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Junior League of New Orleans

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On the Cover

Diaper Bank Co-Chairs, Caroline Phillips and Chalon Dominick, Diaper Bank Vice-Chair, Alyse Mouledoux, and Community Council Director, Holly Paczak, celebrate the grand opening of the diaper bank.

Photo by: Michelle Sens

2017-18

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Editor: Emma C. Pegues

Assistant Editor: Lacy McManus

Photography Editor: Stephanie Campani

Assistant Photography Editor: Michelle Sens

Writers: Christi Dabney, Kristin Durand, Julia England, Jennifer Guidry, Jennifer Hale, Jill Holland, Laura Sorey, Autumn Town, Miriam Taylor

Photographers: Kelly Bouillette, Jeanne Higgins, Taylor Pospisil, Windsor Richmond, Shawn Scott, Kari Shelton, Miriam Taylor, Anne Elizabeth Zegel

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Custom Publishing Manager & Production Manager: Jessica DeBold

Art Director: Ali Sullivan

Account Executive: Zane Wilson
504-830-7246 | Zane@myneworleans.com

Traffic Coordinator: Topher Balfor

Production Designers: Emily Andras, Demi Schaffer, Molly Tullier

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President: Alan Campell

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Director of Marketing and Events: Cheryl Lemoine

Event Coordinator: Whitney Weathers



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Crawfish Christmas!



Letter from the President

The holidays are upon us, and I use this time to reflect on all that I am grateful for this holiday season. I am most grateful for my amazing and supportive family, my dear friends near and far, and the opportunity to serve as the President of the Junior League of New Orleans (JLNO). Every day, I am honored and humbled to be leading this amazing organization. The core mission of The League is to train effective volunteers and develop the potential of women. Through the training our members receive from JLNO, we are improving our communities and working to tackle the biggest issues facing the women of metropolitan New Orleans.

I recently had the opportunity to attend a Thanksgiving lunch at the Giggles Child Development Center at Jackson Barracks. The Jackson Barracks program cares for the children, age's newborn to pre-kindergarten, of those serving in the National Guard and they are one of the programs that we provide diapers to through the JLNO Diaper Bank. During the luncheon, the JLNO was recognized and thanked for providing diapers to the families and eliminating the burden to have to send diapers and wipes with the child every day. I couldn't contain my emotions, and I found myself crying as I listened to the families thank me, the President of the Junior League, for helping them in a way I would never fully understand. At that moment, I realized how blessed I was to not only be able to meet with the families of those we serve, but to be the representative of this amazing organization.

During the past few months our members have volunteered thousands of hours to put together our fundraisers and community projects. I want to say "thank you" for all that you do. And to our sponsors and community partners, I want to extend a special "thank you" to you as well. Without your generous support, we would not be able to make the impact that we continue to make in the community.

The greatest gift I will receive this season is watching our members continue to give back. With over 2200 members, our ability to make a difference is tremendous, but most of all it is heartfelt.

Sincerely,



Kristen Koppel
JLNO President



Photo by: Jessica Bachmann



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Letter from the Editor

It's the most wonderful time of the year, and while New Orleans may not be the snow covered winter wonderland of our childhood imaginations, there is still something magical about the Crescent City in December. Everywhere you look, you see people helping others with smiles on their faces, and no where is this commitment to bettering our community more visible than in the collaborative work of the women of the Junior League of New Orleans. In this issue, you'll read about how JLNO members touched the lives of children all over the city at a record breaking Touch a Truck event, worked tirelessly to bring our Diaper Bank to life and brought New Orleanians back into their homes through Rebuilding Together. You'll celebrate a whopping 90 years of Bloomin' Deals and learn about a very special individual and his life long ties to the Junior League. We dish on fun holiday activities for your family and get real about how to graciously accept compliments.

To echo Kristen's sentiments on gratitude, I would like to take the opportunity to express my utmost and sincere thanks to the incredible women who made this issue come to life. Lacy McManus, Stephanie Campani and Anna Dearmon Kornick worked tirelessly to take this issue from storyboard to printer while I was welcoming my first child. Their dedication and attention to detail resulted in what I am sure you will agree is an absolute success. I am so grateful for their hard work and know that you will enjoy all of the wonderful stories they have brought you within these pages.

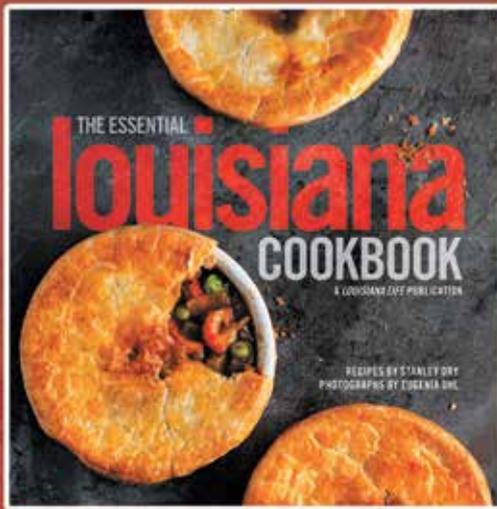
Cheers,



Emma C. Pegues
Editor



Photo by: Jessica Bachmann



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Bulletin Board

Compiled by Jennifer Guidry

NEW BLOOMIN' DEALS HOURS

In response to community feedback, Bloomin' Deals is now closed on Mondays and open on Sundays. New store hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday 12 p.m. to 5 p.m.

NEW MEMBER INFORMATION

Are you or anyone you know interested in joining JLNO? Attend one of our information sessions from January through March. More information is available at www.jlno.org/JoinJLNO.

SHOP AND DONATE

You can designate JLNO as the beneficiary of your AmazonSmile purchases. For more information, visit www.jlno.org/AmazonSmile

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GET ON BOARD

Get on Board is a two-day workshop providing knowledge and skills to current nonprofit board and staff members, as well as to those looking to become involved. The deadline for registering or apply to receive graduates is December 31, 2017. More information at www.jlno.org/GetOnBoard

RUN FRERET

Beginning and ending at JLNO's Bloomin' Deals Thrift Shop, this 5K and half-mile fun run will return to Freret St. in the Spring of 2018. For more information and to register, visit www.jlno.org/Freret5K

CALLING WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS

Building a business is difficult, but having the right resources can mitigate the challenge. Women entrepreneurs over the age of 21 and operating businesses in Metropolitan New Orleans can apply to receive a yearlong fellowship of mentoring, in-kind services, and financial assistance from JLNO. More information at www.jlno.org/WEFellowship

COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE FUND

JLNO's Community Assistance Fund grants money to nonprofit agencies that can effectively demonstrate that they have a dire need for funding and seek to advance the wellbeing of women. The deadline to apply is January 19, 2018. More information is available at www.jlno.org/CAF

MARK YOUR CALENDAR



- January 9 - Financial Literacy for Women: Saving Through Tax Refunds
- January 15 - MLK Day of Service
- January 23 - General Membership Meeting
- February 3 - WE Fellowship Application Deadline
- February 20 - Financial Literacy for Women: Rising Food Costs
- February 27 - General Membership Meeting
- March 3 - Bloomin' Deals Bag Day

DON'T FORGET

Bloomin' Deals Closed: December 25, January 1 and 15 and February 10 - 13

JLNO Headquarters Closed: December 25 and 26, January 1, 2 and 15 and February 12 and 13

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FAVORITE PLACES THROUGHOUT THE CITY.

Beyond “Thank You”

How To Graciously Accept Compliments

By Kristin Durand

“Wow! I love that new asymmetrical haircut. You look five years younger!”

“Yeah, but I can never get it to look as good as they do at the salon.”

“Whoa, have you lost weight? That dress looks fabulous!”

“What about you? Those fringe booties are precious. Where’d you get them?”

“You’ve got to share your bread pudding recipe with me. This is amazing!”

“Oh please. You can’t tell the difference between mine and the store-bought stuff.”



All of these are compliment worthy occasions. Yet all too often, when praise is given, women feel the need to deflect or even reject it. Why do we find it so difficult to graciously accept compliments? When did it become second nature to lavish compliments on others but not believe them when given to us? These are tough questions, but a genuine compliment can always be accepted with poise. If this is something you struggle with—as we all do sometimes—we’re here to help.

The easiest way to accept a compliment is the tried and true “thank you,” but going beyond the “thank you” allows you to capitalize on a compliment. Use the opportunity to foster a relationship or find out more about the other person. JLNO Provisional Taylor Sergeant says, “sometimes I spill the details of where I got my pants, how I’m trying a new hairstyle, whatever. Nowadays I allow compliments to be conversation pieces.” For a different perspective, JLNO Active member Sarah T. Aucoin spoke about her time working with children at ARC of Greater New Orleans. “It was common for the children that I would care for to give me drawings, etc. I would always try and point out my favorite part of the drawing or object, instead of saying just thank you. This usually started a conversation.

Using this technique taught them a good way to accept compliments and gifts naturally and gracefully.”

If compliments unnerve you, consider this: when you reject a compliment, the praise-giver may feel insulted by the inference that they are being insincere, which can lead to an awkward exchange. Autumn Campbell, JLNO Provisional, says some women use humility as a way to elicit compliments from their inner circle. She continues, “My hope would be that we could skip the self-deprecation and go straight to accepting the positive affirmation of those who care about and love us.” Still, it’s possible a compliment may highlight someone’s insecurities. Autumn suggests practicing empathy when facing rejection. “I’m aware that the rejection is more a reflection of the rejecter than the complimenter, so I seek to understand their perspective when I receive a response outside of what I was expecting.” Sarah believes we should strive to find the good at the core of any compliment and internalize it, “We should focus less on accepting a compliment and more on appreciating it instead.” Taylor concurs, saying, “Not only would this create opportunity for connection with others, but it would naturally allow women to feel good about themselves, whether it’s how they look, carry themselves, or speak.” What a beautiful message for us all.

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Tinsel-Time Activities

Holiday Events for One and All

Compiled by Jill Holland

With our sub-tropical temperatures, New Orleans generally does not experience winter weather. What we lack in snowflakes, we make up for in a flurry of activities and events that are full of the joy and excitement of the season. The tinsel-time events below highlight some great options for everyone in the crescent city this holiday.

Celebration in the Oaks

Celebration in the Oaks in New Orleans City Park is one of the most spectacular holiday lights festivals in the country, with more than 165,000 visitors pouring into the Park to see the magical winter spectacle. City Park's famous oaks are swathed in hundreds of thousands of twinkling lights and breathtaking light displays are scattered throughout 25 acres of the Park, including the Botanical Garden, Storyland, and Carousel Gardens Amusement Park. **Admission is \$9/person; entry for Friends of City Park is free. Train rides and amusement park rides are an additional fee.**

7 Victory Avenue, 70112
CelebrationInTheOaks.com

November 24, 2017 – January 1, 2018
(Closed November 27 – 30, Christmas Eve,
New Year's Eve)

Hours

6 p.m. – 10 p.m., Monday – Thursday
6 p.m. – 11 p.m., Friday
5 p.m. – 11 p.m., Saturday
5 p.m. – 10 p.m., Sunday



Jill Holland and her family take a train ride around City Park at Celebration in the Oaks.
Photo provided by: Jill Holland.



JLNO Sustainar Diane Lyons and her husband Jack snap a pic with the Accent DMC Christmas tree at NOLA ChristmasFest. Photo provided by: Diane Lyons.

Réveillon Feasts & Cocktails

Réveillon dinners date back as far as the mid-1800s when Creoles started their Christmas season with a large opulent meal which they served at home after midnight mass. Today, more than 50 New Orleans restaurants continue this tradition with sumptuous multi-course meals “that showcase the feasts of Christmas past, present, and future,” says French Quarter Festivals, Inc. In addition to the decadent dinners, “local bartenders now create both classic and original cocktails to capture the spirit of Réveillon one-sip-at-a-time with Réveillon on the Rocks.” **These Dinners range in price from \$34 to \$100. Cocktails prices vary.**

Restaurants throughout the Crescent City
FollowYourJoy.com/food-and-drink/

December 1 – 31 (and in some cases through Twelfth Night, January 6th)

NOLA ChristmasFest

The 5th Annual NOLA ChristmasFest invites one and all to its indoor, family-friendly holiday festival. Approaching the entrance, Festgoers will be dazzled by thousands of lights adorning the Julia Street façade of the Convention Center which twinkle in sync to holiday music. Guests of all ages will enjoy an Ice Skating rink, 2 Ice Slides (over 8 feet high & 14.4 feet long), Kringle Carousel & Carnival Rides, life-size Amazing Maze & Snowball Fight Area, Children’s Crafts & Inflatables, Santa Claus & Holiday Characters, Decorated Christmas Trees, Walk-thru Gingerbread House, New Orleans-themed Gingerbread House Exhibit, plus lights & music! Santa Claus will be in attendance for pictures by Riverview Photography. There will also be concessions. Ad-

mission is \$20/person and includes rides, inflatables, skating and skates (ages 2 and under, free). **Santa pictures, face painting and concessions are an additional charge.**

New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center
 900 Convention Center Blvd, 70113
NOLAChristmasFest.com

December 21 – 31

Hours

11 a.m. – 9 p.m., daily (exceptions below)
11 a.m – 5 p.m., Christmas Eve
2 p.m. – 8 p.m., Christmas Day
11 a.m – 5 p.m., New Year’s Day

Diaper Bank

By Lacy McManus



Eloise Phillips helps stock diapers at the new Diaper Bank headquarters. Photo by: Shawn Marie Scott

Driving past Jackson Barracks in the Lower Ninth Ward, few people would realize that tucked within this Louisiana National Guard military base is a warm, colorful haven for the children of our local military members. While the Giggles Child Development Center in the Barracks might be out of sight for a casual drive by, it is a refuge for many families seeking support as they prepare for, return from, or currently serve in active duty military deployment overseas. Easing these families in difficult transitions to, on and from the battlefield takes a village, and the Junior League of New Orleans is honored to play a part by providing diapers to the Giggles Center via our Diaper Bank.

Witnessing this impact firsthand, JLNO President Kristen Koppel and Communications Council Director Anna Dearmon Kornick joined the Giggles Center's Directress, retired Chief Warrant Officer 4 Melanie Pichon-Smith, and the families of currently enrolled children on November 16, for a special holiday meal. While the turkey, cranberry sauce and dressing provided a special treat for all, the monthly donation of diapers to the Giggles Center through JLNO's partnership with Agenda for Children is an ongoing reason to give thanks. With many of the children having a mother or father serving overseas, there are numerous parents and caregivers raising children alone: providing diapers to these families eases that burden of care. According to Melanie, though this act may seem simple, "What y'all do is huge."

This contribution to families across the Greater New Orleans area didn't occur overnight, however. As former JLNO President Maria Pardo Huete recalls, in 2013-14 JLNO engaged in a strategic planning process under the leadership of then-President Jeanne Boughton. Through this intense strategy development, Maria and other JLNO leaders researched and considered initiatives that would both advance the wellbeing of women, while also allow the 85% of full-time working members to actively engage around their schedules. As Maria recalls after one particularly long planning session, "I went home and blearily stared at my computer screen and ran across an article on the negative effects on women and babies that diaper need causes...The article mentioned diaper banks as a way to help babies and their mothers."

The intrinsic links between diapers, poverty and supporting women struck Maria and she quickly shared the concept with Jeanne and Jessie Haynes, then-Chair of the Project Development Committee. From there, Jessie took a deep dive into the research and formed the diaper bank concept, proposing it as a project at the end of 2014. Maria and Mary Beth Green then stepped in to jointly chair the first Diaper Bank Committee. As Maria said, "I think that the process says a lot about having the vision to create something, the open mindedness to pursue all ideas and the courage to take a risk. If at any point along that trajectory one of these women had said "this won't work"

or “members will never support it” we would not have a diaper bank. That, in a nutshell, was its genesis.”

The vision shared by Jeanne, Maria, Jessie and Mary Beth several years ago has since manifested into a community-wide initiative with impacts and benefits spreading across the Gulf Coast. Between donations to the greater New Orleans community, as well as an extraordinary disaster relief response from Texas to Florida to Puerto Rico after Hurricanes Harvey and Maria, JLNO has collected and dispersed 185,000 diapers, 166,000 baby wipes, and 49,000 feminine products since establishing the Diaper Bank.

This impressive momentum received a tremendous boost this past fall, when the new JLNO Diaper Bank warehouse was formally unveiled to the public at the September 26 grand opening. Continuing to build on JLNO’s mission of advancing the wellbeing of women, the new phase of growth significantly expands the potential for the Diaper Bank, while remaining true to the original intent and vision. Community Council Director Holly Paczak was quick to commend the work of past JLNO and Diaper Bank leaders, saying “I just picked up where a lot of people left off.” According to Holly, the commitment and leadership of the JLNO Board of Directors was the true driving force behind this new chapter of Diaper Bank access.

Through the new facility, JLNO will be able to store, sort and distribute more diapers than ever before. As Holly said, “I never knew how important a loading dock was!” Because the warehouse is equipped to receive larger shipments from 18-wheelers, JLNO is able to not only re-

ceive more donated products, but also buy more diapers in greater bulk quantities. This new facility allows JLNO to purchase diapers for 13-15 cents each, compared to 35 cents each—a great cost-savings for donation sponsored purchases. Holly says, “The physical space means we can do more—take more in, distribute more, give our volunteers more meaningful experiences—and hopefully expand to feminine products and adult care as well.”

In addition to supporting JLNO’s current and future partnerships and disaster response efforts—and expanding the potential products the Diaper Bank might one day collect—this new location will be especially critical for serving the needs of families like those at the Giggles Child Development Center at Jackson Barracks. Thanks to JLNO’s new partnership with Agenda for Children, a 31-year-old non-profit organization providing childcare support and services in Louisiana, children at eight daycares across the New Orleans area, including the Giggles Center, will be provided diapers from the JLNO bank. As JLNO President-Elect Alice Glenn stated about both the new location and partnership, “Our hope is that this is a starting point to meet a community need.”

Continuing to advance the Diaper Bank through great leadership and community collaboration, President Kristen Koppel and her husband, Orleans Parish School Board (OPSB) member, Woody Koppel, were able to leverage their collective networks to connect the Diaper Bank with the Agenda for Children preschools. Recognizing that many daycares require families to provide children with diapers when being dropped off for daycare, and also real-



JLNO President and community leaders at the grand opening of new Diaper Bank on September 26, 2017. (L-R: Dr. Henderson Lewis, Jr., Sean Perkins and JLNO President Kristen Koppel.) Photo by: Shawn Marie Scott

izing that diapers can't be bought with a Louisiana Electronic Benefits card with funding from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Woody and Kristen were able to bridge their work to address a serious community barrier. As Woody said, "There is an old adage that diapers and politicians have a lot in common—but this time it's different!"

Sean Perkins, Executive Director of Strategic Initiatives at OPSB, said, "Mr. Koppel knew there were access issues when diapers and wipes were considered luxury items. For a low-income family, that's the problem." OPSB Superintendent Dr. Henderson Lewis, Jr. concurs, recalling that when Woody mentioned the idea of partnering with the Diaper Bank, the concept took off quickly. From there, Sean and Kristen were able to connect with Agenda for Children and new channels for immediate distribution and impact were formed. Yet, according to Henderson, the work is just beginning and far from over: "We know other daycare programs in metropolitan New Orleans that are supporting families in need—until we reach all of them our work isn't done."

Between the leadership of JLNO and the OPSB, broader impact seems within reach. As Woody said, "We are a board of action and figure out how to make connections and get things done." Woody also noted that the Diaper Bank partnership is an easy initiative for everyone—from community members to elected officials—to support, saying, "It's something everyone can get behind. When



ABOVE: Jefferson Chamber Membership Sales Manager, Amanda Hoerner, Past President, Katherine Raymond, Jefferson Chamber President, Todd Murphy, President-Elect Alice Glenn, and Louisiana House Member, Polly Thomas, enjoyed stopping by the JLNO Diaper Bank grand opening. *Photo by: Michelle Sens*



Active members, Jane-Allison Wiggin-Nettles, Alicia McCraw and Caroline Wright, sort diapers at the new Diaper Bank on September 16, 2017. *Photo by: Shawn Marie Scott*



you work with the Junior League Diaper Bank, you know that diaper is going to a bottom in need.”

This is certainly the case for the parents, caregivers and children of the Giggles Child Development Center. With the holidays posing a particularly challenging time of year for veterans with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, and for families whose loved ones are still overseas, Melanie reports that JLNO’s Diaper Bank contributions make the parents feel their children are not forgotten. As many service men and women face ongoing financial strains both when at home and while on deployment, the financial and emotional relief provided through these monthly contributions are deeply appreciated. Melanie stated, “The diapers you provide for [the parents] makes them feel so appreciated, and it’s a huge relief to the mothers to be in combat and not have to worry about diapers and pull ups!” •



TOP LEFT: Ryaunte Perkins and Emery Perkins at the Giggles Childhood Development Center Thanksgiving dinner.

Photo by: Anna Dearmon Kornick.

TOP RIGHT: Ssgt Christopher Casler, Lydia Casler and daughter Mila enjoy Thanksgiving celebrations at the Giggles Child Development Center at Jackson Barracks.

Photo by: Anna Dearmon Kornick

BOTTOM RIGHT: Steven Elloie Sr. enjoys time with his son Steven Elloie Jr. at the Giggles Childhood Development Center.

Photo by Anna Dearmon Kornick

Wellbeing

New Year in New Orleans

By Autumn Town

Joining a new group and meeting people for the first time can be a daunting task. Combine that with moving to a new city, and the nerve factor increases tenfold. This year's provisional class of 120 women boasts 60 percent membership from outside the New Orleans area, representing 17 different states. But luckily for NOLA newbies, JLNO's provisional program provides an excellent introduction to both The League and the City of New Orleans.

A common refrain from many members is that the more you get involved, the more you get out of your first year. While that year is dedicated to learning about The League and training, there also is time for fun. Front Porch Fridays are a great resource for meeting people, and the Esprit Committee schedules other fun events throughout the year. Following the Junior League on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter is also a great way to keep up.

Mae Hill, one of the current Provisional Co-Chairs, offers this advice for provisionals, "I pushed myself beyond my comfort zone and just talked to people and got to meet some of the most dynamic and wonderful women in New Orleans, many I now consider good friends." She also feels that "having the opportunity to serve people in our community in different capacities really has deepened my appreciation for this beautiful community we call home!" Provisional Co-Chair Tomoro Wilson seconds that suggestion, "explore all opportunities that are available throughout The League and [do] not to be afraid to venture out and try shifts that are outside of the normalcy for you."

Ashley Rusk, another Provisional Chair, shared her favorite part of her provisional year — a Second Harvest Food

Bank shift. "I hadn't done much service work since college, so I was eager to take advantage of the opportunities for service that The League provides. While sorting can[ne]d goods, the other League members and I struck up a conversation, and it turned into a wonderful opportunity to connect on a more personal level."

Eleanor Roosevelt, a member of the first Junior League chapter, also believed new experiences led to personal growth: "You gain strength, courage, and confidence by every experience in which you really stop to look fear in the face." So sit next to someone new at the next membership meeting, strike up a conversation at your next volunteer shift, and New Orleans will no longer be a new city—it will be home. •



ABOVE: Provisional members starting their day off right with beignets. (L-R) Kendra Reade, Elise Johns, Meredith Kalozdi, Julia Smith, and Erica Winston. *Photo by: Sarah Aucoin*

TOP RIGHT: Provisionals discuss ways JLNO can be more inclusive during a November Small Group meeting at Satsuma Cafe. (L-R: Provisional Chair, Ashley Lusk, Camille Bryant, Elise Johns, and Cori Cooper). *Photo by: Jeanne Higgins*

BOTTOM RIGHT: Paula Jo Lascsak and Mae Emma Hill get together for a combined Esprit and Provisional Committee Meeting at Adelaide's. *Photo provided by: Paula Jo Lascsak*



Where Are They Now?

Past *Lagniappe* Editors

By Jen Hale



Amanda Wingfield Goldman, 2015-2016

Multi-tasking seems to be a requirement for success today, and it's certainly a trait 2015-16 *Lagniappe* editor Amanda Wingfield Goldman embodied during her term. While working as an attorney and pregnant with her third child,

Amanda tackled the task of transitioning publishers and a complete redesign of the magazine, just as she was welcoming her new baby.

This might seem like overload for some, but for Amanda, it was feeding a passion.

"I loved writing for *Lagniappe*. I have a journalism degree, so I was incredibly flattered when JLNO offered me the opportunity to become the Editor," says Amanda. "It's one of the toughest jobs but incredibly rewarding. You get to meet so many of the women keeping this outstanding organization running. They are smart, tough, hilarious, and inspiring."

Kelly Walsh, the Editor of *Lagniappe* before Amanda, had no doubt her successor could handle the load, based on Amanda's success as Kelly's Assistant Editor. "Procrastination is definitely not in Amanda's vocabulary," says Kelly. "Amanda and I are both attorneys so we did not have a lot of time during the day to stop working to focus on last minute issues with our then-publisher. Nevertheless, Amanda was always on top of everything. She really is superwoman, or she has a clone. I haven't figured it out yet."

Superwoman's secret may surprise you. "I've accepted that I cannot do it all and not to put undue pressure on myself," says Amanda. "Some days I'm a mediocre mother and an outstanding attorney. Other days I'm a mediocre attorney and an outstanding mother. Forgiving yourself helps, as well as carving out time to work out."

Sadly, JLNO is preparing to bid goodbye to Amanda and her family. "We are in the process of moving to Houston after 14 years in our beloved New Orleans," says Amanda. "A job opportunity arose that I could not say no to; it was a very tough decision. I will greatly miss my JLNO family, and I'm in the process of transferring to the Houston League." Houston is certainly getting a true treasure, as is Amanda's new employer, the firm of Littler Mendleson, which she will be joining as a Labor and Employment attorney.

Her parting words of advice are, "find your passion, put yourself out there, and stick with it." Amanda says, "JLNO leaders are adept at placing members in areas where they'll positively impact The League. Don't be afraid to voice your ideas, as someone will always be listening, and it's an incredibly open-minded organization. You may just come up with the next great idea for The League!"



Ann Herren, 2005-2006, 2006-2007

Many JLNO sustainers can credit their active placements for paving future professional achievement. Perhaps there is no better example of that than former *Lagniappe* Editor and current Sustainer Ann Herren, who created Nola Family Magazine after

her time with *Lagniappe*. Herren has certainly earned her success, staying at the helm of *Lagniappe* for not one, but two terms - bringing stability to a publication she dearly loved.

"It seemed fun?" Ann laughs. "Honestly, I was Photo Editor, then Assistant Editor. It was a progression. I think I was on *Lagniappe* longer than you're supposed to be in one 'placement'. Tell no one."

Ann is all about going above and beyond. She joined the Junior League of Boston at age 22, and then later transferred to JLNO where she served as an active until she was 44-years old, well beyond her requirements to become a sustainer.

During her tenure as Editor, Ann overhauled *Lagniappe* to include more stories and give it more of a "magazine" feel. "Ann brought a bold confidence that the magazine needed to catch the eye of the public," says 2003-04 *Lagniappe* editor Carolyn Hennesy. "*Lagniappe* is the face of The League publicly. It needs to be eye-catching to those on the outside. Ann understood that and ran with it. This is distinctly apparent when you pick up a copy of *Nola Family Magazine*. It's a beautiful publication, and she gave that same polish to *Lagniappe*."

Today, Ann channels her seemingly unending energy into family, adventures and work as publisher of *Nola Family*. "The magazine is growing and it's crazy! But I love it," says Ann. "We want to start doing more in the community too. Ideas are coming a mile a minute and that's what really gets me excited. My daughter is everything. I love traveling, sleeping, eating, costuming and New Orleans. And scary stuff—I love doing scary things, either in business or in life."

Ann clearly doesn't shy away from a challenge. The latest issue to catch her attention: women's rights.

"Growing up, you'd hear the word 'feminist' and think, they're out there, militant and maybe nuts. That's how the media and society presented it," says Ann. "Now I realize, yes, I am a feminist—especially because I have a daughter. It simply means: women being treated equally. What a concept. Be a feminist. Take care of you. By thinking that we are all equal, we all deserve the same, will in turn make you realize how and where you can help those that need it and where and how to affect change." •



Photo by: Taylor S. Pospisil

Building New Traditions with Rebuilding Together

By Lacy McManus

For the last 27 years, the Junior League of New Orleans has partnered with the Preservation Resource Center (PRC's) Rebuilding Together program and Shell Corporation to renovate the houses of low-income homeowners in New Orleans. Over the years, this project has not only become a signature initiative for JLNO, but a game-changing resource for New Orleans families and neighborhoods.

In 2017, however, Rebuilding Together undertook an exciting new change in direction: in keeping with the core mission of the project, volunteers from JLNO, Shell, the PRC and Ochsner Baptist expanded their reach from homes to community assets by focusing on the Hollygrove Farm and Market. Through JLNO's efforts, more than 600 service hours over 3.5 days went into priming and painting the exterior and interior of the market, laying new bamboo floors, building planters and benches, laying gravel, building a greenhouse, landscaping and weeding.

Through this new endeavor, JLNO's partnerships, impacts and reputation across the community were greatly expanded. As Paul Baricos, Executive Director of the Hollygrove Market

and Farm, said "The Junior League and Shell volunteers were amazing. They came to work and work they did. The renovation of the second floor and other areas of our building as an event/meeting space is an integral part of our master plan and will put us on a path to financial sustainability. We couldn't have done it without them. We owe them a lot of thanks."

Rebuilding Together benefits more than just the market and its patrons: it has a profound impact on the JLNO volunteers who engage as well. As Rebuilding Together Committee Member Christie Clemens said, "This committee was such a transformative experience. A lot of sweat and really hard work made this two weekend build something that will stick with me...I made some great friends and formed unique

.....

ABOVE: Preservation Resource Center's Rebuilding Together New Orleans Volunteer and Information Manager Catelyn Williams, JLNO's Rebuilding Together Chair Lindsey Labadie, Shell house captain Kelly Weicks, PRC's Rebuilding Together New Orleans Director William Stoudt, Shell house captain Philip Stonecipher and JLNO's Rebuilding Together Chair Meg McKown.



bonds I won't soon forget. [I] loved it even when I was hating it—building a greenhouse and stripping screws and dripping blobs of paint on my head.”

Committee Member Jacqueline Bodet agrees, saying, “Rebuilding Together is a unique hands-on experience that puts JLNO members’ passion into action in our community. So often, we contribute to fundraisers or specialized shifts that we know will make long-term changes ... but we may not see the immediate fruits of our labors. Rebuilding Together, however, is its own real-time reward.”

As Rebuilding Together approaches a milestone anniversary in several years, it is exciting to not only see the program evolve in new directions, but continue to meet community-wide needs and broker exciting new partnerships for the Junior League. Regardless of where Rebuilding Together heads, Jacqueline encourages other JLNO members to get involved, saying, “It has been a true joy to serve on this committee, and I personally encourage all JLNO members to take at least one Rebuilding Together shift during their active service. Come on, ladies – get your hands dirty! You just might like it!” ●



TOP: Junior League New Orleans Rebuilding Together Committee Members (L-R): Logan Senior, Katie Roth, Brielle Bovee, Committee Chairs Meg McKown and Lindsey Labadie, Meredith Duke, Claire Fahey, Skye Price, Jacqueline Bodet and Elizabeth Applewhite.

Photo by: Taylor S. Pospisil

BOTTOM RIGHT: DeltaCorps member, Berhane Cole, and Rebuilding Together New Orleans Site Operations Coordinator, Scott Maher. Photo by: Taylor S. Pospisil



Fashion for everyone at Bloomin' Deals. (L-R) Business Council Director, Heather Doyle, Bloomin' Deals Vice Chair, Juliet Laughlin, Membership Council Director, Lesley Davis, Community Council Director, Holly Paczak, Bloomin' Deals Vice Chair, Lauren Bridges, President, Kristen Koppel, Communications Council Director, Anna Kornick, Active Member, Rebecca Bartlett, Sustainer, Lisa Chmiola, Provisional Chair, Tomoro Wilson. *Photo by: Jessica Bachmann*

90 Years of Bloomin' Deals

by Autumn Town

On November 29th JLNO celebrated the 90th anniversary of its Bloomin' Deals thrift shop with a walk down memory lane. Within the walls of Bloomin' Deals Freret Street boutique, current JLNO members, sustainers and Bloomin' Deals shoppers were greeted with displays of photographs - pulled from the JLNO Archives housed at the U.S. Mint - telling the story of The League's commitment to the community via its thrift shop. To emphasize Bloomin' Deals long-standing tradition of fashion, fundraising and philanthropy, JLNO members paraded down the runway in ensembles reflecting each decade of Bloomin' Deals history (all of which were of course sourced from the thrift store racks).

Yet, while many current League members can easily find their way to and through the Bloomin' Deals location on Freret Street, the thrift shop was first opened as a permanent fundraising feature in 1927 on Royal Street, before moving to two other French Quarter locations, including Bourbon Street. On November 22, 1960, Mayor Chep Morrison cut the ribbon at the new location on Freret Street, a move intended to target improving public transportation and a changing customer base.

While sales initially soared, a decline in businesses and customers in the Freret area necessitated a revamping. In the early 1990's, Bloomin' Deals moved next door into the former Eckerd's pharmacy building. At this time,

The League held a naming contest and expanded the retail space. The result was over 8,000 square feet of the new Bloomin' Deals, which is now The League's largest fundraising project. The commitment to keeping Bloomin' Deals a vibrant part of The League is clear, and as Heather Doyle, the Business Council Director, notes, "acquiring the two properties on Freret have been some of the best decisions we could have made for the thrift store. We have deep roots in the Freret neighborhood."

As the Freret corridor has changed over the last few years, Bloomin' Deals has kept pace. A newly paved parking lot is simply the first part of the facelift. The thrift shop also has changed the way it displays merchandise, which helps sell inventory faster. This includes a new tagging system, which the shop hopes to debut in March of 2018.

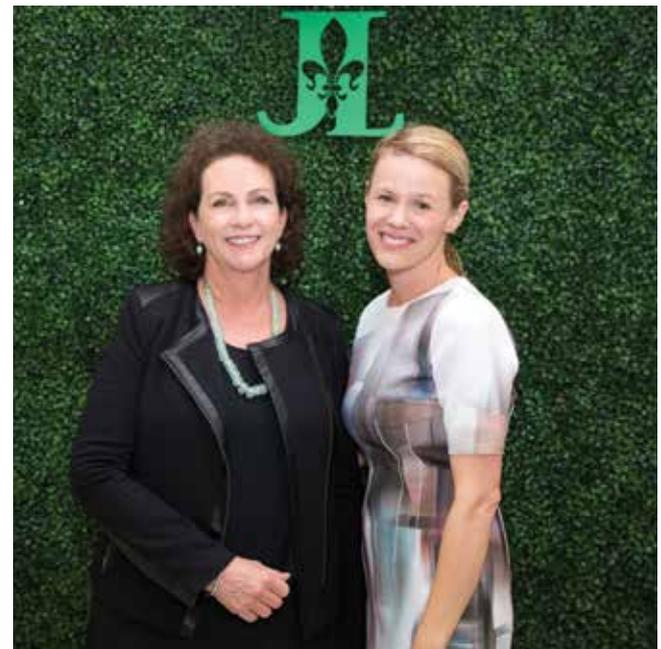
But it's not just structural changes that have made Bloomin' Deals so successful. Bloomin' Deals has focused on ways to bring new and exciting features to the thrift shop that will encourage repeat customers. This began with the addition of the Bridal Boutique in 2012, which is now a permanent fixture inside the main store.

Heather (and the regular customers) also are excited about the Luxury for Less (LFL) pop-up boutique sales that began

in March. “[T]hey have added an extra level of excitement for our customers. The sales have quite a following now, and customers are always asking when the next one is. I try to make each sale a little different,” said Heather. The first LFL sale had a small rack of Lululemon, and September featured a vintage clothing and housewares section. With merchandise on par with some of the best consignment stores in the city for unbeatable prices, Heather believes “popularity and interest is only going to grow.”

Bag Day is another creative undertaking for Bloomin’ Deals, and happens semi-annually. For \$10, customers can fill a 33-gallon bag with all the merchandise they can carry. Although the store opens at 10 am, customers start lining up around 7 am. For the recent Fall bag day, the entire store was cleared in less than 45 minutes, with customers filling over 200 garbage bags with merchandise!

Thrift Shop members also work to help customers who are looking for something special. Heather related a story about a recent customer who needed something very specific. She had been out of work for several months and recently gotten a serving job, but could not find an affordable work shirt. Heather spent several minutes going through almost every shirt in the warehouse, until she found 4-5 options. “I found her exactly what she needed, and she only had to pay five dollars for it. She gave me the biggest hug, and that was the best feeling. Everyone deserves to feel special when they’re shopping, and being able to brighten someone’s day by helping them find something they feel confident in or an item that brings them joy is my favorite part of being at Bloomin’ Deals.” ●



ABOVE: Bloomin’ Deals Vice Chairs Hayden Eustis and Stacie Carrubba at the 90th anniversary celebration of Bloomin’ Deals. Photo by: Jessica Bachmann

TOP: Bloomin’ Deals Chair, Kimberly Hollard and Vice Chair, Juliet Laughlin are excited about their finds. Photo by: Jessica Bachmann
 MIDDLE: Bloomin’ Deals Vice Chair, Stacie Carubba, and Stephanie Schneller, and Robin Carubba doing a little shopping at Bloomin’ Deals. Photo by: Jessica Bachmann
 BOTTOM: Laurie Doyle and Business Council Director, Heather doyle celebrating Bloomin’ Deals 90th anniversary. Photo by: Jessica Bachmann

Touching Lives with Touch a Truck

By Jill Holland

Shattering attendance and fundraising goals while exposing children to service men and women across the community, the Junior League of New Orleans' 6th annual Touch a Truck was a revved-up success. At this hands-on event children were able to get up close and into construction and emergency vehicles as well as ask questions of people who serve and grow Metropolitan New Orleans.

Approximately 2,400 people attended Touch a Truck over two days – its highest attendance to date. The extension from one day (Saturday) to two days, allowed for its first ever Field Trip Friday during which 500 school children from three of JLNO's partner schools – Educare New Orleans, Lafayette Academy and Mildred Osborne Charter School – attended Touch a Truck free of charge. Field Trip Friday was made possible through various community sponsors and allowed children from pre-kindergarten up through second grade to enjoy the event.

Additionally, the venue was relocated this year to the Pontchartrain Center and was held indoors. With no worry about the forecast, families were able to plan ahead, and pre-sale tickets were at an all-time high. Yet the event has grown in more than just attendance: "We exceeded goals for participation, sponsorship and vendors," said JLNO Ways & Means Council Director Skye Fantaci. Over the two-day event, approximately \$45,000 was raised.

This financial impact will provide multiple benefits to the New Orleans area: first, by providing JLNO with funds to support community projects, and secondly allowing JLNO to strength bonds and ties across New Orleans. "It is awesome to see the men and women who work in our community interacting with children on such an intimate level," said Touch a Truck Co-Chair Emily Lewis. Emily said it was touching to see the personnel who were volunteering lifting children into trucks, explaining how things worked and watching EMTs showing kids how to strap into a gurney.

Touch a Truck Co-Chair Nicole Patel said sponsors and vendors expressed how "the atmosphere of engaging people from the community was rewarding." While Touch a Truck was created as an event to engage children with those building and serving our community, it has helped to connect our city's workforce with the children as well. ●



1: Officer Danny Flynn Jr. shows Logan how to ride a motorcycle at Touch a Truck. *Photo by: Michelle Sens*

2: Faith and Grayson stop to see Gumbo during Touch a Truck. *Photo by: Michelle Sens*

3: Phoebe Sens wanted to learn how it felt to be a "dog" rescued off the streets. *Photo by: Michelle Sens*

4: Touch a Truck Vice Chair, Sarah Howard along with Chairs, Nicole Patel and Emily Lewis pose with Sir Saint. *Photo by: Kelly Brouillette*

Walter Carroll, Jr.

A Profile in Giving

by Miriam Taylor

On a sunny Saturday afternoon in mid-October, Walter Carroll, Jr. strolls into the Junior League of New Orleans headquarters and walks to the shelves in the rear of the meeting room, identifying the women in the vintage photographs by memory. At 93-years-old, Walter is impeccably dressed – blue blazer with gold buttons shining, pinstriped shirt and perfectly straight navy and white dotted tie, a jauntily folded white linen handkerchief peeking from his top jacket pocket – representative of an era where men dressed impressively for every outing. Walter’s speech is reminiscent of a bygone era too; slow and deliberate with a soft Louisiana accent, he tells stories of The League with wit and poise. His legacy to the Junior League is a gift in more ways than one.

In his own words, Walter has “a long and warm relationship with the Junior League.” The son of a former Junior League president from the 1930’s, he remembers visits to The League rooms at the famous St. Charles hotel and The League’s nearby Coffee Shop. He recalls trips to New York with stays in The League rooms at the Waldorf, and evenings at League parties with the women in their finest gowns and the men in their formal dinner clothes. Walter is one of those rare finds, better than an archive: his memories are anecdotal – he remembers how those same fine gowns and tuxedos would eventually be donated to the thrift store (located on Bourbon Street at that time). The gowns would be purchased by drag queens in the French Quarter and the tuxes sometimes bought by him and his high-school friends. “In fact, I remember, Herbert (Hoss) Williams even got a top hat there one day,” Walter recalled.

However, Walter’s ties to the Junior League go further than being a League son. His late wife, Ann Burdette Carroll, was a JLNO president in 1960, later serving as the Regional Director of Region VI and Treasurer of the Association of Junior Leagues of America.

“It meant a lot to me seeing her follow in Mother’s footsteps,” said Walter.

During Ann’s tenure as the President of the then-titled New Orleans Junior League, the thrift store moved from its French Quarter locale to its current location on Freret Street. Walter nailed shut the windows at the new site himself. “We had to make the place a little more secure,” he remembers. Ann was also involved in the early plans to move The League headquarters from the St. Charles Hotel to its current location on Carondelet, and the Ann Carroll Suite on the second floor of The League headquarters is named in her honor, serving as a daily reminder of her contributions to JLNO.

“When Ann died at the young age of 58, I wanted to do something for The League,” says Walter. “At that time there was a good bit of fixing up to do at the new headquarters, and they needed more space for meetings so it was decided I could do some good by fixing up what was known as meeting room C, and so I did.”

Ann’s portrait and a plaque detailing her work hang on display in the completed room as an inspiration to all members of her dedication.

Walter’s own dedication to The League and its mission continues to this day. In August he made a generous donation to The League to update the Ann Carroll Suite and maximize its utility among League members, while continuing to honor Ann and her contributions to JLNO. “Over the years the needs of the room have



Walter Carroll, Jr. holding the plaque honoring his wife's contributions to the Junior League of New Orleans.
Photo by: Miriam Taylor



Ann and Walter Carroll, Jr. Circa 1970. Photo provided by: Walter Carroll, Jr.

changed, it needs to be equipped with modern ways of communication, and I’m now of an age that I’m not going to be around for the next refurbishment, so I thought I best get on with this last one.”

In the hopes of inspiring further support of The League, Walter has offered an invitation to other families and friends of members: he will match, up to a certain amount, any donations made in memory of League members, past or present.

“I feel very close to the Junior League,” says Walter. “I want to do everything I can to encourage it, and I’m proud of having had my relationship with it. The Junior League well deserves all the encouragement it can muster.” ●



*Interested in accepting Mr. Carroll’s offer to match your donation?
Please contact Kathleen Ramsey at kathleen@jlno.org*

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League Faces



(L-R) Allison Norris, Taylor Burgmon, Kim Allen, Megan Mitchell, Melissa Eversmeyer, Chelsey Richter, and Paula Jo Lascsak attend Front Porch Friday at the Women's Opera Guild Home. *Photo by: Windsor Richmond*



Leslie Philips and Chelsey Richter inside the Women's Opera Guild Home. *Photo by: Windsor Richmond*



JLNO Brunch Club members Robin Burke, Megan Mitchell, Summer Duperon and Melissa Eversmeyer enjoy time together at Studio Be. *Photo by: Cree Jourdain*



Jennifer Bernard-Allen, Katie Baxter, and Tesa Bossetta attend the September 19, 2017 General Membership Meeting. *Photo by: Windsor Richmond*



President-Elect, Alice Glenn, Dr. Elizabeth Lapeyre and President Kristen Cocke Koppel at an October membership meeting, where Dr. Lapeyre gave a lecture on women's health. *Photo by: Miriam Taylor*



Courtney Sutton, Alicia Higgenbotham, Jennifer Teagne, and Erin Mouledoux help sign in members during the General Membership Meeting. *Photo by: Windsor Richmond*



Sustainers, Sara Swigart, Patricia Gibbons and Kathleen "Kay" Favrot attend the Sustainer Social on September 27, 2017. *Photo by: Shawn Marie Scott*



Sustainers, Julie Brown, Lisa Woolfolk, Danielle Trostorff and Winifred "Winnie" Brown, attend the Sustainer Social on September 27, 2017. *Photo by: Shawn Marie Scott*



Summer Duperon (Co-Chair of the Sylvain Society), Jessica Bean, and Megan Mitchell inside the Women's Opera Guild Home during Front Porch Fridays. *Photo by: Windsor Richmond*



Members of the Sustainer Connections committee pose at the Sustainer Social on September 27, 2017. *Photo by: Shawn Marie Scott*



Ashleigh Pizzaloto and Alexandria Ellito show off their favorite Junior League items for sale. *Photo by: Miriam Taylor*



JLNO President-Elect, Alice Glenn, asks members how The League can be more inclusive during a November Small Group Meeting at Audubon Park. *Photo by: Jeanne Higgins*



President, Kristen Koppel and Caroline Cottingham accept a \$22,417 check for the Diaper Bank from Al Copeland Investments. *Photo by: Miriam Taylor*



JLNO President, Kristen Koppel, leads a small group meeting at Headquarters on November 14, 2017. (L-R clockwise): Krista Mincey, Kate Uhle, Kristen Koppel, Katie Baxter, Zane Wilson, Megan Wolf, Melissa Myers, Christine Couvillion, Shayna Beevers Morvant, Ashleigh Pizzaloto, Vivian Palmisano, Heather Hays, Melissa James, Angela Vance *Photo by: Kari Oline Djuve*



Megan Knapp and Grayson Pierce get everyone geared up for Touch a Truck. *Photo by: Miriam Taylor*



Mayor-Elect LaToya Cantrell visits with JLNO members and friends during the JLNO Mayoral Candidate meet and greet. *Photo by: Michelle Sens*



Mayoral Candidates, LaToya Cantrell and Desiree Charbonnet, discuss issues important to women during the candidate meet and greet. *Photo by: Michelle Sens*



Rebuilding Together Committee Members Christie Clemens, Jessica Whitworth and Katie Roth paint the second floor walls during the October Build. *Photo by: Taylor S. Pospisil*



Hudson and Lennon Wright talk with Desiree Charbonnet about her upcoming mayoral election during the meet and greet at JLNO Headquarters. *Photo by: Michelle Sens*



JLNO President, Kristen Koppel, and Orleans Parish School Superintendent, Henderson Lewis, are excited about the partnership with JLNO Diaper Bank. *Photo by: Michelle Sens*



Kids stop by the Kids in the Kitchen booth at Touch a Truck to make edible "race cars". *Photo by: Michelle Sens*



Members sort diapers at new Diaper Bank on September 16, 2017. *Photo by: Shawn Marie Scott*

Héritage

JLNO Headquarters: From Hotel to Home

By Lacy McManus

For many JLNO members, coming to The League's headquarters on 4319 Carondelet Street involves a familiar routine: find a parking spot, catch up with fellow members on the sidewalk, figure out what meeting room you are going to, or grab a seat at a packed double credit General Membership Meeting. Rarely in this hustle and bustle might you stop to appreciate the art deco façade and unique design of our building.

However, for those who have stopped to wonder about the history of our headquarters, the JLNO Archives at the U.S. Mint—and longtime friends of The League such as Walter Carroll—recall a time when The League offices were housed out of the St. Charles Hotel and League members (like those pictured here) attended General Membership Meetings at partner locations like the Louise McGehee School Auditorium. Until The League was able to relocate from a room at the Hotel to a former post office and current headquarters Uptown, members congregated across the New Orleans community.

Through much love and ongoing renovations, our headquarters have hosted countless committee meetings, graced the pages of *House Beautiful* magazine, and stored thousands of diapers for disaster relief efforts—all illustrating a winning combination of the right people in the right place. •



ABOVE: JLNO members head to a General Membership meeting at the Louise S. McGehee auditorium, before JLNO Headquarters was purchased to accommodate our larger gatherings. *Photo provided by: Louisiana State Museum Historical Center. Gift of the Junior League of New Orleans. The Junior League of New Orleans Collection, record group 531,2014.011.01 – 2014.016.039.*

LEFT: Mrs. John L. Hutcheson and Mrs. Walter Carroll enjoy shopping at Junior Leagues Thrift Shop when it was on Bourbon St. *Photo provided by: Louisiana State Museum Historical Center. Gift of the Junior League of New Orleans. The Junior League of New Orleans Collection, record group 531,2014.011.01 – 2014.016.039*

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