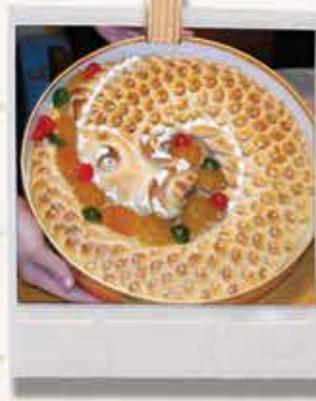


# Lagniappe

Junior League of New Orleans

Winter 2019



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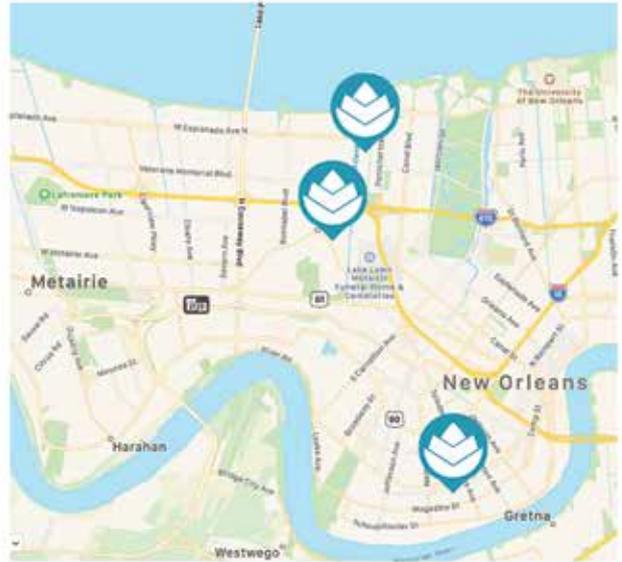
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8:15am | Grades 6-12

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Snapshots of JLNO members' favorite holiday memories, spanning all cultures and traditions.

*Photos Submitted by: Lenora Costa, Shayna Connell, Susana Bobadilla Ruddock and Ashley Merlin Gold.*

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# Winter 2019

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# Letter from the President

I never hear the word “tradition” as much as I do this time of year.

No matter what the occasion, tradition seems to be the main topic of discussion during the holidays. Everything from who is cooking the oyster dressing to what time everyone is arriving at the matriarch's house is dictated by long-standing routines. Even holiday outings with friends having Old Fashions at Mandina's on Christmas Eve are as much a result of ritual as a desire for revelry. Tradition is what brought us together in the past and what calls us back together year after year.

Yet there are always opportunities for new traditions to begin. Some are accidental, like the time I failed to rinse the brine off the turkey before baking it, but what if we chose to be intentional? On page 10, we highlight holidays from various religions and the different ways our members choose to celebrate the season. I personally became more aware of the meaning and schedule of Rosh Hashanah after reading this piece. Now that I have this knowledge, I plan to become more intentional about considering other observed holidays when scheduling meetings in order to ensure everyone can enjoy their celebrations without the additional stresses of juggling their personal commitments with committee meetings.

Finally, the holidays are mostly fun and joyous, but it can also be one of the most difficult times of the year if you've lost a loved one. Please remember to check in with your friends and colleagues who may be struggling with mental or emotional distress. Invite them to join in your family festivities. If they decline, call them that day or stop by with food for a short visit. They may be missing someone they loved dearly, and your act of kindness could remind them what the holiday season is all about. My late father is the reason I joined Junior League. I know he will be watching the rest of the family relegate me to only contributing one side dish this Christmas (since I can't cook a turkey) and laughing from heaven.

Thanks to everyone for your hard work. Enjoy your holidays as well as being halfway through the League year!



*Photo by: Jessica Bachmann*

*Christine M. Vinson*

Christine M Vinson  
President

# Letter from the Editor

I've long since been a believer that travel is the great equalizer. When you travel, you are forced out of the daily tedium — the recognized, the familiar, the predictable — and willingly open yourself up to new experiences. Who serves the best regional cuisine? What does “VAT” stand for? Where is the nearest bathroom? When does the next train leave? How do I exchange this currency? These are all mundane tasks we take for granted in our day-to-day lives, but we lean into the unknown with reckless abandon when traveling.

Imagine the anxiety you'd feel on a random Tuesday if you lost your way trying to get from point A to point B. And yet, we've all probably gotten happily lost once or twice wandering the backroads and alleyways of a foreign city. It's not the destination, it's the journey, right?

But why is that? Why do we enjoy the momentary discomfort we feel when trying to comprehend driving a car on the other side the road? Why do we laugh despite our embarrassment when we botch the translation of a simple question? Why do we try that insanely spicy local delicacy, even though we know we'll be taking three Zantac later? It's because we understand what we're doing isn't easy. It's taking a conscious effort for us to try something new. We're learning. We're growing. We're making memories. And although there may be some bumps along the way, we're doing it!

And then we come home. And we fall back into the same old routines. We talk to the same people, eat the same food, listen to the same music, take the same drive back and forth to work. Where has our inquisitive side gone? The one that was open to anything different than what we see every day. If we open our eyes, we will realize there is so much diversity to wonder at right here at home.

In this issue of *Lagniappe*, we dive into several topics that illuminate how our differences serve to enrich both our League and our community. We'll see how our members celebrate various holiday traditions while incorporating elements from across the globe. We'll discover that no matter if they have fur, feathers, webbed toes or wings, we all love our family pets with the same intensity. We'll learn more about the recipients of our generous Diaper Bank and how the newly established ABOLISH Movement is helping bring a voice to voiceless victims living in the shadows. We'll see how the legacy of the Bloomin' Deals is reaching the next generation in a purposeful way. And we'll contemplate how we can help those of us who struggle to find the joy in the upcoming holiday season.

We've made it a tradition in my family to take our nieces and nephews on their first trip to New York City once they've turned 13. We open the door for them to witness people from different cultures and ethnicities all living together in one place. We help them to understand there's a wider world out there beyond their own neighborhood. We encourage them to live history by standing in locations where famous events have occurred. It's our hope that in some small way, this experience makes an indelible impression on them by broadening their world view, inspiring a lifelong thirst for adventure and recognizing the destination is enriched by the path of their journey. But most of all, I want them to come back home asking all the right questions. Who in my class is from another country? What new food will I try today? Where is India on a world map? When can we go on a trip like that again? How can I make today different than yesterday?

How indeed.



Kristin W. Durand  
Editor



Photo by: Jessica Bachmann

# Bulletin Board

## Silent Night

Even our elves need a break! Please note the upcoming JLNO Headquarters office closures.

### Christmas

December 24-25

### New Years

December 31 – January 1

### Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

January 20

### Mardi Gras

February 24-25



## Community Assistance Fund Deadline – December 28, 2019

Nonprofit agencies who can demonstrate financial need, as well as a mission to improve the wellbeing of women, can apply for JLNO's Community Assistance Fund grant.

Applications may be submitted online at [jlno.org/caf](http://jlno.org/caf)

## Nontraditional Student Scholarship Opportunities

JLNO is proud to invite women in the New Orleans area seeking to acquire their post-secondary education to apply for the JLNO Scholarship Opportunity. The application period will begin January 1, 2020.

Details at [jlno.org/scholarship](http://jlno.org/scholarship)

## Run, Walk, Give in 2020

Already thinking about New Year's resolutions? Consider registering for next year's Run, Walk, Give — a partnership between JLNO and the Crescent City Classic. Lace up, shape up and bond with fellow fitness fanatics as you train together to walk or run the Big Easy next spring. Stay tuned for more details in your Friday JLNO in the kNow e-newsletter.



## #Giving Tuesday December 3, 2019

Remember to give back to your community and your favorite local nonprofit this year on #GivingTuesday. JLNO is taking part in this global giving movement as a way to celebrate charity and voluntarism at a time when it's needed by so many.

Spread the word and donate at [givingtuesday.org](http://givingtuesday.org)

## New Year, New Leaguers

Are you or someone you know interested in joining JLNO? Attend one of our information sessions from January through March to discover how we impact the New Orleans community and advance the wellbeing of women.

Check out [jlno.org/membership](http://jlno.org/membership) for additional information.





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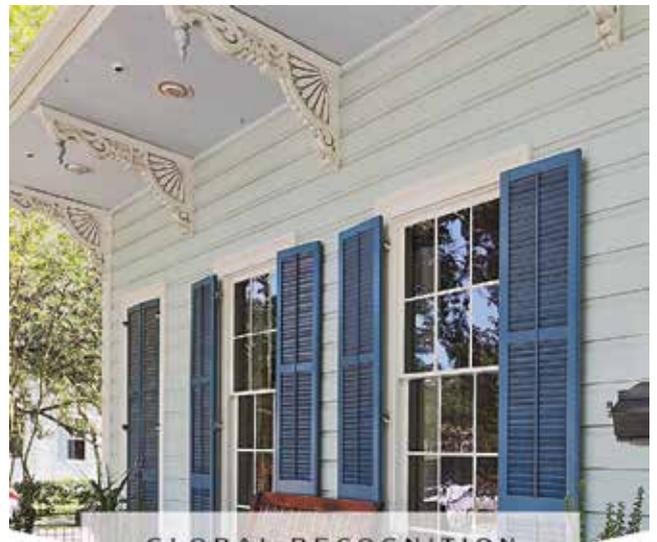
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# JLNO Loves: Pets

Unleash the Joy this Holiday Season

By Laura Carroll



**W**hat do Drew Brees, Simone Biles and the Junior League of New Orleans (JLNO) have in common? GOATS!

While the national debate is far from settled, the citizens of New Orleans have spoken. Drew Brees is the greatest NFL Quarterback of all time. After her latest triumph at the 2019 World Championships in Stuttgart, Germany where she became the most decorated gymnast — male or female — in the history of the sport, Simone Biles has solidified herself as the greatest gymnast of all time. A common way to refer to these apex titles is the acronym G.O.A.T or simply, GOAT.

Here at JLNO, there is no debate. Our pets are the Greatest Of All Time...including our pet goats! Check out these JLNO members and their friendly, furry and feathered family members.

## Binx and Whiskers

Leah Fink and her husband are the proud owners of two black cats, Binx and Whiskers. They were adopted from the Louisiana Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) back in 2017. Fun fact about Binx and Whiskers: “Both cats know and respond to certain dog-like commands, such as sit, stay, come, down (i.e. get down off the counter), up (i.e. sit on their hind legs) and shake,” says Leah.

## Ginger

Sonia Kamboj adopted her Siamese cat, Ginger, from the Japonica Street location of the LASPCA prior to Hurricane Katrina. In their 15 years together, Ginger and Sonia have evacuated a hurricane, lived in five cities and shared eight different homes. Per Sonia, “Ginger’s favorite holiday is Caturday!” In case you didn’t know, Caturday is a Saturday celebration of all things cat-related!

## Parker

Christine Jenevein purchased her puppy, Parker, as a surprise for her husband back in December 2017. For her first birthday, Christine celebrated with a “Pawty for Parker” where all of Parker’s two and four-legged friends came over to munch on some “pupcakes.” Fun fact about Parker: “Parker’s favorite snack is a baby carrot, although she loves the occasional puppichino,” says Christine.



## FROM TOP TO BOTTOM

Leah Fink’s cat Binx is ready for the holidays. *Photo by: Logan Senior.*

Sonia Kamboj’s Siamese cat Ginger. *Photo by: Sonia Kamboj.*

Christine Jenevein’s dog Parker enjoys parties, puppichinos and festive costumes. *Photo by: Logan Senior.*



### Gracie, Aretha, JLo, Remus, Moses and Elvis

Scoping out the neighbors is usually a priority when signing a lease, especially in New Orleans. But when Melissa James and her cat, Gracie, moved into her apartment, her new neighbors were the least of her concerns. James' landlord (who happens to live upstairs) is the proud owner of two chickens and three African Sulcata tortoises, whom Melissa has lovingly adopted as her honorary pets.

The two chickens, Aretha and JLo, reside in the chicken coop in the backyard and provide both James and her landlord with plenty of fresh eggs.

The three tortoises are named Remus, Moses and Elvis. Per Melissa, "Their life ambition is to participate in the Brennan's Turtle Parade," but weighing in at around 90 pounds each, overall logistics seem to pose an issue. One of Melissa's favorite things about the tortoises is "watching them run towards their favorite foods, which include watermelons, tomatoes, potato skins, lettuce, spinach, cabbage, peppers and onions."

While Gracie, is equally amused by the neighbors, she has hobbies of her very own. Gracie was adopted about a year ago from Zeus' Rescues on Freret Street. "Gracie is a huge fan of CBS' Big Brother. Whenever it's on, she loves to watch it!" says Melissa.

### Blanche

Monet Bates' pet goat, Blanche, joined her family on June 29, 2019. She is a mix of Alpine and Nigerian Dwarf. "Blanche is the G.O.A.T. goat because she was the first goat ever born on my family's property in St. Amant, Louisiana," gushes Monet. All of the other goats were purchased from goat breeders. Fun fact about Blanche: "Blanche was named for the French word for white, and I also love Blanche Devereaux from Golden Girls," says Monet.

### Ruby

Paula Jo (PJ) Lentz and her best friend, Ruby, have been inseparable since 2011 when Ruby was adopted from the Seattle Humane Society. Ruby, also known as Rubylicious, Rubdydog or RD, has accompanied PJ on several cross-country trips. They have visited about 30 states and have lived in 11 different homes together. "She even has her own Instagram account, @rubydog-nola," boasts PJ. If Ruby had a Christmas list, it would include bacon, ice cream sandwiches and cold cuts.

Our JLNO members have opened their hearts to their family, friends and the city of New Orleans, so it should come as no surprise that this generous attitude extends to the animal community!

Unleash the joy this holiday season!

With Love,  
The Pets of JLNO



#### FROM TOP TO BOTTOM

Melissa James' cat Gracie is ready for the holidays. *Photo by: Logan Senior.*

Two of Melissa James's honorary pet tortoises, Remus and Elvis, enjoy a mid day watermelon snack alongside chickens JLo and Aretha. *Photo by: Logan Senior.*

Monet Bates's goat Blanche (right), and her mom Strawberry (left). *Photo by: Monet Bates.*

JLNO member PJ Lentz and her furry companion Ruby (AKA Rubylicious). *Photo submitted by: PJ Lentz.*



THE MOST  
*Wonderful*  
TIME OF THE  
*Year*

JLNO BLENDS CULTURAL CUSTOMS  
WITH HOLIDAY TRADITIONS

*By Sonia Godfrey*

A nine-branched Menorah used during Hanukkah is called a Hanukkiah.

Photo submitted by: Ashley Merlin Gold.



Lane and Luke Connell in front of their hand made Menorah's. Photo submitted by: Shayna Connell.



Latkes are potato pancakes that are best known as traditional Hanukkah food. Photo submitted by: Ashley Merlin Gold.



A photo of Spanish Plaza Mayor Madrid Lights. Photo submitted by: Susana Bobadilla Ruddock.



# In

recent years, the Junior League of New Orleans (JLNO) has actively sought to explore diversity and inclusion within the organization. President Christine Vinson explains why holidays should be part of this initiative.

"It's all about awareness," she says. "I think recognizing that we celebrate various holidays just makes us more aware, knowledgeable and sensitive to our differences, which should be celebrated." In sharing their traditions, League members reveal how diversity exists not only within the League but also within one holiday — and even within one family.

Active Shayna Connell's family celebrates both Hanukkah and Christmas. Also known as the Festival of Lights, Hanukkah is a Jewish holiday commemorating the Maccabees' successful rededication of the Temple in 185 BC. The Maccabees only had enough oil to light their lanterns for one night of the celebration, but through a miracle from God, they were able to burn for eight consecutive nights. As a result, the central symbol of Hanukkah is the menorah, a candelabra with nine candles — eight representing the nights of the miracle and one central candle, or "shamash," used to ignite the others. One candle is ceremoniously lit each night of the holiday.

Before the rededication, the Temple had been in control of the Greek/Syrian Emperor, who had outlawed the Jewish religion and forced Jewish people to pray to Greek gods.

"The Maccabees rose up," Shayna explains, "and reclaimed their right to follow their traditional religious beliefs." As she puts it, Hanukkah is a "celebration of religious freedom" as well as of Jewish heritage. Shayna's extended family gathers for an annual Hanukkah party. "We light the menorah over prayers and exchange gifts."

Her family also celebrates a New Orleans-style Christmas with a gingerbread decorating party at Red Fish Grill, Teddy Bear Tea with Mr. and Mrs. Claus at the Monteleone, as well as the New Orleans Krewe of Jingle Christmas parade. Christmas day is a more intimate affair with a Christmas Pajama Brunch kicking off a day spent with family.

Other members bring a global perspective to their Christmas celebration. Communications Council Director Susana Bobadilla Ruddock spent half of her life in Spain and cherishes memories of her childhood in what she describes as a traditional Catholic family. She recalls that Christmas Eve (December 24) and Epiphany (January 6) were observed as more religiously and spiritually significant.

On January 5th, the Three Kings parade through all the major cities in Spain for all the children to enjoy. That night, they put their favorite pair of shoes next to the Christmas tree, and the next morning (Epiphany, or Reyes), the children wake up to find what gifts the Three Kings left for them. Children who misbehave will wake up with lumps of "coal" in their shoes along with their gifts.

Lenora Costa's Christmas tree from 2012. "We set up the tree between the double parlors at my parents' house so we could decorate it on all sides. We love ornaments of all shapes, sizes and materials from hand painted by local artists to cloth and blown glass." *Photo submitted by: Lenora Costa.*



Pictured is Susana Bobadilla Ruddock's family crèche which has been in the family for over a century in Spain. *Photo submitted by: Susana Bobadilla Ruddock.*



A traditional Spanish Christmas Eve dinner seafood feast. *Photo submitted by: Susana Bobadilla Ruddock.*



Lenora Costa's Christmas 2011 was the food of West Africa, or what the guests that year dubbed proto-Creole since the food was so familiar and relatable. "We used our friend Jessica Harris's cookbook *The Africa Cookbook: Tastes of a Continent* for the recipes. A food historian and author, Jessica has been at all of our holiday celebrations since she bought a home in the Marigny when I was a child. She specializes in how food traveled from Africa to the Caribbean and the Americas, blending and changing along the way." This photo shows a West African nativity and table linens with two angels made of soft-drink cans from East Africa. *Photo submitted by: Lenora Costa.*



The Costa's 2011 Christmas menu featured West African Christmas appetizers, from left: Akara, the Nigerian version of fried bean fritters, Aloco, which are fried plantains from Cote d'Ivoire, and Huitres Frites from Togo, which are fried oysters that have been dipped in lemon juice and then rolled in flour with cayenne pepper. In the bowl on the table is Azi Dessi, a dipping sauce from Togo made of tomato, onion, garlic, fresh hot pepper, ginger and peanut butter. *Photo submitted by: Lenora Costa.*



Lenora Costa's 2007 Norwegian themed Christmas table decorations of gnomes on the tablecloth and paper cut outs with traditional woven straw ornaments mixed with a set of china Lenora's mother made. *Photo submitted by: Lenora Costa.*





Susana also emphasizes the importance of food in her family celebrations, as family members play different roles.

“In our family, men have traditionally selected the wines and prepared platters of carefully sliced Iberico ham and other cured meat delicacies, while the women elaborated the more complicated traditional dishes for the multi-course dinner,” she says. These dishes include “cardo en sala de almendras” (creamed thistle with almonds), which is served on Christmas Eve.

“This dish is usually preceded by trays of shellfish and platters of charcuterie,” Susana says, “including all sorts of local shellfish. The main course of this meal is traditionally roasted whole fish and potatoes.”

Susana’s family always makes sure to leave room for dessert. She describes one treat, the Anguila de Toledo made by the bakery of Santo Tomé, as particularly “eye-catching and delectable.” The dessert includes marzipan, a mixture of almond meal and sugar, which has been used in Toledo since the 13th century due to Arabic influences.

Other League members use the holiday as a time to experiment with international flavors. Active Lenora Costa’s parents began exploring cuisines from a variety of cultures through their Christmas meals when they first married, but when Lenora was born, the tradition took a pedagogical turn. “It was a way for me to learn how Christmas is celebrated around the world,” she remembers. “The food was a jumping off point for me to learn about a whole culture, and I would often receive books earlier in the year and gifts for the holidays that would relate to that year’s country.”

Russia, Martinique, Spain, Norway and West Africa are just a few of the many locales featured in Lenora’s intriguing family tradition. Meal preparation begins months in advance of the actual holiday, allowing time to “pick the country and determine where to find ingredients, decorations or anything else we might need.” Lenora recalls some dishes requiring her to request “weird parts of the animal” from the butcher to satisfy her father’s demand for authenticity. Friends and family contribute to the tradition by bringing back unique ingredients and cookbooks from their travels abroad. “Frequently the cookbooks are in the language of the country,” Lenora says, “so it is not unheard of that we have dictionaries in the kitchen to translate for us.”

As the League solidifies its commitment to diversity and inclusion, new members will expand the organization’s definition of the holidays and how they are observed. Our celebratory calendar will fill up with religious and cultural traditions from around the world, enriching us all. We look forward to a time when the League is so inclusive that the holiday season extends year-round, representing people of all faiths and backgrounds. In the meantime, JLNO wishes everyone a safe holiday season filled with comfort and joy. •



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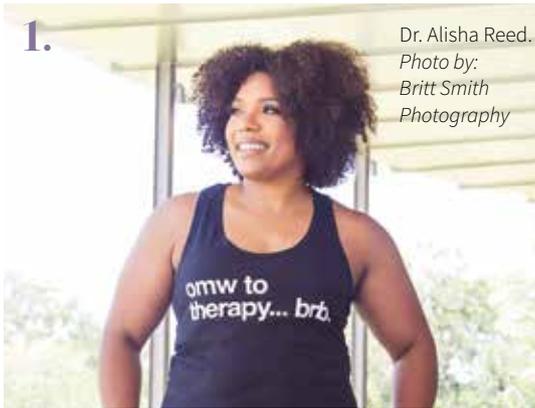
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# Wellbeing

## Tips for Caring for Ourselves and Others During the Holidays

By Eileen Chao



For many people, the holidays are a time for celebration, family, travel and indulgence. However, all the excitement and expectation can raise stress levels. This stress can be further amplified for those coping with grief, infertility, trauma, depression and anxiety. Everyone grapples with at least one of these issues at some point in our lives — we're all human. So instead of ignoring unpleasant emotions or quietly suffering alone, let's embrace the holidays as an opportunity to care for ourselves and our loved ones.

Junior League of New Orleans (JLNO) Active member, Alisha Reed, shares some tips on surviving the holidays. Alisha, a lifestyle blogger, openly shares stories about her struggle with a miscarriage and postpartum depression: "I found that many people were scared to talk openly about these topics. I put my energy into my blog to channel positivity and knowledge." Her blog became an important personal outlet and a way to use her experiences to help others. Alisha points how important it is to be proactive in our self-care. Since she lost her baby in the winter, she makes an appointment with her therapist around the holidays for extra support.

Alisha and several other JLNO members shared tips on how to perform wellness checks on ourselves and our tribes during the holidays.

**1. Reach out:** If you have friends who have suffered a loss, be sure to check on them. "Something as simple as, 'I know this time of year can be tough. What can I do to help?' can really be meaningful to someone who feels alone. Try to make simple plans — take a walk or grab coffee," suggests Alisha. Active Mary Lorenz also checks on friends with depression and anxiety: "People who experience depression often appear okay on the outside and don't ask for help or someone to talk to when they need it. I reach out to those friends and check in with them."

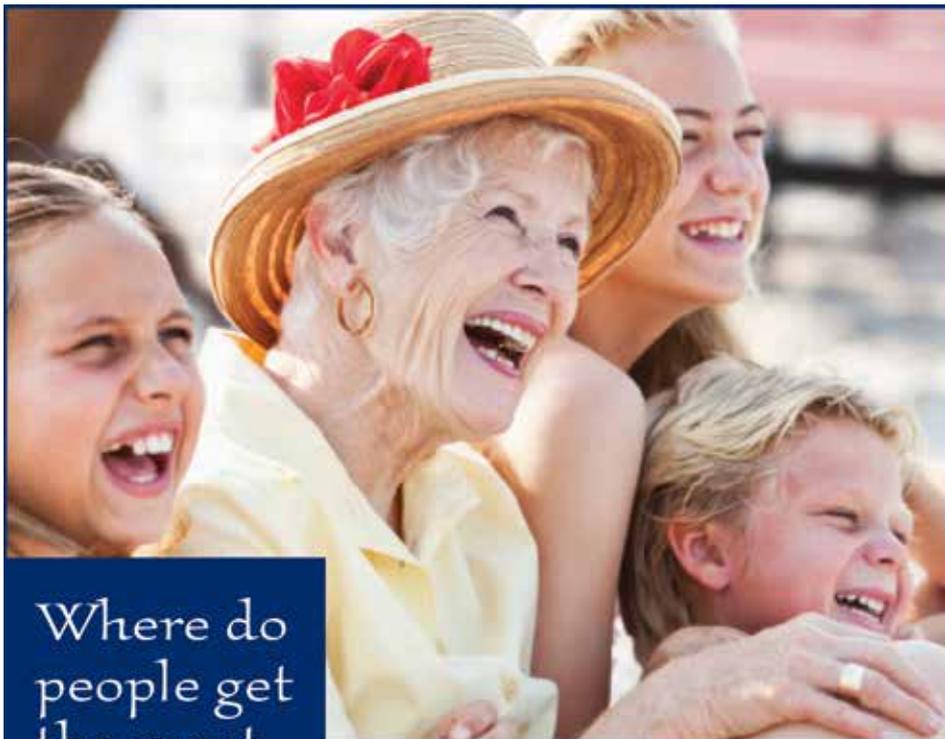
**2. Consider a quick trip:** If staying in town for the holiday season feels too tough this year, consider making plans for a trip. "I have a friend who goes to the beach every year, so she has a change of weather, a change of pace and a distraction from the holidays," says Alisha.

**3. Celebrate your loved ones:** Provisional Kischia Smith lost her mother four days before Christmas. "I light a candle in her memory every year and put a special ornament on the Christmas tree that reminds me of her," says Kischia. "I celebrate her by telling stories of her larger-than-life personality to her grandchildren. I make an active choice to celebrate her."

**4. Be sensitive to those dealing with infertility:** Sustainer Allison Waldron shares how handling infertility and pregnancy loss during the holidays is extremely difficult. "People not only post pictures of kids, but it's a big time to post pregnancy announcements," says Allison. "Check in on friends and family members who are going through it, invite them to lunch or drinks and try to refrain from sending too many pictures of kids."

**5. Give back to others:** Last holidays season, I started a new family tradition to give back to others. My daughters had become obsessed with presents, so on Christmas morning, we drove over to a veterans home and delivered donuts and gift cards. Giving back increased our family's sense of well-being and helped us focus on what is important.

JLNO members come from many different spiritual and religious traditions, but they all share the value of kindness and compassion. What better time than the holidays for kindness to ourselves and others? We can get through this hectic time of year together. ●



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# Spotlight on Women's Heart Health

Contributing Writer Salima Qamruddin, MD | Photo provided by Ochsner Baptist.



Dr. Qamruddin is a board certified cardiologist with an expertise in non-invasive cardiology, echocardiography and women's heart health.

**D**id you know heart disease is often more debilitating and deadly in women than in men? It's the leading cause of death in women over 65. To put this in perspective, heart attacks kill six times as many women each year as breast cancer.

Salima Qamruddin, MD with Ochsner Baptist, shares five tips to help keep your female heart healthy.

**1. Know (and modify) your risk.** Some heart disease risk factors can't be changed. These include age and family history. Other risk factors can be modified with lifestyle changes or medication. These include high cholesterol, high blood pressure, physical inactivity, smoking and diabetes. High blood pressure or diabetes during pregnancy can also increase your risk.

**2. Get screened.** Talk to your primary care physician about your heart health. Key screenings for monitoring heart health include blood pressure tests, blood sugar (also known as blood glucose) tests and a fasting lipoprotein profile to test cholesterol. These diagnostic tests can help determine your long-term risk and identify possible lifestyle changes to reduce your future risk of developing heart disease.

**3. Keep moving.** Exercising regularly is key to keeping your heart healthy. The American Heart Association recommends a weekly exercise goal of at least 150 minutes of moderate exercise or 75 minutes of vigorous physical activity. The easy version: aim to exercise 30 minutes a day, five times a week. Wearable tracking devices that log your progress (or vibrate when you've been sitting too long) can help keep you on track. Joining a group exercise class can also help motivate you.

**4. Eat right.** Make smart choices about the types of foods you eat. Instead of sugary snacks, reach for fruits, vegetables, poultry, whole grains and dairy. Avoid sauces and dressings, which can be full of hidden sugars and calories.

**5. Understand the role menopause plays.** Studies show a woman's risk of a heart attack increases about 10 years after menopause. It's thought a decline in the natural hormone estrogen may be a factor. Let's be clear: menopause does not cause cardiovascular disease. However, there may be an increase in risk factors for heart disease around the time of menopause — another reason it's so important to get screened at regular intervals.

Dr. Qamruddin says, "It's so important for women to be proactive about their heart health. If you have any concerns, don't hesitate to reach out to your primary care doctor or cardiologist." •

Dr. Qamruddin completed medical school at the Aga Khan University in Pakistan, followed by residency at Rochester General Hospital in Rochester, NY. She completed a year of Ochoardiopathy prior to Cardiovascular Disease fellowship at the University of Southern California. She trained another year of Advanced Echocardiography at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation in Cleveland, OH. She is board certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine.

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# JLNO Joins the Nationwide ABOLISH Movement

By Elizabeth Walcavich



JLNO ABOLISH Committee Members Anne Elizabeth Zegel, Sarah Lobell, Co-Chair Michelle Clarke Payne, Executive Director of Eden House Susanne B. Dietzel, PH.D, Michelle Mangum, Co-Chair Kaya Koban and Erin Corcoran. Photo obtained from: The Association of Junior Leagues International.

Throughout its over 100-year history, the Association of Junior Leagues International (AJLI) has upheld the mission of developing women's potential and improving the communities in which they live through effective action in an educational and charitable manner. That mission took a significant step forward in 2014 with the Junior League of Tampa (JLT).

JLT, together with other Tampa organizations, created a campaign which drew attention to the horrendous problem of child sex slavery in the Tampa Bay area. Traits such as its transient workforce, mild climate, sporting atmosphere and prevalent hospitality industry had made the city a hub for human trafficking. In a partnership with Ad 2 Tampa Bay, JLT created marketing materials, held local community events, screened documentaries and provided training sessions on how to recognize the signs of trafficking. According to the ABOLISH Movement website, "In 2017, AJLI adopted ABOLISH as an association-wide initiative to scale the movement and unite communities across the United States and beyond to generate greater awareness of the intractable, systemic issue of child sex slavery."

But what exactly is human trafficking? Simply put, it is modern-day slavery. The ABOLISH website defines human trafficking as "the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision or obtaining of a person for the purposes of either a commercial sexual act or labor services, through the use of force, fraud or coercion." The main emphasis ABOLISH has chosen to focus on is the exploitation of underage trafficking victims.

Locally, Junior League of New Orleans (JLNO) is working with various organizations, particularly Eden House, to help the ABOLISH movement. Eden House, founded in 2011, is a recovery home for adult female victims of human trafficking and commercial exploitation. Their doors are open to women

who fall victim to the wage gap, use their body as currency and are forced into prostitution.

Susanne Dietzel, Executive Director of Eden House, explains how the organization "provides a way for those who want to get out of their current situation of force, fraud and coercion." It serves as a place of escape and recovery, providing a confidentially located residence where victims can recover and rehabilitate. Susanne explains how Eden House can offer a coterie of women up to two years of therapy at the house with ongoing case management. As she states, "the recovery is not linear", alluding to how arduous the process is. The residents must relearn how to relate to men, attend therapy, receive treatment for clinical needs and learn professional development.

Kaya Koban, ABOLISH Movement Co-Chair, expounds, "[The process] takes so long because these women have trust issues." She applauds the efforts of the Eden House staff and the demanding work they have chosen to provide. "Eden House offers long-term care and education since they have to gain trust from these women who are in their care," adds Kaya, emphasizing, "Trafficking harms a person both mentally and physically."

The word abolish was not chosen lightly. It means to formally put an end to a system, practice or institution, which is exactly what the ABOLISH Movement is attempting to do — end child sex slavery. When most people hear the term trafficking, they assume it's something that happens in other countries and not here in the United States. Sadly, that's just not true. It happens everywhere. Michelle Payne, ABOLISH Movement Co-Chair, drives this point home with facts. "Human trafficking is the second largest enterprise in the world and happens too frequently in the city we call

home. According to the Greater New Orleans Human Trafficking Task Force, 350 victims in our area were served last year alone." Kaya admits, "New Orleans is one of the best cities in the world, and we love to celebrate life, but our hospitality often brings an overlooked dark side — human trafficking."

The ABOLISH Movement is united in their goal to increase awareness through education. Kaya shares her aspirations for JLNO to be on the front lines, recognizing everything from red flags to risk factors. "Our goal in implementing the ABOLISH Movement is first and foremost to educate every League member on this issue so we can be 2,000 strong in raising awareness," she says. Michelle impresses, "We hope to empower our members with the resources needed to identify and prevent this modern-day form of slavery from occurring."

Future goals for JLNO's ABOLISH Movement include advocacy, educating the public through formal trainings and being a public presence. Soon, people will no longer be ignorant to the fact that human trafficking exists.

JLNO invites the community to take a stance and abolish human trafficking and child sex slavery. Volunteering with Eden House, JLNO or other charitable groups are a great way to begin taking a step towards ending these horrific crimes. •

**ABOLISH**  
child sex slavery

# HUMAN TRAFFICKING IS HIDDEN IN PLAIN SIGHT, AND VICTIMS WALK AMONG US EVERY DAY

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- Poor physical health
- Tattoos/branding
- False ID
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- Stacks of cash
- Multiple cell phones

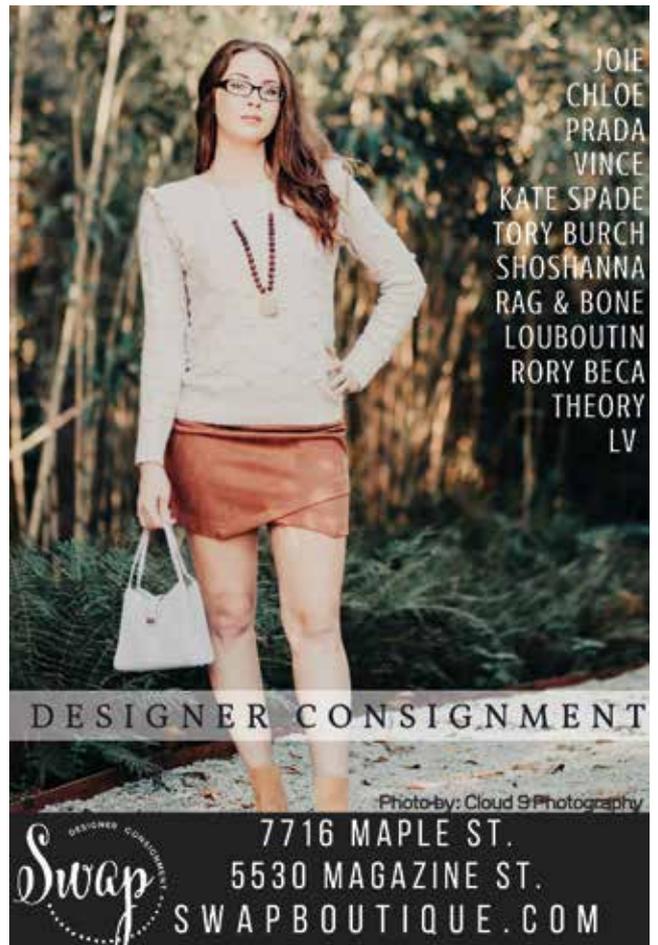
## TIPS FOR REPORTING

- Description of a vehicle (Make, model, color, license plate number)
- Description of people involved (height, weight, hair color, eye color, age)
- Time, date, location of suspicious activity

## HUMAN TRAFFICKING IS:

- Modern-day slavery
- Exploiting somebody through force, fraud or coercion
- Sex trafficking, forced labor and domestic servitude
- Happening everywhere, even in the United States
- Any person under the age of 18 involved in a commercial sex act

Trafficking happens everywhere, but be on high alert in certain areas: Restaurants, hotels/motels, strip clubs, airports, rest areas, bus and truck stops. Every day, children are bought, sold and exploited. Join the movement to ABOLISH child sex slavery.



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# Helping Families from the Bottom Up

## JLNO Celebrates National Diaper Need Awareness Week

By Kari Djuve



**TOP LEFT:** Provisional members celebrate a successful provisional members-only diaper sort during Diaper Needs Awareness Week 2019. *Photo by: Whitney Haworth.* **BOTTOM LEFT:** The Junior League of New Orleans has founded its Diaper Bank to help families from the bottom up during Diaper Need Awareness Week. *Photo by: Stacey Stiel.* **TOP RIGHT:** Provisional members sort diapers during Diaper Needs Awareness Week 2019. *Photo by: Whitney Haworth.* **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Active Lynn Spearman helped to sort, package and store diapers at the JLNO Diaper Bank. *Photo by: Stacey Stiel.*

At the September General Membership Meeting of the Junior League of New Orleans (JLNO), the Diaper Bank Committee organized a baby shower themed diaper drive. The committee gladly collected League member donations, expanding the Diaper Bank's impressive inventory. This was just one of many events the committee coordinated during this year's National Diaper Need Awareness Week.

During the last week of September, organizations across the country, including the JLNO, hosted events to spotlight the need for frank conversation and real action to address

and resolve this pressing issue. The Diaper Bank Committee organized a diaper sort and participated in 504ward's Day of Service as a site for their volunteers to give back to their community in a meaningful and impactful way. They used print advertising and social media outlets in their awareness campaign to rally support and local participation. These efforts were rewarded when Women United, a leadership group of the United Way of Southeast Louisiana, presented JLNO with a \$10,000 grant to further the cause of providing babies with clean diapers across the region.

The JLNO Diaper Bank project has been servicing New Orleans's communities since 2014. Thousands of people in need have benefited from this service over the years, but as Diaper Bank Committee Co-Chair Alyse Mouledoux says, "Our distribution partners are the true heroes; they see the actual faces of diaper need and its consequences on a daily basis." These distribution partners include daycares, health clinics and community centers that span the Greater New Orleans area.

Michelle Black, Director of Maternity Services at Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans, notes ACCESS Pregnancy Centers distributed 120,000 diapers last year, serving thousands of children. "We are able to serve so many families thanks to the generosity of the Junior League of New Orleans Diaper Bank," she says. Those donations provide "nearly 60 percent of the diapers we distribute each month." Without the aid of the Junior League's Diaper Bank, many distribution partners fail to meet their monthly needs and have the grim task of turning families away when supplies run out.

But Diaper Bank distribution partners also see first-hand the impact that the Diaper Bank has on the families in our communities. Access Health Louisiana, a network of Federally Qualified Health Centers, operates more than two dozen clinics in 11 Southeast Louisiana parishes, says Chenier Reynolds-Montz, Director of Outreach, Development & Operations Support at Iberville Parish School-Based Health Centers and Operations Manager for Access Health Louisiana. Chenier notes they also operate 13 school-based health centers, including one at Warren

Easton High School in New Orleans.

"The majority of our patients have Medicaid. Many others are uninsured. These families rely on the services they receive at our clinics," Chenier remarks. She goes on to emphasize how important community partnerships like these are to local area nonprofits. "Each and every day, our Pediatric Care Teams witness the generosity of the Junior League of New Orleans each time they hand over a pack of diapers to a patient in need."

It's hard to quantify the true impact the Diaper Bank has on all their recipients, but our partners are witnesses to the gratitude felt by these individuals. Lisa Spence is a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner at the St. Bernard Community Health Center and a huge supporter of the Diaper Bank. "We have found that all of our parents are so appreciative of the diapers," Lisa says. "It really helps them out, and just that small gesture provides them with ease."

In addition to their targeted efforts during the annual awareness campaign, the committee always encourages members to hold diaper drives at their schools, workplaces and places of worship. They can provide a drive packet to help organizers set up and advertise for their drive. •

For more information on the many Distribution Partners JLNO's Diaper Bank services and ways you can help, visit [www.jlno.org/community/diaper-bank](http://www.jlno.org/community/diaper-bank).

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# Bloomin' Deals Legacy Project

## JLNO's New Partnership With YEP Is In Full Bloom

By Meghan Brown | Photos by: Kristen Leonard



**TOP LEFT:** New Orleans City Councilman Jay Banks cutting the ribbon at YEP. **TOP RIGHT:** JLNO President Christine Vinson, Ginger LaCour, Melissa Sawyer, Marc Roberson, Tasia Brooks and Chris LeBato at the YEP ribbon cutting. **BOTTOM LEFT:** Tasia Brooks sorting clothing at YEP. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** JLNO President Christine Vinson, Maria Huete, Sarah Nieuwenhuizen and Ginger LaCour at the YEP ribbon cutting ceremony.

On August 20th, the ribbon was cut on the new and improved Youth Empowerment Project (YEP) Thrift Works location at 1626 Oretha Castle Haley Blvd., in partnership with Junior League of New Orleans (JLNO).

The theme of the Grand Re-Opening was *Thrift Works in Full Bloom* as a tribute to the Bloomin' Deals legacy project. It featured colorful floral dresses in the display windows, and the shopping space was full of handmade flowers assembled by the youth staff. Between the 50% off sale and attendance by an estimated 40 members of JLNO, the

store remained packed until the doors closed. Those in attendance heard speeches from several notable honorees. Maria Huete, former JLNO President, spoke about the history of Bloomin' Deals and the importance of its continuation through the Legacy project, for which YEP is one of three partners. YEP's Co-Founder & Executive Director/CEO, Melissa Sawyer expanded on that message by looking to the future, highlighting the perfect blend of mission and values between the two organizations. Just prior to the ceremonial cutting of the ribbon, which was a chain of flowers

hand-crafted by the Thrift Works youth, Councilman Jay H. Banks gave a speech that spoke to the value that programs like YEP bring to the community.

The bond between the League and YEP was formed as part of the continuation of the Bloomin' Deals legacy following the sale of JLNO's brick-and-mortar location on Freret Street in 2018. The pairing of the two organizations began when Melissa Sawyer replied to a request for proposal created by the League and its Bloomin' Deals Legacy Project (BDLP). As Melissa says, "It was the perfect blend of mission and values."

Sarah Nieuwenhuizen, one of the BDLP chairs, offers some insights as to the Junior League selection of YEP as one of the three partners that form our Bloomin' Deals legacy. Like JLNO, YEP and the services it offers are largely community-based. Partnering with YEP Thrift Works ensures the League will retain its direct link to the community via donations, volunteer shifts and mentorship.

YEP was founded to empower local young people through counseling, education and mentorship — including a focus on employment readiness. It was in the spirit of that focus that Thrift Works was created. The thrift store provides YEP mentees the opportunity to gain critical job skills by working in the store, including responsibilities like sorting inventory, helping customers and handling payments and other transactions.

YEP was instrumental in streamlining the donation process for League members. This effort was no small task, given Melissa and her team's busy summer at YEP. Beyond the Thrift Works Grand Reopening in August, YEP also

hosted former Vice President Joe Biden for a visit in July. As YEP continues to grow, Melissa hopes JLNO's established reputation will drive traffic to the new Thrift Works space and League members will provide a steady inventory of high-quality clothing, as well as mentorship and supplemental volunteer labor.

The BDLP Committee worked with their project partners to layout logistics and build the infrastructure behind each of the three new partnerships. Sarah adds that BDLP's goal is "to streamline the process for donations and ensure each League member can participate in this new chapter of the Bloomin' Deals Legacy."

Along with YEP, JLNO formed partnerships with both Swap Boutique, a carefully-curated consignment boutique, and Dress for Success, the nonprofit dedicated to empowering women in the workplace through mentorship and the donation of gently-used, business-oriented women's clothing. Future issues of *Lagniappe* will feature each of these partners in depth, highlighting how each organization offers unique and specific ways to bridge the gaps left since the closing of the thrift store last year. In return, the League is dedicated to amplifying and supplementing the continuing good work each group is doing for the community towards its unique mission.

To find out more about the new developments in the Bloomin' Deals Legacy Project and how you can participate in the partnership with YEP, please reach out to BDLP Co-Chairs Mary Lorenz and Sarah Nieuwenhuizen. •

## JLNO's Holiday Marketplace

Tuesday, December 3 | JLNO Headquarters | 5pm to 8pm

Join the Junior League of New Orleans as we welcome the holiday season. Grab a bite, visit with friends and get a jump start on your gift giving. Bring your SWAP formal wear donations and explore offerings from local retailers including:



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# Women Leading *Healthcare* for a Greater New Orleans

We continue our series on Junior League of New Orleans (JLNO) members who are making strides in prominent leadership roles within our community. In this issue, we are spotlighting several influential women in the field of healthcare. We asked for their insight on how they got where they are today, what their advice would be to others and how the League has empowered them to achieve their goals. Here's what they had to say.

.....



Photo submitted by:  
Courtney Nalty

## Courtney Perschall Nalty

*Project Manager, Foster Strategy*

I have taken so many paths to get where I am today in the 55+ active adult real estate development industry. My first job out of college was in the Mardi Gras industry working with carnival krewes all across Louisiana and in other cities across the south, such as Galveston, Mobile and Tampa Bay. From there I went into advertising sales, but then Katrina hit. It was then that I stumbled upon the job I didn't know I was meant for at Lambeth House. I spent 11 memorable years at Lambeth House learning, working and loving the wonderful residents. I even met my future boss, who I work for today. After my third baby turned a year old, I decided I was ready for a change. One day at Costco, I ran into my future boss, asked her if she was ready to grow her business and if she would consider me in that growth. It was not only a leap of faith but a full jump putting myself out there, but it was worth it. We met several times and discussed the future of

Foster Strategy, a real estate company specializing in community development for the active aging industry. Three years later, it seems fate knew what it was doing.

I have two pieces of advice for women out there. First, do not assume you are set in your career path; it is okay to branch out into other industries no matter your age. Secondly, be bold, be brave and put yourself out there. You can do it.

JLNO has done so much for me. I think the network of women and connections you make are invaluable, but the volunteer opportunities to give back to this city, especially assisting women and children, has impacted me the most. It is well known in my industry that whole-person wellness is the nomenclature of a healthy lifestyle as we age, and one of the facets of this is volunteerism. Thanks for the great training, JLNO!

.....



Photo by: Jessica Bachmann

## Kristin Van Hook Moore, MD

*Pediatrics, Ochsner Health Center for Children, New Orleans*

I wanted to be a physician for as long as I can remember. I initially thought I would specialize in pediatric intensive care, but during my second year of residency, I saw one of my clinic patients while working an overnight shift in the emergency room. She was so excited that her "doctor" was there, and her mother seemed relieved to see a familiar face. I realized I would really miss the opportunity to form relationships with patients and their families if I worked only in an ICU setting, so I opted for pediatric pulmonology instead and have loved every minute of it.

Becoming a pediatric subspecialist is a rather long process — four years of medical school, three years of residency and three years of fellowship. During that time, my husband and I lived apart for a total of three years, so I would say personal sacrifice is a large part of how I ended up finishing. I often tell medical students that 5% of being a good physician is being smart and 95% is working hard, paying attention to details and meeting patients where they are. I have had the privilege of caring for so many wonderful children over the past 19 years. Seeing what they and their parents have faced and overcome has made me a better person, and a better physician as well.

Make sure you love what you are doing! I would never have made it if I didn't truly love my job. It makes the long hours and time away from other things you enjoy worth it.

I have had the unique opportunity to serve as chairperson for the American Academy of Pediatrics' Section on Pediatric Pulmonology and Sleep Medicine. During my tenure on the Section Executive Committee, we have formulated a strategic plan and worked on improving communications with members and residents considering a career in pediatric pulmonology. The skills I learned serving on the JLNO Board and the knowledge I gained attending Communications Council meetings have been invaluable in that role. I could not have acquired that experience anywhere else in my professional life.



## Elizabeth Foley Bucher, MD, FAAD, FACMS

*Dermatology, The Skin Surgery Center*

Photo submitted by:  
Elizabeth Foley Bucher, MD

I attribute my success to hard work and focus. I've wanted to be a physician since childhood and was even that rare child who *loved* going to the doctor. As simple as it sounds, it boiled down to a lot of endurance, sacrifice and patience, but doubt was also a part of the process. There were times I explored other career options and interests, but my desire for medical school always came calling. Those doubts and my exploration manifested in me graduating with a degree in English with a concentration in Spanish, instead of the typical science degree. I decided to forego sitting for the MCAT (medical college admission test) as a college junior to study abroad in Spain. I even took a completely non-medical job after graduation, working in the business field for two years before starting medical school. Having given myself time to explore other options was hugely beneficial when the going got tough in medical school and beyond. I knew I was where I was supposed to be.

Another equally important key to my success was my tremendous support system. My parents placed value on education and provided excellent opportunities for me from the beginning. They taught me the importance of hard work, dedication, self-reliance and pride in one's achievements, as well as the principle that anything worth doing takes time and effort. My friends were incredibly supportive during the long road of medical school, residency and fellowship, being sensitive to my ever-changing schedule and work demands when planning things so I could be included. I am grateful and indebted to my village for sure.

There is certainly more than one path to becoming a physician, and my happiest and most fulfilled classmates and colleagues are those that maintained authenticity in their approach to achieving their end goal.

One big factor in achieving success in any industry is seeking out formal leadership training and education. It amazes me how many people in leadership positions have zero formal leadership training. I count myself very lucky to have had a mentor who possessed these skills. I learned how essential it is to develop your innate leadership qualities to lead effectively, execute decisions and organize both people and tasks. These skills are crucial to commanding respect and becoming someone others want to collaborate with.

The Junior League has introduced me to some of the most impressive women leaders in this city. I'm energized by hearing what other female, career-driven women are doing to improve the lives of those in our community and develop themselves as leaders. I've enjoyed the speakers who have come to discuss topics ranging from financial literacy to everyday mindfulness. I believe in our relationships with our community partners who provide services to women in this city to fulfill JLNO's mission.



## Beth Walker

*Chief Executive Officer, Ochsner Baptist*

Photo by:  
Ochsner Health System

When I look back and reflect on what brought me to this role today, it's a culmination of hard work, relationships, focus and a pretty great group of people cheering me on. When I moved to New Orleans in 2002 for a one-year internship at Ochsner, I certainly never thought I would be sitting where I am today. Somewhere along the way, I fell in love with New Orleans and the opportunities I had at Ochsner. So many people have been there to help me along both personally and professionally, and for that I am forever grateful.

My simplest advice is always be your authentic self. There are so many books and articles out there about how to succeed in careers and leadership. It can often be overwhelming and, at times, confusing. At the end of the day, know that you can work to grow and improve every day, while still being true to your values. About eight years ago, I shared with an Executive Coach that I worried my reputation of being nice might come back to hurt me as I continued to advance within the organization. She kindly reminded me, "Beth, you are successful not in spite of who you are but because of who you are." Building relationships and having people want to work with me has become one of my best strengths and has truly led me to where I am today.

The League has done two things to help me get to where I am today. I joined JLNO shortly after Hurricane Katrina. It was a time when I was starting to question life in New Orleans — when it was difficult to live here, and so many of my friends had left. The Junior League provided me a sense of home and belonging, and it has since led to many incredible and lasting friendships. The League also taught me more about the importance of community and the role every one of us can play in that. In my new role at Ochsner Baptist, this remains true. We are trying to do our part to have a positive impact on this community, and we look forward to partnering with JLNO to continue to make that happen.

# Big Trucks, Little Tykes

## Touch a Truck By the Numbers

Compiled by Sonia Godfrey | Photos by Kristen Leonard

2019  
Attendees



Field Trip Friday  
Attendees



Students at  
Field Trip Friday



Chaperones at  
Field Trip Friday



JLNO Volunteers



Vehicles on  
Display

29

Vendors and  
Activities



### TOP TO BOTTOM

School children enjoy Field Trip Friday at JLNO's Touch a Truck.

Helicopter pilot Tony Omonney and Marigny Williams are ready to take flight.

Cason Campo gets to see what it is like to steer a CAT 950.

The Frein family smiles in front of the black SWAT truck.

Dr. Ken Paris  
Allergist &  
Immunologist  
Iced coffee  
connoisseur

Aidia, age 8  
Allergy &  
Immunology patient  
Aspiring engineer

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# Sustaining the Bonds of Sisterhood

Story and Photos By Cree Merriman-Jourdain



**TOP LEFT:**Community Council Director Ginger Spencer Lacour, Sustainer Charlotte Spooner and Membership Council Director Tomoro Wilson.

**BOTTOM LEFT:** Sustainers Liz Broekman, LaVerne Saulny, Monica Roberts and Carlette Williams. **TOP MIDDLE:** Sustainer Ann Swayze at JLNO's Fall Sustainer Social. **TOP RIGHT:** JLNO Sustainer Stephanie Spencer hosted the Fall Sustainer Social. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Mother and daughter Alice and Carrie Wright at the JLNO Fall Sustainer Social.

Classy, captivating and confident all describe the fabulous and remarkably fashionable ladies who attended the Fall Sustainer's Social. On September 26, 2019, Sustainers received a warm welcome and were cheerfully greeted by active members of the Junior League of New Orleans (JLNO) as they entered the luxurious residence of Sustainer Stephanie Spencer. Elegant refreshments and sparkling conversation made for an entertaining evening. Camaraderie was evident among the attendees as they shared their sentiments about their past experiences and their memories of their beloved organization, the Junior League.

Stephanie, the hostess of this lovely soiree, considers membership in the prestigious organization an honor and credits the League for her leadership experience. She initially joined the Junior League of Houston, where she created mentoring and literacy programs in the public-school systems. During her years there, she brought theater and puppeteering to the hospital to cheer up the tiniest patients in the pediatric ward. As a Sustainer, Stephanie currently dedicates most of her spare time to assist her husband with his two companies. Her daughter, Virginia Spencer LaCour, is also a member of JLNO.

Sustainers Charlotte Spooner, Cynthia Coleman, Sara Swigart and Nancy Jane Carson were present at the exquisite gathering. They all acknowledge the League as the glue that binds them together in friendship and in service. Together, they have served on a variety of committees and boards. They are currently members of a Sustainers-only group, the Fun Fête Dinner Club, which was created by Charlotte, a League member of 49 years and counting. "We leave our husbands behind to have a night out with our League sisters!" Cynthia says. The ladies are ready to make new friends and welcome sustainers of all ages to join in on the excitement. "If you are a Sustainer, you are invited to attend the activities and dinners we plan," states Charlotte. "We look forward to more ladies joining us."

Ann Swayze was also on the scene for the lavish affair. "The journey to membership in the League became apparent to me at a very young age," Ann says. "I began accompanying my mother and aunts on their volunteer shifts at local schools in Galveston, Texas when I was only two years old. My mother and aunts would dress in jumpers, make puppets and perform for the students in the district. I knew then that Junior League was my legacy, so I followed suit and joined. I have been grateful for my experiences and the opportunities afforded me ever since."

Ann mentions how she's met some of the most amazing people during her tenure as an active through the boards and committees on which she served. She is currently enjoying her status as a Sustainer. "I am now on the boards of The Orléans Club and the Ruth McEnery Stuart Clan Literacy Group."

Partygoers Carlette Williams, Liz Broekman, Monica Roberts and LaVerne Saulny Toombs all recalled how their love of volunteerism grew at the Bloomin' Deals Thrift Store. They fondly remembered sporting their green smocks as they sorted and hung clothing in the store. "Ms. Stella treated us like family," recalls Carlette and Monica. "It was a pleasant place to complete our volunteer requirements," added LaVerne and Liz. These ladies also attribute their friendship, the cultivation of their philanthropic efforts and their rewarding careers to JLNO. LaVerne currently serves on the boards of Dress for Success and NOCCA. Liz is a Trustee for New Orleans Opera Association and is the director of P.O.W.E.R, Potential of Women Entrepreneurship Realized at Fidelity Bank. Carlette is the Parent Board President of De La Salle High School, and Monica is the mastermind behind Sibshop, a support group for siblings of kids with disabilities.

One could argue the Junior League is just another women's organization; however, from these ladies' standpoint, it is evident that belonging to the Junior League is a meaningful experience! Whether one pursued membership in the League to make friends, expand one's network or seek training for career advancement, involvement will fulfill those desires and more. In their eyes, it is a sisterhood, a support system, a heritage and a way of life. It truly is an honor to give of oneself in service. ●

# Thank You to Our Sponsors and Donors

Donations received between April 1, 2019 and June 30, 2019. Support includes gifts to JLNO Programs, Annual Giving, Endowment and Fundraising Events.



Please contact Development Coordinator Paige Morrison about bequests and planned giving — [paige@jlno.org](mailto:paige@jlno.org) or 504-891-5845

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|--|--|

## TRIBUTES & MEMORIALS



In Memory of Judge Charles Gaudin by Ann Middleton

In Honor of Brittany Joslyn

In Honor of Charlotte Phillips

In Memory of Catherine "Cherie" Banos Schneider  
by Mrs. D. Blair Favrot

In Honor of Amy Schwarzenbach

In Memory of Fran Villere by Margaret Phelps

# League Faces



Tina Jones, Lynn Spearman, Sarah Rieveschl, Kimberly Phillips, Sarah Roberts, Rebecca Roubion, Sarah Leblanc, Jennifer Hymel and Kelsey Petry work together to sort diapers at Junior League of New Orleans Diaper Bank. *Photo by: Stacey Stiel*



Lynn Spearman, Adrienne Duncan, Lindsay Chapman and Ashley Parker help sort food donations at Second Harvest Food Bank. *Photo by: Kristin Leonard*



Leslie James, Megan Whalen and Jessica Maden worked the registration table at JLNO's award-winning Get On Board nonprofit board training workshop. *Photo by: Stacey Stiel*



Junior League members Nicole Licardi, Erica O Cameese-Gallardo, Emily Taylor, Emily Kesler, Brittany Vela and Michelle Van Vleet gather at the Purple Stride Race on September 29, 2019. *Photo by: Whitney Haworth*



JLNO ladies Meghan Newsome, Sarah Stanwood, Zane Wilson and Marcella Peraza at Esprit's Front Porch Friday held at Cure. *Photo by: Kari Djuve*



Isabella Finnell lends a helping hand labeling the boxes of food for seniors and children at Second Harvest Food Bank. *Photo by: Kristin Leonard*



Kristen Chmurka, Natalie Weiss and Kaitlin Kotler box food at Second Harvest Food Bank. *Photo by: Kristin Leonard*



JLNO facilitated a meet-and-greet with nonprofits who were looking for enthusiastic volunteers at the Get On Board nonprofit board training workshop. *Photo by: Stacey Stiel*



JLNO ladies at Esprit's Sparkling Wine 101 Class held at Effervescence. *Photo submitted by: Zane Wilson*

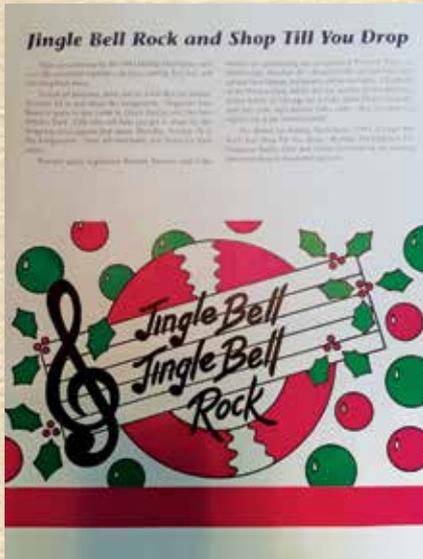


Heather Stewart, Monet Bates, Shelita Domino and Emily Kesler attended the Get On Board nonprofit board training workshop. *Photo by: Stacey Stiel*

# Héritage:

## JLNO's Annual Holiday Marketplace: More Than Just a Christmas Bazaar

By Shanelle Joseph



**LEFT:** JLNO's 1993 Holiday Marketplace announcement, *Jingle Bell Rock and Shop 'til You Drop*. Photo obtained from: JLNO Archives. **MIDDLE:** JLNO Lagniappe article discussing Highlights of the 1994 Holiday Marketplace and Celebration. Photo obtained from: JLNO Archives. **RIGHT:** 1993 JLNO Holiday Marketplace announcement advertising 5k Fun Run and Concert. Photo obtained from: JLNO Archives.

Cooler weather, falling leaves and pumpkin-flavored everything indicates the holiday season is just around the corner. Along with these benchmarks come traditions which inspire new memories. Friends and families come together to reminisce about times gone by, while colleagues celebrate with luncheons and gift exchanges. The Junior League of New Orleans (JLNO) also has its own unique history of community engagement during the holiday season — namely the Holiday Marketplace.

While the moniker might make it sound like this is just another Christmas bazaar, the history of the marketplace proves it is so much more. Over the years, JLNO has showcased the marketplace through community outreach events including preview parties, fun runs and concerts.

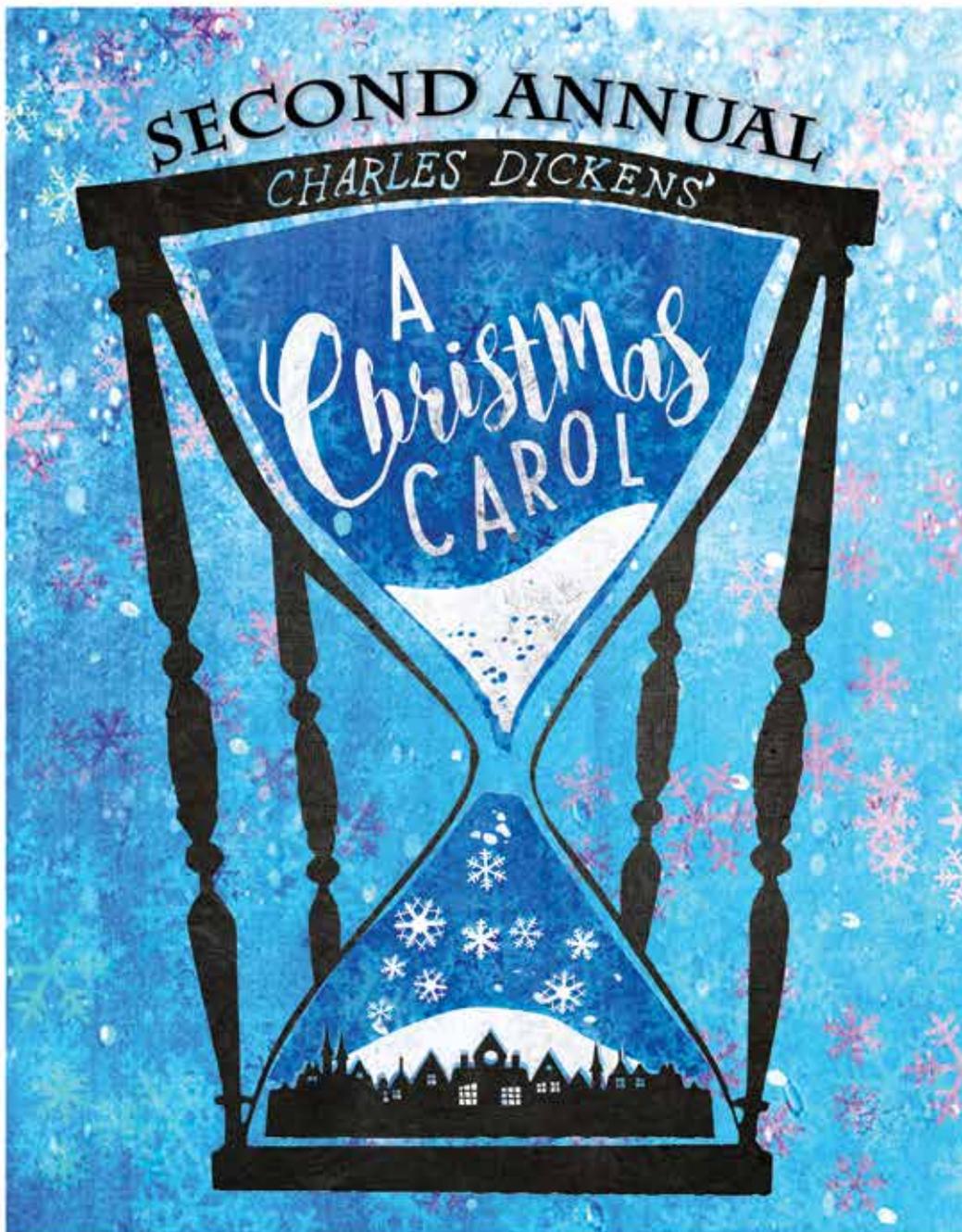
In 1993, the women of JLNO chose the theme *Jingle Bell Rock and Shop 'til You Drop* for the Holiday Marketplace. A Preview Party was held where a live auction included a trip to Chicago, complete with hotel, airfare and “tickets ... for a Cubs game (that’s baseball!) with box seats right behind home plate.” Entertainment at the Preview Party was provided by none other than Deacon John.

Holiday revelers were also invited to participate in a 5k race through uptown New Orleans, made possible through a partnership with the Greater New Orleans Runners Association and Southern Runner. It was billed as a way to “get in shape for the

shopping extravaganza” that boasted over 60 vendors. Adding to the festivities, the League hosted a post-race dance at the American Legion Hall with live entertainment by Broadcast. Race entrants were awarded free entrance to the marketplace that year, which offered “specialty shops, craftsmen, entertainment, demonstrations, [a] café and special events.”

Media advertisement took center stage for the Holiday Marketplace in 1994. League member, the late Brennan Baumer, orchestrated attention-grabbing advertisements such as walking billboards and marquis displays at both the Superdome and Galleria to advertise the line-up of events. JLNO’s community partners in the hospitality industry helped get the word out by dispersing flyers to the traveling public. Post-race entertainment for that year’s Fun Run was the always-engaging Benny Grunch and the Bunch, well before their “12 Yats of Christmas” success. The Preview Party was hosted by the New Orleans Marriott, where party goers enjoyed shopping, dining, live music but perhaps best of all, “complimentary photos by Radiophone.”

As the 2019 holiday season approaches, so does another year of JLNO’s Holiday Marketplace. JLNO looks forward to the continuation of this time-honored event, as well as the expansion of the experiences surrounding this festive occasion, all of which contribute to the legacy of this annual tradition that remains a favorite among League members. Happy Holidays! •



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