO.

Liz spoke at the Association of Junior Leagues International (AJLI) conference in Salt Lake City, Utah, in March 2006 and appealed to AJLI’s attendees regarding New Orleans’ desperate need for assistance. A plan unfolded for Junior League members across North America to come to New Orleans the following October to assist with the rebuilding efforts. JLNO had hoped for 200 and was astounded when more than 1,000 volunteers arrived, exemplifying the incredible spirit of the Junior League’s volunteer efforts.

JLNO member Caroline Fitzpatrick posted flyers with Liz at Bloomin’ Deals to advertise the upcoming AJLI volunteer project. They also went door-to-door in the Freret area to offer aid. AJLI members completed 25 house projects in the Freret neighborhood, including gutting, painting and cleaning. Bloomin’ Deals received a fresh coat of paint, and AJLI members planted 75 trees along Freret Street. AJLI Volunteers cleaned up City Park, restored Willie Mae’s Scotch House Restaurant in Tremé, and assisted with the new construction of the Musicians’ Village in the Upper Ninth Ward.

JLNO members and their families helped in a variety of ways — working alongside AJLI members, making lunches for all the volunteers and giving tours of the devastation across the city.

Liz looks back with immense gratitude: “The feeling of isola-

“As bad as things may get, we have the strength as women to move forward and do great things.”

— Liz Creel, Past Junior League President



In the wake of Hurricane Katrina, more than 1,000 Junior League members from across North America descended on New Orleans to assist with the rebuilding effort. Photo provided by: Junior League of New Orleans



AJLI members joined together to restore Willie Mae's Scotch House Restaurant in Tremé. Photo provided by: Junior League of New Orleans

tion in the immediate aftermath of Hurricane Katrina was so heavy — cell phones didn't work, we couldn't call contractors to fix our homes, and the rest of the country was questioning the federal money being sent to New Orleans. Then, women from all over the world came to help us, and it gave us a chance to feel a sense of community again.”

Junior League members could have easily abandoned their community volunteer efforts when faced with such daunting personal needs, but they recognized the importance of maintaining community with each other, and within their city. The 2006 provisional class was the largest at that point, with 125 members, which was a testament to the dedication of members and their commitment to service, and to rebuilding New Orleans.

Ten years ago Liz penned her “Letter from the President” in *Lagniappe*. She said that the greatest lesson she learned from Hurricane Katrina was “the awesome power that stems from the women of our community.” To this day, she reiterates and reminds us that women are powerful and strong. Current President Shannon McCloskey Able notes that Hurricane Katrina allowed women to take on more risks and believe in their power to make a difference in the community. Ten years later we continue to harness strength from Hurricane Katrina’s difficult lessons, as we carry on our efforts in rebuilding our beloved city and continuing our focus on Advancing the Wellbeing of Women.

Kids

in the

Kitchen:



Kids are learning that healthy choices can be fun and delicious. Photo by: Jessica Bachmann

By: Autumn Town

Children are a symbol of renewal and rebirth, and an indication of growth and progress. Junior League of New Orleans' Kids in the Kitchen is an initiative that was started by the Association of Junior Leagues International (AJLI) to address childhood obesity and poor nutrition and develop healthier futures for our children. Louisiana consistently ranks among the unhealthiest states in the nation, and Kids in the Kitchen fills a distinct need. This program's goal is to provide children with knowledge of healthy food and exercise to enable them and their families to ward off obesity and its associated health risks.

Kids in the Kitchen, along with local partners, hosts educational events to raise awareness of childhood obesity and to get children and their parents involved in a hands-on environment that focuses on preparing healthy foods. This includes local chefs providing cooking demonstrations, hosting fitness assessments with nutritionists in schools and community centers and setting up healthy food tables at community



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Wait, *spinach* can be delicious?

events. It also includes providing healthy recipes, teaching children how to read package labels and helping them learn ways of finding healthy ingredients. In the past, Kids in the Kitchen partnered with the Southern Food and Beverage Museum to provide weekend culinary camps for children, and has also worked with Second Harvest Food Bank's afterschool supper program, which provides a hot dinner to children five days a week.

Kids in the Kitchen Co-Chairs Bessie Goggins and Meg McKown are continuing last year's goal of transitioning the program from afterschool programming to an events-based committee. This includes hosting tables at JLNO events, such as Freret 5K and Touch a Truck, and also working at events outside of the League with schools in the greater New Orleans area. The committee also added a second goal this year. In addition to providing education on healthy eating, Kids in the Kitchen also emphasizes a healthy lifestyle as a companion to good nutrition. Bessie said that by scheduling events on weekday evenings or weekends, "Kids in the Kitchen can reach more children and target a broader audience, being even more effective."

Last year Kids in the Kitchen partnered with ARISE School, and brought fifth graders to visit JLNO Headquarters. Kids in the Kitchen set up five tables—one for each of the food groups—and the children rotated through each table creating healthy lunches.

Once the lunches were complete, children had a picnic in the middle of headquarters. Kids in the Kitchen also worked with Mildred Osborne Charter School in New Orleans East and hosted an afterschool event for grades 2-4 once a month. Activities included teaching them to "eat the rainbow" by choosing brightly colored fruits and vegetables for more nutrition, and substituting healthy options, such as honey instead of sugar. Children made spinach and banana smoothies, and although the initial response from kids was, "Gross!" once the children actually tried it, leftovers were requested. In fact, one child told her mother she was amazed spinach could taste so good! It's this kind of change in thinking that Kids in the Kitchen strives to teach.

Bessie stressed that as the committee evaluates with which schools it will work, collaboration and partnership are primary goals. She discussed several simple options Kids in the Kitchen has used to teach children that good nutrition and a healthy lifestyle can be fun. While she notes that their primary focus is still healthy eating and good nutritional choices, "implementing a healthy, active lifestyle partners well with healthy eating—it creates a positive double impact."

Kids in the Kitchen's co-chairs also hope that the program will increase education support services, which will include reaching out to schools to partner with their events throughout the year.



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Get the *Royal* or **Celebrity** Bridal Look for Less!

By: Elizabeth Walcavich

When a celebrity gets married, or better yet, when a member of the royal family weds, millions of onlookers, media outlets and the general public are dying to know what the bride is wearing. Grace Kelly, Kate Middleton, Jennifer Aniston and Kim Kardashian, to name a few, have been idolized as having the perfect bridal look. Their gowns, worth thousands of dollars, were plastered on every magazine cover, wedding website, newspaper and social media site. But what about the rest of us? On her wedding day, the bride, no matter who she is, should be the most beautiful person in the room. She is royal; she is a celebrity. But a bride does not have to spend thousands of dollars to achieve that same stunning look.

The Bridal Boutique, which opened its doors in 2012, offers discounted new and gently used wedding gowns, as well as formal and bridesmaids' dresses. Here, a bride can have her cake and eat it too! New wedding dresses, some of which tout the labels of Vera Wang and LaFleur, are \$100. The Bridal Boutique, which recently re-located inside Bloomin' Deals at 4645 Freret Street, is open on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., or by appointment at bridalboutique@jlno.org.

So if you are a bride-to-be, or are in the market for a formal gown, stop by Bridal Boutique. You can get that royal or celebrity look and have money to spare!



Far left: A strapless Yvonne LaFleur with detailed embroidery and a mermaid silhouette accents a lovely figure. Photo by: Evie Hunnicutt

1. An amazing look does not have to cost a fortune at the Bridal Boutique! Photo by: Jessica Bachmann

2. Don't forget the shoes! The Bridal Boutique can outfit the bride and her maids from head to toe! Photo by: Jessica Bachmann

3. Brides and their maids can dress for less at the Bridal Boutique! Photo by: Jessica Bachmann

4. A Vera Wang full tulle skirt with simple and elegant neckline that will make any girl feel like a ballerina. Photo by: Evie Hunnicutt

5. A strapless Amsale ballgown with stunning lace detail on its bodice, which continues down the front, giving this bride a simple and classic design. Photo by: Evie Hunnicutt



The Club that Nobody Wants to Belong to

By: Emma Pegues and Mary Leonard

Breast cancer survivor and Sustainer Laura Claverie discusses the mammogram that saved her life. Photo by: Rhonda Stephens



According to Junior League of New Orleans Sustainer Laura Claverie, one in eight women will receive a breast cancer diagnosis in her lifetime. “If you sit around that 400-member Junior League meeting,” she illustrates, “50 of us could be at risk.” As we continue our focus on Advancing the Wellbeing of Women, it is important to be aware of the risks that come with our daily lives — and how to proactively manage issues when they do arise. By speaking with the women in our membership who have experienced cancer, either in their own lives or through the eyes of their children, we found a wealth of compassion, advice and knowledge for those who are, or may soon be, members of what Laura refers to as: “the club nobody wants to belong to.”

A common thread among our cancer survivors was advocacy. Too often the busy nature of our lives can overtake the time allotted for our own self-care. Who has time for that pesky annual medical exam when you have deadlines, responsibilities, meetings and family obligations? The resounding answer from the women who shared their stories was: make time. “As a mother,” Active Member Kristen Koppel explained, “as a caretaker, as a wife, you’re responsible for everyone. You owe it to the people around you to put yourself first.” Kristen, a thyroid cancer survivor, spent the first few months after giving birth to her youngest

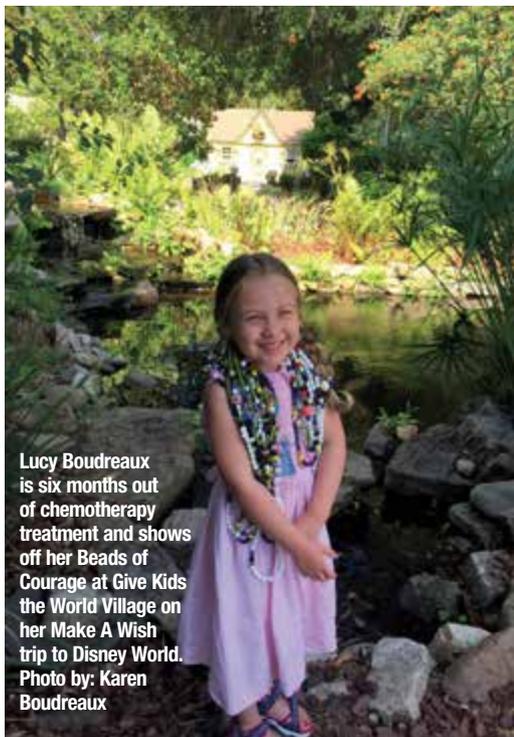
daughter searching for an answer to her body’s inability to take food and her exhaustion. Despite being dismissed from several doctor’s offices she knew in her “heart of hearts” that something was “terribly wrong.”

Like Kristen, Active Member Hillary Christiansen, ignored her symptoms in the early stages of Hodgkin’s Lymphoma because she had just given birth. Hillary stated if she could go back, she would have pressed the issue of her night sweats, fatigue and weight loss to her physicians.

Active Member Karen Boudreaux’s young daughter Lucy also had symptoms that went largely unrecognized — hairline fractures from every day stumbles, congestion, light fevers — innocuous occurrences that, separately are simply part of toddlerhood. When they received her diagnosis, Lucy was six months shy of her third birthday with 92 percent leukemia cells in her blood.

“If Lucy had gone one more day without treatment,” Karen stated, “she would have died.”

So what can we, as women, do to protect ourselves and our loved ones against such a common and potentially devastating diagnosis? Laura, who has taken to calling her friends who are less than disciplined about their annual mammograms, said that staying vigilant is required



Lucy Boudreaux is six months out of chemotherapy treatment and shows off her Beads of Courage at Give Kids the World Village on her Make A Wish trip to Disney World. Photo by: Karen Boudreaux

of all women — even those who may not think they are at risk. “I thought it was ridiculous,” she declared of her attitude going into the mammogram that she said saved her life. “I had no symptoms, no family history, no risk factors.”

Sustainer Lillian “Lil” Loewenbaum took initiative after her second cancer diagnosis and was tested for the BRCA2 gene. After sharing her positive results with her family, her two daughters and two nieces underwent preventative mastectomies. “It’s better to know,” Lillian said. “Don’t look back and say, ‘If I’d only be a little braver.’”

And if you receive a diagnosis? Get a second opinion — or a third. “Do your homework,” Laura said. Of all women who face beating cancer, “none of your doctors are going to agree completely on your treatment protocol. But you have to be 100 percent confident.”

When faced with their daunting diagnoses, the women we interviewed shared another commonality: an abundance of

support from their loved ones. A smile spread across Kristen’s face as she recalled the support she received as being “overwhelming.” Laura’s voice broke with appreciative emotion as she spoke to her husband’s unwavering dedication. “He did not miss one appointment,” she recalled. “He was an angel.” Upon realizing she was starting to lose her hair, Hillary took matters into her own hands with a “Champagne and Shave Party” where friends and family rallied around her, trying on wigs and making the most of what was an otherwise grim situation. Karen’s sweet Lucy learned a special type of compassion while battling her disease. “She skipped recess to stay inside with a girl who broke her leg, and she is so patient with the child in her daycare with autism.”

While these women drew strength and courage from their immediate networks, several noted how difficult it was to find and connect with those who were also undergoing treatment. “You have

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to talk to people, but you feel uncomfortable,” Lillian explained. “Be aware, keep your sense of humor, and don’t worry about your hair.” Hillary was able to connect with other patients through hashtags on Instagram, but felt New Orleans was lacking in a unified way for cancer patients to connect with each other aside from meeting during chemotherapy sessions. Karen recalled receiving several pamphlets on pediatric cancer when her daughter was first diagnosed, but none of them addressed the emotional toll that parenting a child with cancer takes on your marriage.

ADVOCACY, SUPPORT, KNOWLEDGE

Their strength and desire to share these stories to help others is truly inspiring. May we all learn from their experiences and the wisdom they have to impart, not only about advocating for our own health but

learning to value each day that we are blessed with. Cancer was not the end of their journey, just the beginning of the next chapter in the adventure.

Know Someone In Need?

Junior League of New Orleans is here to help. Support is available to all of our members who are experiencing a time of need through our Membership Outreach Committee. Please email membershipoutreach@jln.org.

Susan G. Komen New Orleans
www.komenneworleans.org

SurviveDAT
www.survivedat.org

Cancer Association of Greater New Orleans
www.cagno.org

Children’s Hospital supports their young patients through beads of courage. Children and parents select beads to represent different treatments as a physical representation of their journey in their fight for cancer which allows them to reflect on their strength. Lucy Boudreaux enjoys her beads as a badge of courage, a disease which she conquered.

Thyroid cancer survivor Kristen Koppel believes in the importance of listening to your body. Photo by: Jessica Bachmann



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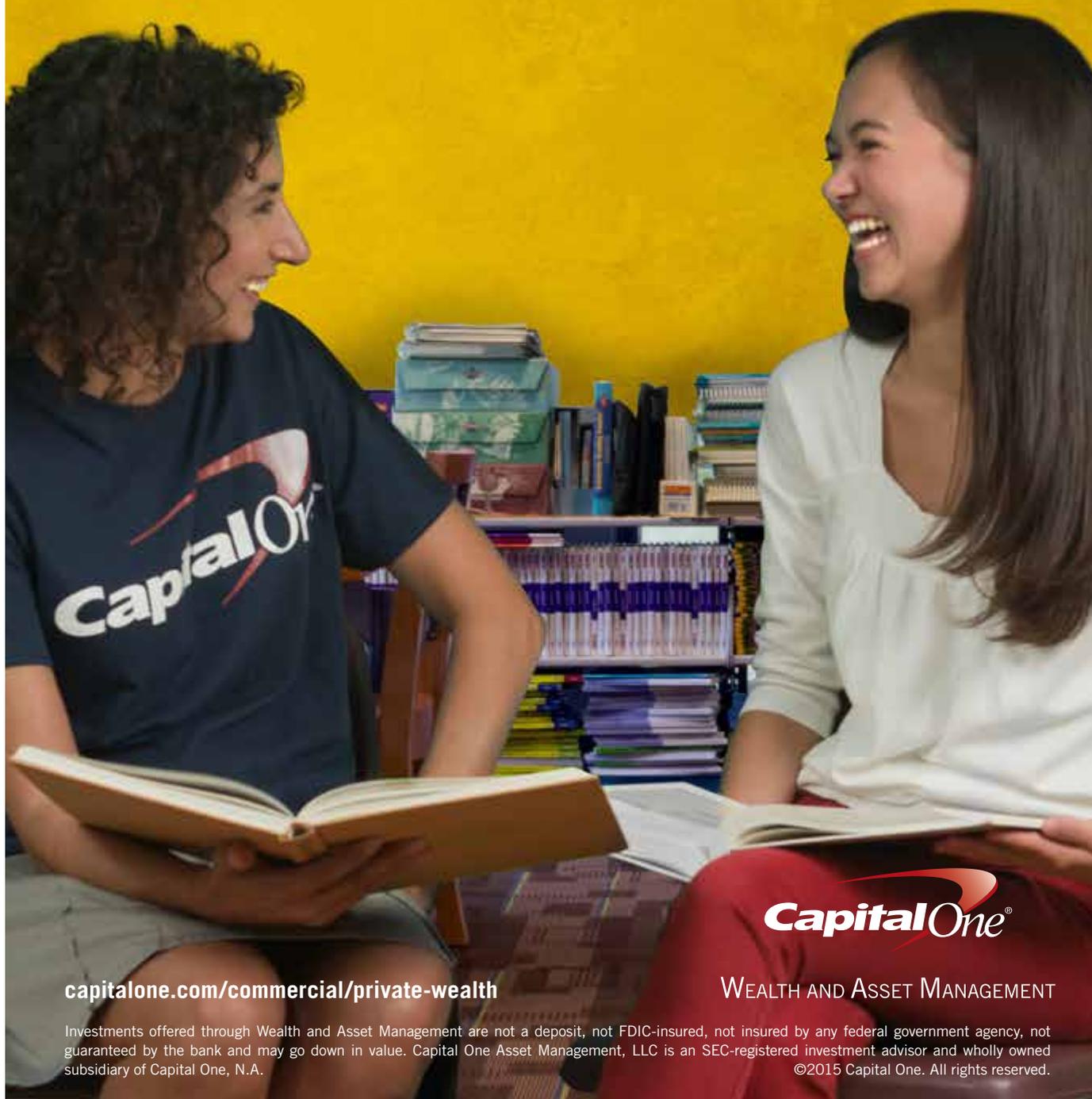
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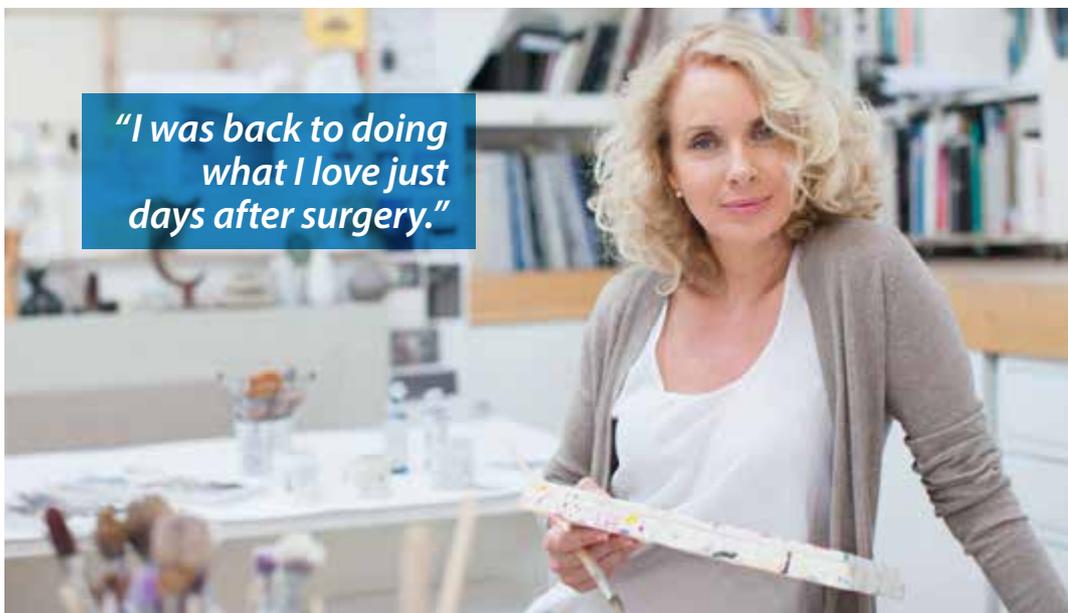
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Provisional Members

Sip, Shop and Learn

about JLNO!

By: Katy Darrith

Provisional members attended their first event, Sip 'n Shop at Bloomin' Deals, to learn more about the history and mission of the thrift shop and what their shifts will entail at the store. Members then broke into assigned small groups to meet their advisors and fellow provisionals.

Provisional Co-Chair Sibby Charbonnet explains the importance not only of these small groups but of a renewed effort to strengthen ties between all provisionals: "Each

month one of our groups of provisionals and their advisors are hosting an optional get-together or social in an effort for our provisionals to have ample opportunities to get to know their class and build community throughout the whole year!"

Provisional Co-Chairs, Sibby Charbonnet, Rachel Stickney and Elizabeth Fiegley, and Vice-Chairs, Lesley Davis, Amanda Forret and Marion Newsom, will lead this year's provisional class of 145 members to a successful year of creating new friendships and making a difference in the community.



Sipping, shopping, and making new friends! Provisionals Dana Jones, Taylor Bergmon and Katie Uhle
Photo by: Stephanie Campani

What are you

Provisionals
Jacqueline Bodet
and Kimmi Jo
Paris are all
smiles when it
comes to learn-
ing about Junior
League New
Orleans
Photo by:
Stephanie
Campani

"I'm so excited to meet lots of new people through the League as a new comer from Baton Rouge."

– Taylor Burgmon





There is lots of community involvement ahead for the Provisional "Jackson Square" Group! L-R: Hartley Crunk, Katherine Hugg Germanese, Bianca Spears, Lindsay Yenni, Erin Meyer and Kate Uhle Photo by: Stephanie Campani

Advancing the Wellbeing of Women is a top priority for Jeanne St. Romain, Sarah T. Aucoin and Michelle Smith Photo by: Stephanie Campani



most excited about as a provisional?

"Advancing the Wellbeing of Women, promoting voluntarism and making networking connections."
 – Sarah T. Aucoin

"I'm looking forward to meeting new people and giving back to the community through JLNO."
 – Lindsey Yenni

"Volunteering at Bloomin' Deals because my mom was a Junior League member, and I used to go volunteer with her in middle school."
 – Lindsey Verdin

"I am most excited about becoming actively involved in our community through JLNO's many placement opportunities."
 – Katherine Hugg Germanese

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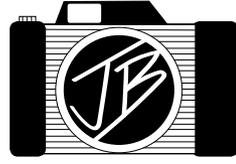
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League Faces

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

1



2



3



4



5



1 Carrie Moulder, Caty Trammel Johnson and Brandy Gilly celebrate the festivities at JLNO's Cinco de Mayo party. Photo by: Jessica Bachmann

2 Brandy Gilly, Shannon McCloskey Able, Allison Plaisance and Beth LeBlanc enjoy Cinco de Mayo! Photo by: Jessica Bachmann

3 Provisional Members Margaret Alder and Rebecca Gibbons are excited about their great Bloomin' Deals finds. Photo by: Stephanie Campani

4 JLNO Members Sarah Peltier, Sophie Ryan Martinez, Nicole Deshotels and Monica Smith hang out at the General Meeting on July 21, 2015. Photo by: Lacreia "Cree" Jones

5 All smiles for JLNO members at the General Meeting at Headquarters on July 21, 2015. (Front Row L-R): Tina Griffith, Chandra Kerley-Ridley, Brittany Brown, Nicole Deshotels, Tanoa Square and Essence Harris. (Back Row L-R) Tanya Robinson, Simone Burrell, Monica Smith, Sarah Peltier, Torry Dean and Candace Faubion. Photo by: Lacreia "Cree" Jones

6 Sustainers enjoy catching up with each other at the Sustainer General Meeting. L-R: Sustainer Cari Tessier, Sustainer Connections Vice-Chair Emily Strong and Sustainer Ann Middleton. Photo by: Torry J. Dean

6





7 Sustainer Lawless Kaplan, Sustainer Connections Co-Chair Melissa Eversmeyer and Sustainer Colleen Timmons enjoying the Sustainer General Meeting. Photo by: Stephanie Campani

8 Provisionals Shawn Marie Price and Cynthia Hassenboehler share lots of laughter at the Sip 'n Shop event. Photo by: Stephanie Campani

9 Ready, set and shop with Provisionals Alex Prince and Brittany Beckner at the Bloomin' Deals

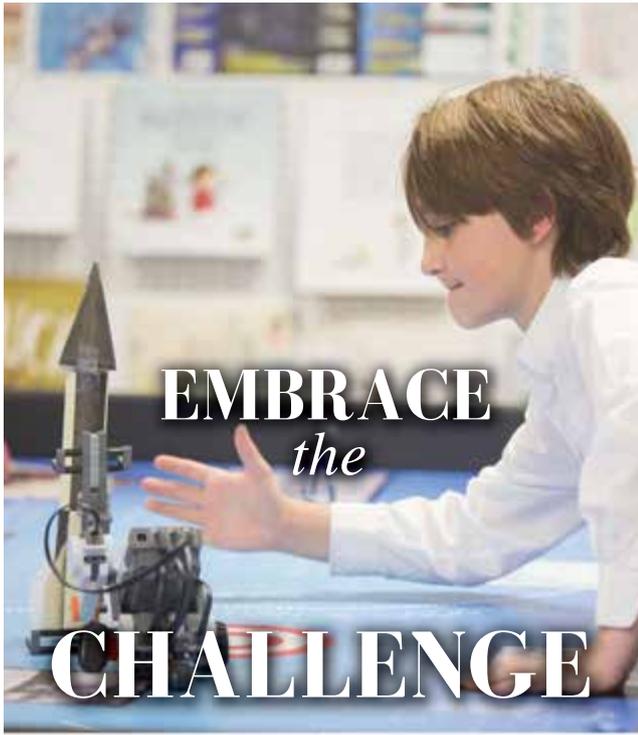
Sip 'n Shop event! Photo by: Stephanie Campani

10 Bloomin' Deals staff take a break from work to pose in front of the newly organized store. L-R: Carolyn Peters, Audry Robinson, Pat Wall and Lawrence Stansberry. Photo by: Jessica Bachmann

11 Bloomin' Deals Chair Kate Samy and JLNO President Shannon McCloskey Able show some sweet baby finds at Bloomin' Deals. Photo by: Jessica Bachmann

12 Past Bloomin' Deals Chairs display the fabulous accessories at the Thrift Shop: Missy Barnett, Laurie Doyle, Valerie Cahill and Liz Landry. Photo by: Jessica Bachmann

13 Amy Robertson, April Scott and Lauren Giovingo-Wiley enjoy Sustainer General Meeting. Photo by: Torry J. Dean



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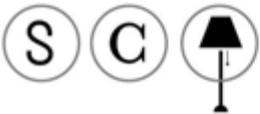


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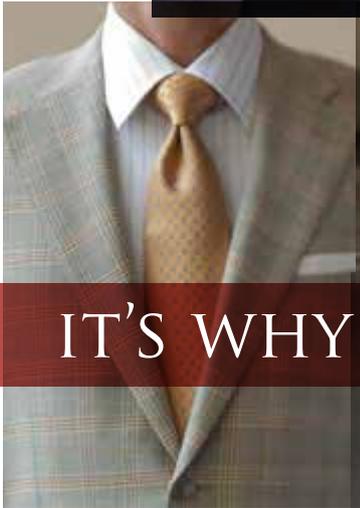


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