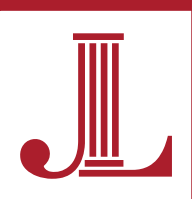


# LEAGUE LINES

**2016-2017  
ANNUAL  
REPORT**



JUNIOR LEAGUE OF  
**GREATER  
LAKELAND**



The Junior League of  
Greater Lakeland, Inc. is an  
organization of women  
committed to promoting voluntarism,  
developing the potential of women  
and improving the community  
through the effective action and leadership  
of trained volunteers. The Junior League is  
exclusively educational and charitable.



**LEAGUE LINES STAFF**

Katie Blondell • Ginny Burris • Katherine Fitzwater

Carley James • Maggie Ross • Alexa Russo

Brittany Sale • Stacy Walsh

# LETTER FROM SHIRA JOHNSON

President 2016-2017



As the 2017-2018 Junior League year begins, it allows me the opportunity to reflect on the many ways we have impacted our community by *Honoring our Legacy and Defining our Future* over the past year.

This past year we broadened our community impact by adding our version of "Done in a Day" projects, known as "Pilot Program," which incorporated working with local nonprofits to address women and child wellness. Our members developed our capacity and received hands-on training by working with community partners during General Membership Meetings and through the "Done in a Day" projects. The League learned about education, health and wellness, hunger, and family support services with help from Girls Inc. in collaboration with VISTE, Explorations V Children's Museum, Achievement Academy, and Good Shepherd Hospice guiding us. These are all organizations the League has historically funded or played a part in founding.

We also worked this year to incorporate whole child wellness into our programs. Several years of research, and most importantly League member input, led us to adopt a broader signature focus of wellness to incorporate all aspects of a person including emotional, spiritual, and physical wellness. Literacy is still very important to the League, and is included in overall wellness, but since 2015 we have moved to greater community impact and a more fluid connection to the entire community's needs.

The League also spent this year strengthening our partnerships with sponsors and we raised over \$104,000 through our funding opportunities. I look forward, with eager anticipation, to see how our 85th year increases our fundraising efforts and community awareness of the impact of our League.

In 2017, we spent time and resources to renovate our beloved building and increased our rental income to help propel us into the future. The millwork was fixed and the floors were redone by refinishing the wood floors and replacing the tile in both the kitchen and the bridal suite bathroom, using tile that maintained the historical integrity of our building. We also replaced one of the air conditioning units. To ensure the Sorosis Building can remain our home for many years to come the new leadership will need to embark on a capital campaign so future repairs are covered.

To my Sustaining Advisor, Pam Page, and my family including my husband, Brad, and my Little Leaguer, Ada, thank you for your endless support and encouragement. I want to thank our board members, committee chairs, sustaining advisors, and membership as a whole for the dedication you show the League and our mission of promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women and improving the community through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. Thank you all for letting me develop my potential as a woman leader this past year as your President. In 2017, we look to our history to pave the way for years to come, thanks to you all.

In closing, I encourage all of us to remember what Gandhi said: "The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others." Thank you for a great year and for allowing me to help *Honor our Legacy and Define our Future*.

*Shira Johnson*

**Shira Johnson, 2016-2017 President**

## 2016-2017 BOARD of DIRECTORS

### **Executive Committee:**

President, Shira Johnson  
Sustaining Vice President, Pam Page  
President-Elect, Victoria Martin  
Finance Vice President, Callie Miller  
Membership Vice President, Jillian Traurig  
Community Vice President, Amanda Lamont

### **Board Members:**

Communications Vice President, Katherine Fitzwater  
Funding Director, Kara Simm  
Assistant Funding Director, Emily Plank  
Assistant Community Vice President, Paulette Brown  
Treasurer, Erin Montgomery  
Secretary, Shannon Clyne  
Parliamentarian, Candace Mong

# COMMUNITY IMPACT

For 84 years, the Junior League of Greater Lakeland has worked to strengthen our community through outreach programs designed to provide maximum impact to our community through volunteers, partnerships and financial support.



## World of Reading

The annual World of Reading Festival, held April 22, 2017, proved to be yet another successful community event. Children were greeted by a large force of League volunteers who assisted in making this event an unforgettable experience for attendees.

This year's World of Reading event was on Earth Day, and as a result, the event included special Earth Day activities. Guest authors, Janeen Mason (creator of The Solidarity Fish art project and Ocean Commotion: Caught in the Currents) and Sandra Markle (Gasparilla's Gold and What If You Had Animal Teeth) signed copies of their books and provided readings to participants. Children's musician Jack Hartman entertained guests from the park lawn. Children were even treated to special appearances from the Lakeland Fire Department, Miss Florida, and the Chick-fil-A cow, who brought sandwiches to feed our hungry volunteers.

League volunteers served up popcorn, snacks, water provided by Kelly Buick GMC, and delicious Florida's Natural Orange Juice to our festival attendees. Five world tents filled Barnett Park with fun reading themed activities for participants. Each child visited the tents to complete their reading passport for the opportunity to choose a free book. **The League successfully handed out more than 1,000 free books for the children of our community.**

This program is funded in part by a grant from the Florida's Natural Growers Foundation, Inc. of Lake Wales, Florida.





## Ready to Read

Ready to Read is a Junior League outreach program that promotes and supports literacy in the schools of our community. This year's event took place on November 17, 2016 at Combee Elementary School. League volunteers worked with teachers to provide hands-on literacy center activities for students and their families. **205 children completed the program and left with a new accelerated reader-level book and novel sets for their classrooms.** Every family in attendance was also able to receive a library card. The League presented teachers and staff volunteers with \$15 gift cards to Target, and a school-wide gift of book sets and lesson plan guides (printable in English and Spanish versions) for K-3 level classrooms. Dinner from Olive Garden was served by our volunteers and all leftover food was donated to Talbot House and Florida Baptist Children's Homes.



## State Public Affairs Committee (SPAC)

In September 2016, CRPD/SPAC Chair Tori Bateman and President Shira Johnson attended the Florida SPAC conference, held by the Tampa JL Chapter. They spent the day learning how bills are passed, how we can influence our local government, and listening to female leaders on both sides of the aisle discuss being a woman in politics. They also voted on making elimination of the "pink tax" (a luxury tax on female hygiene products) one of the Junior League issues to discuss with our Florida representatives during January session. The bill actually passed its very first year as a priority message, making these items tax exempt! For more info on the Florida SPAC as a whole, follow [@JLFLSPAC](#).



# COMMUNITY IMPACT (CONTINUED)



## Pilot/Community Outreach Projects

This year's pilot program allowed the League to partner with five local nonprofits to complete four community outreach projects. Over the course of six months, our volunteers assisted teachers at Achievement Academy during their fall festival; worked with students at Girls Inc. to cook and box meals to send to elderly clients of VISTE - a food delivery service for the elderly; made crafts and passed out coping with grief storybooks to kids who have lost loved ones at Good Shepherd Hospice's Jangles of Joy event; and worked with kids at Explorations V's Children's Festival to celebrate childhood and assist in managing booths. **In addition to providing volunteers, the League donated \$4,000 to these organizations to aid in planning and executing these events.**

During the coming year, the pilot committee will continue the Community Outreach Program, hoping to partner with more nonprofits to give members additional opportunities to volunteer and get to know the wonderful organizations that are in the Lakeland community. The Pilot committee is also planning a Junior League led community event - more details are on the way!



## Reading Is Fundamental

Reading is Fundamental (RIF) is a national book distribution program. Through this program we distribute books to children with the greatest need in schools throughout the Lakeland area. **This year at least 5,194 students were impacted each semester and a total of 10,176 books were donated.** JLGL has been a RIF program participant for over forty years. This year, RIF was funded in part by a grant from the GiveWell Community Foundation.



## Christmas Parade

The Junior League of Greater Lakeland Annual Lakeland Christmas Parade "Miracle on Main Street" was held Thursday, December 1, 2016 in partnership with the City of Lakeland. **An estimated 50,000 parade viewers filled each side of the parade route** hoping for a good view of the 119 floats and bands as they rolled out of The Lakeland Center parking lot, down Lemon Street, over Main Street, around Lake Mirror to finish on Orange Street. The grand marshal was the Polk Museum of Art.

# LEADERSHIP TRAINING 2016-2017

John F. Kennedy once said, “Leadership and learning are indispensable to each other.” During the 2016-2017 year our leadership training revolved around learning about the needs in the community and taking volunteer action to meet those needs.

We began the year by implementing “Done in a Meeting” projects during General Membership Meetings (GMMs). Community nonprofits came to GMMs to teach members about their organization. Then, after learning about the nonprofit and its needs, League members helped with a specific need during the GMM. For example, we packed food for KidsPACK, put together toiletry bags for It’s a Girls’ World Foundation, and made plant markers for Platform Art’s downtown community garden. League members learned about a variety of nonprofits and how they could positively impact the community.

We also implemented “Done in a Day” projects through our Pilot Program. This expanded on the concept presented at GMM’s and allowed members to fulfill 3-hour volunteer shifts at nonprofits with whom the League has a strong history with. By visiting the nonprofits, we had the opportunity to see the work they do firsthand and better understand how they meet the needs of the community. We worked with VISTE and Girls Inc. on a collaborative project that teaches young girls cooking skills while providing meals for the elderly, helped put together a Fall Festival for the families at the Achievement Academy, hosted a bereavement author at Good Shepherd’s Hospice for children who lost a parent, and participated in the Explorations V’s Children’s Festival. By familiarizing ourselves with these nonprofits, and helping with their projects, we learned valuable leadership skills including responsibility, trustworthiness, motivation, flexibility, creativity, and commitment.

Our Leadership team also learned leadership skills through hands-on learning opportunities. We strengthened the Council system and improved our method for delegating tasks to committee chairs and oversight to Council Vice Presidents. Our committee chairs attended an orientation at



the beginning of the year that went over the skills needed to be a good chair and reinforced the concepts taught during Leadership Course. Committee chairs also began reporting monthly to the Board through Committee Status Reports, allowing for better communication and renewed responsibility in managing their committees.

The Board met at the beginning of the year for a Board retreat that went over basic leadership skills, job duties, the Council system, and established a management style for the year. In addition, Board meetings included speakers on topics ranging from strategic planning to understanding the League’s insurance policies. Board members also had the opportunity to attend ODI and Junior League conferences. We led a League-wide training on Human Sex Trafficking and learned about the process of overhauling the League’s bylaws and policies through a series of presentations.

Volunteering can build a number of capabilities and leadership skills that often are not practiced in one’s everyday life. These skills include learning from new environments, building confidence and passion, reflecting on yourself by connecting with others, and the opportunity to make a difference. By providing new volunteer opportunities in the 2016-2017 year, we strengthened our connection with the League’s mission of promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women and improving the community through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers.

# SPOTLIGHT ON STYLE 2016

The 2016 Fashion Show was a huge success! By the time the doors opened at 6 pm, we were sold out of tickets - with over 250 seats filled!



Before the main event, guests sipped champagne, dined on hors d'oeuvres, and enjoyed the beautiful fall evening on the front lawn of The Junior League Sorosis Building while perusing the latest in fall fashion from 12 local pop up shops.

The guests were then invited to take their seats as they were shown over 50 looks from local retailers including BELK, Hattie's Branches, 5th and Hall, Olivia Grey Designs, What's New Consignment, M Marie Boutique, Haley Michelle Boutique, W by Worth, and Dayton K. The crowd clapped and cheered on their favorite looks and familiar faces as they walked the runway in looks and styles that had something for everyone!

A special addition to our show was the showcase of five very special models from Lighthouse Ministries, wearing looks styled by their very own Lighthouse Thrift Shops, and hair and makeup up provided by some of the best stylists in our community. Each woman shined as they walked the runway, cheered on by the crowd as they made their debut, and shared testimony of just how far they have come to the credit of Lighthouse Ministries. After the show, guests enjoyed macaroons while shopping their favorite looks from the show at the pop up shops.

It was a night to remember!

We are beyond excited to bring you The Junior League's Spotlight on Style 2017 November 16! We are thrilled to join forces again with vendors and retailers across our community to bring you some of fall's most fabulous trends. This will once again be an event you won't want to miss!



# PRO-AM TENNIS TOURNAMENT & JLGL BALL

The 2017 Pro-Am Tennis Tournament and JLGL Ball could not have been possible without the hard work of the committee members, advisors, JLGL Board of Directors, tennis players, sponsors, auction donors and vendors. Thank you for your support.

The committee was made up of active and sustaining members and was led by co-chairs, Melissa Gravitt and Alexa Russo, sustaining advisor Shannon Waller and tennis advisors Chuck and Joanne Collier and Kim Lafferty. The committee began planning the event in August 2016 and focused on transforming the traditional tennis-themed Friday Night Party to the JLGL Ball. This allowed us to bring in a wider variety of guests and sponsors that expanded outside of the tennis community.

The JLGL Ball was held at the Junior League Sorosis Building Friday, March 3, 2017 with approximately 150 guests attending. Guests enjoyed food catered by Patio850, drinks, a DJ, cigar rolling and a photo booth.



One of the largest undertakings with the JLGL Ball is the silent auction, and this year's committee collected over 200 auction items, raising \$23,000 for the League.

The 2017 Pro-Am Tennis Tournament is Lakeland's 38th Annual event. The committee, with help from the tennis advisors, decided to condense the tournament into a one-day event with eight teams at the Wynee Warden Tennis Center at Florida Southern College. Each team consisted of one professional and one amateur. Each team played in three rounds, using short scoring. Flight winners were determined by the total number of matches won in the three rounds. The winners of the two flights advanced to the finals. The female winners were Gabriella Bongiovanni (Pro) and Hannah Hogg (Am). The male winners were Joey Jones (Pro) and Cliff Coleman (Am). The professional winners and runners-up were given a cash prize and the amateur winners and runners-up were given an Amazon gift card.



# CAROL JENKINS BARNETT

## PUTS THE NOTE IN NOTABLE

by Sheila Lotterhos, Sustainer Historian



Eleanor Roosevelt. Eudora  
Welty. Julia Child. Nancy  
Reagan. Katherine Hepburn.  
Barbara and Laura Bush.  
Shirley Temple Black. Betty  
Ford. Junior League Founder  
Mary Harriman. The litany of  
names? Easily recognized.

**So what do these  
internationally famous  
women have in common  
with our League's very own  
Carol Jenkins Barnett?**

They share one of the highest honors a League member can have bestowed upon them, an honor that only eighteen women in the entire world share: being one of AJLI's Notable Women, "extraordinary women who've made an impact".

In a firmament of our community's shining stars, Carol is certainly one of the brightest. Giving generously of her time, talent, and treasure is as second nature to Carol as it was to her mentor and father, Publix Founder, George W. Jenkins. "You simply can't out-give God" was something Mr. George taught his young daughter, and Carol learned that lesson well, continuing to practice the principle throughout a life of abundant giving.

Carol learned the act of volunteering from her mother, Anne MacGregor Jenkins, to whom our building's Lake Morton Parlor is dedicated. A League volunteer herself, Anne stood on ladders, decorating for a league event, while she was pregnant with Carol. Hence there is little wonder that Carol is one of our most devoted members, with voluntarism and philanthropy running in equal measure through her veins.

During her active years of League service, Carol served as Nominating Chair, Admissions/ Provisional Chair, Special Projects Task Force Chair, Treasurer, and Community Vice President. But one of her favorite roles was what she refers to as "The Mother of Follies" when she reintroduced that highly successful corporate fundraiser in 1984. Carol also took on the critical role of Follies Backers Chair for several of our follies, with Publix serving as a principal backer. Additionally, Carol and her husband Barney enjoyed performing in these fun community events, and Publix even restored the marquis for the Polk Theatre which housed our Follies.

Today, as a League sustainer, Carol has served on the Junior League's Community Think Tank, a group she once chaired as Community Vice President. To promote camaraderie, she hosted our first Sustainer Fall



Gathering. So her participation and input have continued to be valuable and appreciated, and we thank her family for sharing her with us.

Beyond the League, Carol has been honored in many ways for her philanthropic spirit. In 2016, Carol was inducted into the Florida Women's Hall of Fame. In 2004, she won the Florida Arts Recognition Award for her dedication to the arts in Florida. She has also been honored with the Polk County Schools Hall of Fame Award, the George Williams Society Award, and Girls Inc's Outstanding Service to Youth Award.

**Above and beyond the spotlight that shines so brightly on her various endeavors, Carol is the real deal...kind and encouraging, loving and loyal, dependable and true.**

As a tireless worker for the United Way and the long-time president of Publix Super Market Charities, Carol's impact has been widely felt. To that end, Carol was the recipient of the 2015 Women in Philanthropy Award, a national honor bestowed by the United Way Women's Leadership Council. Most recently, Carol won the Chiles Advocacy Award presented annually to a Floridian who "exemplifies integrity, dedication and commitment to improving the lives of Florida's children and their families and who has successfully engaged others to promote policies and programs benefiting them."

The Lakeland Area Chamber of Commerce honored Carol with the Jere Annis Award for service. Locally, Carol and her fellow alumnus/husband Barney have given generously to Florida Southern College. The city of Lakeland has also been a beneficiary of the family's generosity with their sponsorship of the Barnett Family Park where the League hosts our annual World of Reading Festival. And Lakeland Regional Health's eight-story, 300,000 square-foot new wing, slated to open in 2018, will proudly be named: The Carol Jenkins Barnett Pavilion for Women and Children.

Additionally, 40 families throughout the states served by Publix will have decent housing as well as increased support to more than 60 Habitat for Humanity affiliates with the multi-million dollar grant that Carol and Barney made to Habitat. In Polk County, our community's frail seniors served by VISTE benefit from their generosity, too.

Here is a sampling of what the Children's Movement of Florida, of which she is a board member, has to say about Carol, particularly her lifelong devotion to untold thousands of Florida's youth to whom she has helped furnish the opportunity to reach their own potential:

"In 1998, Mrs. Barnett initiated the "Feed Me a Story" children's reading initiative, and in 1999, she was appointed vice chair of the Florida Partnership for School Readiness Board. In 2000, she founded Family Fundamentals, a Success by 6 outreach facility. As vice chair of The Children's Movement of Florida, her leadership and contributions led to the establishment of the statewide early literacy initiative, ReadingPals. In 2015, ReadingPals was expanded, adding five new programs, for a total of 15. There are over 200 reading locations around Florida, with approximately 2,000 volunteers and 2,500 students from pre-kindergarten to the third grade. She has served on the boards of Ounce of Prevention Fund of Florida, All Saints Academy and the Florida Council on Economic Education. Currently, she serves on the United Way Women's Leadership Council and the Polk Education Foundation Board of Directors."

Above and beyond the spotlight that shines so brightly on her various endeavors, Carol is the real deal, a real friend. Money and

power have never gone to her head, and she is the same sweet person to everyone she meets and has known for years: kind and encouraging, loving and loyal, dependable and true. And whether in friendship or philanthropy, Carol is the embodiment of the principle of Noblesse Oblige: to whom much is given, much is expected. That is a principle Carol has faithfully adhered to all of her life, and with her servant's heart, she has learned firsthand and can say with the best of them: "A life of giving is a life worth living." As to all of us who are blessed to call Carol a friend, and she has many friends, may we learn from her selfless example, and may we endeavor to make Carol as proud of us as we are of her.

# JUNIOR LEAGUE ANNUAL MEETING & SPRING BANQUET

The annual Spring Banquet was held at the Polk Museum of Art on Tuesday, May 23, 2017.

Over 100 provisional, active and sustaining members were in attendance for the event celebrating voluntarism. Sustainer Carol Jenkins Barnett was honored with the designation of Notable Member of the Associations of Junior Leagues International.

After a year of leadership development and community service opportunities, 38 women graduated from Provisional to Active membership. Funding Director, Kara Simm, presented a check to the membership of over \$104,000 raised through fundraising, sponsorships and grants.

Victoria Martin was installed as 2017-2018 President.





## 2016-2017 ANNUAL AWARD WINNERS

**HEART OF THE LEAGUE** is awarded to an active member with amazing passion for the Junior League. The recipient was **Jessica Brown**, who received this award for her leadership and passion as Special Events Chair.

**SPIRIT OF THE LEAGUE** is awarded to an active member who is enthusiastic and full of pride for the League. The recipient was **Malonie Ayers**, who received this award for her efforts on the Provisional and Special Events committees, making all new and returning members feel at home in the League.

**VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR** is awarded to an active member who gives 100% of herself to her individual committee, as well as helping out on other committees and projects of our league. The recipient was **Stacy Walsh**, who received this award for putting together the Junior League annual report, her role as Grants Chair, and her continued willingness to help other committees.

**BRIDGE TO THE COMMUNITY** is awarded to an active member who is not only an amazing asset to our League but is involved in numerous other organizations throughout the community. The recipient was **Katherine Fitzwater**, the League's Communications Vice President, who received this award for her participation in numerous local organizations including the United Way of Central Florida, LVIM and READ Lakeland.

**SUSTAINER OF THE YEAR** is awarded to a sustaining member who has given tremendous support to our League. The recipient was **Alice O'Reilly**, who received this award for her mentoring and guidance to the Funding committee.

**PROVISIONAL OF THE YEAR** is awarded to a provisional member who goes above and beyond the expectations set for this level of membership. There was a tie in this category with two members being awarded. The recipients were **Hannah George** and **Sara McIntyre**, who received this award for engaging the membership through donation drives that sought out items for local organizations.



# PROVISIONAL COURSE - A YEAR IN REVIEW

by Kathleen Miller,  
2016 – 2017 Provisional Chair

The 2016 – 2017 provisional course was a great success for the Junior League of Greater Lakeland! On May 23, 2017 we welcomed 38 new active members at the Spring Banquet who have a passion for volunteering, leadership development and the Lakeland community. Here's a look back on the new member course.

Sustainer Beverly Hollis graciously hosted approximately 75 women in her home to kick off the provisional course with the Welcome Party on August 9, 2016. On August 27, a provisional retreat was held at the Junior League Building that marked our first official meeting. We reviewed provisional requirements and expectations, were introduced to board members, got to know each other through fun icebreakers, and heard from past presidents of the League. The half-day program continues to prove to be a fundamental part of the provisional course.

September through April, members attended meetings and socials the second Tuesday of each month to further learn about the JLGL history, organizational structure, fundraisers and pilot programs. Organizations and businesses throughout Lakeland welcomed us into their spaces to host meetings. These places included; the Polk Museum of Art, Polk Theatre, Catapult, Explorations X, Hall Communications, and the Lakeland Center. We believe that our new members walked away from these visits more enriched and excited about Lakeland and our League.



Our sustaining members played a critical part throughout our course. At every meeting, a group of sustainers helped welcome members as well as provide food and beverage. An important part of our course is to introduce new members to those who helped make the organization what it is today. We are continuously grateful for the outpouring of support shown by our sustaining membership.

The Provisional Committee wants to thank everyone involved with helping make this year's class a success. From proposing candidates, speaking at meetings, providing delicious food, hosting events in your home, and making each member feel welcomed, we could not have done it without you. As we embark on the 2017 – 2018 provisional course, we welcome you to get involved by emailing [provisionals@jlg.org](mailto:provisionals@jlg.org). We would enjoy having you meet our new members.



## NEW SUSTAINERS

- |                      |                  |
|----------------------|------------------|
| Blair Allen          | Leigh Ann Lunz   |
| Arletta Black-Torres | Jennifer Myers   |
| Raeanne Cook         | Holly Parrish    |
| Christina Criser     | Jennifer Rogers  |
| Allison Davis        | Gina Saunders    |
| Michelle Dunham      | Kavita Soni      |
| Luisa Harrison       | Maryann Troiano  |
| Kathy Holmes         | Christy Vreeland |
| Shira Johnson        |                  |

## NEW ACTIVES

- |                   |                   |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| Brittany Bagent   | Beverly McQuillen |
| Allison Becton    | Lacey Meyer       |
| Lorena Birri      | Melissa Kulp      |
| Abigail Campos    | Margaret Lain     |
| Ashley Cheshire   | Kim Malloy        |
| Allison Clark     | Carol Rivas       |
| Lindsey Cope      | Kayla Rivera      |
| Paige Custred     | Brandi Roberts    |
| Natalie Dalton    | Maggie Ross       |
| Randi Daugustinis | Ellen Sharpe      |
| Tracy Dicesare    | Sarah Smith       |
| Julie Fazekas     | Meghan Stanek     |
| Melissa Fulse     | Hannah Starr      |
| Hannah George     | Kaley Nesvacil    |
| Tresa Green       | Tiffany Oxford    |
| Paige Greenwood   | Heather Pharris   |
| Kelcie Harries    | Megan Powers      |
| Katie McCormick   | Genet Stewart     |
| Sara McIntyre     | Gigi Walsh        |

# FINANCIALS 2016-2017

## Total Expenses \$220,000

- Building Expenses 41%
- Community Programs 29%
- Other Operating 12%
- Education & Training 10%
- Leadership Development 9%



## Total Revenue \$220,000

- Building Rental 37%
- Fundraising 37%
- Membership Income 23%
- Miscellaneous Revenue 4%



### Support The League in honor of our 85th Anniversary!

What better way to ensure the long-term security and stability of the League for our membership and community than by donating in honor of our 85th Anniversary? Simply put, your gift is your ability to Leave a Legacy that will allow the League to Sustain our Service.

To learn more about the Annual Campaign or to make a gift, visit [jlgf.org/support-us/annual-fund](http://jlgf.org/support-us/annual-fund). For questions, contact [funding@jlgf.org](mailto:funding@jlgf.org).

# ANNUAL FUND

Donations to The Junior League of Greater Lakeland support our mission-driven programs and projects. Each year, our annual donors support special events and contribute as individuals, foundations and businesses in support of our Mission.

## **\$99 AND UNDER**

Lauren Albam  
Tori Bateman  
Allison Becton  
Dena Bishop  
Judy Bopp  
Stephanie Brown  
Virginia Burris  
Robin Butz  
Shannon Clyne  
Sue Coleman  
Mrs. Brad Crenshaw  
Carrie Cross  
Patricia J. Deal  
Hannah George  
GiveWell GiveCard  
Adriana Hall  
Rachel Hollis  
Debbie Irby  
Elizabeth Jacobs  
Dr. Mimi Jenko  
Lauren Jensen  
Shira Johnson  
Amanda Lamont  
Ginny Leetun  
Kim Malloy  
Carole Marler  
Victoria Martin  
Laurie Melton  
Callie Miller  
Candace Mong  
Erin Montgomery

Heather & William Pharris  
Elizabeth Prestipino  
Sarah Smith  
Jillian Traurig  
Stephanie Vatikiotis  
Gigi Walsh

## **\$100 - \$249**

Ida Abraham  
Virginia Askew  
Patricia Blalock  
Kim Brunson  
Lynda Buck  
Libby Chappell  
Paula Dockery  
Bonnie Edwards  
Mrs. John Ellington  
The Elmhurst Family Fund  
within the GiveWell Community  
Foundation  
Nancy C. Fisher  
Hilda Franco  
Ana Gillespie  
Leah Gonzalez  
Felicia Hauseman  
Ann Hilliard  
Mary A. Hinson  
Gwyndolyn Hughes  
Becky Jackson  
Dorothy C. Jenkins  
Sheila Lotterhos  
Doris B. Lyons

Peggy McKeel  
Penny Golden Miller  
Peggy & Robert Newsome  
Alice O'Reilly  
Tiffany Osler  
Pamela Page  
Susie Penn  
Kimberly P. Ruthven  
Jo Lee Sawyer  
Beth Sherling  
Chris Sikes  
Skate World  
Mr. & Mrs. W. Fred Smith  
Joy B. Williams  
Dana Woodsby

## **\$250 - \$499**

Marilyn Clyne  
Denise Crenshaw  
Katherine Fitzwater  
Lu Fitzwater  
Beverly Hollis

## **\$500 - \$999**

Carol Barnett  
Jean H. Bunch  
Ilse Buzzanca  
Sarah McKay  
Sally Petcoff

## **\$1,000.00 OR MORE**

Ruth E. Gardner

Donor list as of May 15, 2017.

If you believe your name has been omitted in error, please contact Funding Director, Emily Plank at [fundingdirector@jlgf.org](mailto:fundingdirector@jlgf.org).

# SPECIAL EVENTS



RED DOOR WINE MARKET



EPCOT® INTERNATIONAL FOOD & WINE FESTIVAL



LEADERSHIP LAKELAND



BRASS TAP TRIVIA



SPOTLIGHT ON STYLE



FALL GATHERING



YOGA AT BALANCE CULTURE

# SUSTAINING MEMBERS ENGAGED IN 2016-2017

Under the leadership of Sustaining Advisor to the President, Pam Page, the following members served on the Sustaining Council: CeCe Christian, Lu Fitzwater, Kim Lafferty, Sheila Lotterhos, Doris Lyons, Stephanie Madden, Alice O'Reilly, and Elizabeth Willers. The Sustaining Council coordinated events and garnered support for the active members and the Junior League mission.

## The Sustaining Council's efforts resulted in:

A State of the League meeting with an overwhelming attendance of 65 sustainers. Sustaining members heard board member reports and participated in a town hall style discussion. Several members signed up to assist actives in League placements.

A Fall Gathering at the home of Sustainer Shannon Waller with many sustainers enjoying an evening of fellowship and connection to the League. Attendees were briefed on how to get involved in the Sustainer Annual Project, Christmas Angels.

Vast support of the inaugural fashion show, "A Spotlight on Fashion." Sustainers were runway models, purchased JLGL Bourbon and Bowtie bracelets, and offered support as ticket buyers and attendees. Thanks to sustainer support, an expanded event is being planned for November 16, 2017.

Twenty-five children being sponsored through the annual Christmas Angels project and \$2,700 was collected.

The annual Past Presidents' Roundtable, which was held at Headquarters, educated Past Presidents on issues facing the Junior League. Fourteen Past Presidents attended.

As we enter our 85th year as the Junior League of Greater Lakeland, there will be many more opportunities to reconnect. We hope to grow on this year's success and keep our sustaining members involved in ways that are meaningful and fun.



The annual Spring Tea to welcome the actives going sustaining was held at the home of Past President Ashley Link. Over 80 sustainers attended.

Throughout the year, several Read Between the Wines Book Club meetings were held thanks to the coordination of sustainer Gloria Lunn. The reading circles offer a chance for sustaining, active and provisional members to come together over a great read.

# LETTER FROM VICTORIA MARTIN

2017-2018 President



As The Junior League of Greater Lakeland begins its 85th year, it is my pleasure to be the 2017-2018 President. I am excited for the opportunities we will face as a team in the coming year.

Born and raised in Dania Beach, I obtained my undergraduate degree at Florida Southern College, and loved Lakeland so much that I decided to stay. Two masters degrees and one Educational Specialist Degree later, I am now married to a wonderful law enforcement officer and have two incredible sons, both under the age of seven. I am employed by the Polk County School System as a Reading Coach Specialist and am absolutely thrilled to offer my service to the Junior League.

at every board meeting and general membership meeting. We will need to focus on many issues essential to the continued success of the League, that have been left to us, and for these we are grateful. Concepts such as parliamentary procedures, development and fundraising and common sense etiquette are all important issues that we, as a group, must continue to expand upon.

Our beautiful historic headquarters, the Junior League of Greater Lakeland Sorosis Building, is going to require attention. There are ongoing maintenance, preservation and restoration challenges that our talented and resourceful membership will be called upon to address.

**It is my hope as I begin my presidency, that we continue to further our objectives as a team and with new community partners.**

Service. That is what the League is all about. Those that have gone before us have left us with a lasting legacy. The Polk Museum of Art. The Annual Lakeland Christmas Parade. The Learning Resource Center. The Dental Clinic. Reading Programs. And so much more. These were each created to meet needs within our community. In recent years, the League worked with other community organizations to put on events like the Mud Run and PigFest. It was hard work, but the benefit to our League and our community made it worth every minute.

As we enter our 85th year, it is important for us to further train, refine, and instill the pride of League activities in all of our members, both new and seasoned members. It is my hope and intention to continue training and reinforcing our core values

It is my hope as I begin my presidency, that we continue to further our objectives as a team and with new community partners. To this end, we must involve everyone, from sustaining members, to our newest members and all those in between. The knowledge and resources of our group is limitless.

As the old elementary school motto says, "Together, Everyone Achieves More." And it is our team who will make the difference!

*Victoria Martin*

**Victoria Martin, 2017-2018 President**

# THE LEAGUE STILL NEEDS SUSTAINING ADVISORS



Being mentored by sustaining members is critical to the development of our actives. The League still needs sustaining advisors. Want to re-engage with a favorite League placement and help foster leadership? Email Victoria Martin at [Victoria.Martin@jlg.org](mailto:Victoria.Martin@jlg.org) to get connected with an active by being a sustaining advisor. You'll contribute to the leadership and success of our League.

The Sustaining Council is working to schedule all the events you look forward to each year. Watch for a separate mailing announcing the fun that has been planned for 2017-2018.



## 2017-2018 BOARD of DIRECTORS

### **Executive Committee:**

President, Victoria Martin  
President-Elect, Callie Miller  
Finance Vice President, Erin Montgomery  
Membership Vice President, Jessica Brown  
Community Vice President, Paulette Brown

### **Board Members:**

Communications Vice President, Katherine Fitzwater  
Funding Director, Emily Plank  
Assistant Funding Director, Stacy Walsh  
Assistant Community Vice President, Heather Jones  
Treasurer, Jillian Trauig  
Secretary, Alexa Russo  
Corresponding Secretary, Shannon Clyne  
Parliamentarian, Tiffany Hawks

# *i n* M E M O R I A M



## **REMEMBERING BETH**

The Junior League and the community at large were stunned to hear the news of the sudden death of Sustainer Mary Elizabeth "Beth" Harlan (58) from occipital cancer on April 22, 2017. A former circuit judge, county attorney, and honors graduate of the University of Florida, Beth practiced law after her retirement from the bench with Brush and Coyle, P.A. Beth's work on behalf of women, children, and families earned her a Pro Bono Award from the Tenth Judicial Circuit in 2004. While on the bench she advocated for the Behavioral Health Court, where those with drug addiction and mental illness could obtain the treatment they need instead of being incarcerated. A Winter Haven native who was also a member of Chi Omega Sorority and PEO Chapter U, Beth valued her friendships in those organizations and the League. Leaving behind her beloved husband Dave Houston (who was also her college sweetheart), her son David H. Houston and his wife Heather, her son A. Clay Houston, her parents Carla and William Harlan, her sister Ann Foster and husband John, her brother William Harlan and wife Barbara, and her extended family, Beth touched many lives by her bright spirit. To these loved ones, we extend our deepest sympathy on this loss to their family and to our community. Beth's smile and can-do attitude will be missed by so many, and we appreciate her contribution as a dedicated League volunteer over the years.

## **REMEMBERING LAURA**

It is with sadness at her passing and gratitude for her lengthy years of service that we remember Past President and Sustainer Emeritus Laura Platt Towne who died on April 4, 2017, at the age of 91. A native Floridian, Laura was an FSU graduate before it was FSU and a member of Chi Omega Sorority. A devoted wife and mother, Laura volunteered with her children's schools, Campfire, Church of the Resurrection, PEO Chapter W, and was president of the League during the 1963-64 year. Laura loved life and enjoyed everything from sailing, golf, and tennis to growing beautiful roses. For well over half of her life, Laura was a steadfast League member and could always be counted on for advice and support, instilling that devotion to service in each of her children. Laura was predeceased by her husband Dudley, her son Richard, and her son in law Emmett McCall. She is survived by her sister Dodie Andrews and husband Bill of Gainesville, her brother Reuel Platt and wife Betty of Jacksonville Beach, her son Robert Towne and wife Janie (JLGL Sustainer) of Lakeland, her daughter Allison McCall Roquemore (JLWS Past President) and husband Wayne of Winston-Salem, and her daughter Laura Dudley Summers (JLGL Past President) and husband Howard of Lakeland. Laura is also survived by her six grandchildren: Mac McCall of San Francisco, Robert McCall of New York City, Allison Mabe and husband David of Winston-Salem, Skip Allsopp of Brevard, Laura Jane Hale and husband Aeon of Tampa, and Katie Towne of Austin, TX, along with great-grandchildren Molly Mabe and Philip Mabe of Winston-Salem and Lilya Hale of Tampa. To Laura's family, we extend both our condolences and our undying gratitude for sharing Laura with us throughout the years. What a solid legacy of service and friendship she leaves behind!

## **REMEMBERING DONNA**

On September 24, 2016, the Junior League lost a devoted member with the death of Sustainer Donna Teresa Bryant (54). Donna moved to Lakeland as a very small child, having been born in Tacoma, Washington, and Lakeland was very blessed to have her as a valuable part of the community. Throughout her life, Donna infused everything she did from her volunteer work to her profession as a realtor with her generous heart. Donna also fought a valiant battle with cancer, and her cheerful attitude often belied the fact that she was ill. A true "Good Samaritan", Donna spent her own money on underprivileged children in an effort to give them things that other kids take for granted, and she always went the extra mile in whatever she chose to undertake. That would include her tenure as Thrift Sale chairman for the League which was both a service to the community and a fundraiser. In later years, Donna was always a welcome face at Garden Club events, and her sweet spirit will be missed by all who knew her and were blessed to be her friend. Our deepest sympathy goes out to Donna's family including her brother Michael and his wife Lisa Bryant of Lakeland, her nephew Nicholas Bryant of Lakeland, her uncle Golden McCabe of Lakeland, her aunt Becky Swindal of Canyon Lake, Texas, her many cousins, and her life partner David Delk. Thank you for sharing Donna with us throughout the years. We are blessed for having known her.

## **REMEMBERING NANCY**

The year 2016 also saw the death of a beloved Non-Resident Sustainer Emeritus, Nancy Whittle Guilford of Brandon on December 13. A member since 1963, Nancy was noted for her warmth and sense of fun. Nancy, an Oklahoma native, was a graduate of the University of Florida and a huge fan of Gator and Buccaneer football as well as being a beach aficionado. She loved her family and friends and was a devoted member of the Lakeland League, having been invited to join in 1963 when we were the Junior Welfare League of Lakeland. Predeceased by her husband of 41 years, Jefferson Myres Guilford, Nancy is survived by her daughter Gina Wolff and husband Scott, her son Jay Guilford and wife Susy, her son Jim Guilford, her grandchildren: Jeff Guilford, Elizabeth Guilford, Jessica Mancinik and husband Kirk, and Carly Wolff, and her sister Ann Card and husband Harry. Nancy is also survived by her favorite sister in law and our beloved Sustainer Emeritus Ann Guilford Miller and Ann's daughter and fellow League Sustainer Laura Miller Taft and husband Bill, their daughters and son in law as well as other extended family. To these loved ones, we send our deepest sympathy and thoughts on their loss and our thanks to Nancy for her loyal support for well over half a century.

# COMMUNITY PARTNERS

## TITLE \$15,000



## DIAMOND \$10,000



PUBLIX SUPER MARKETS  
**CHARITIES**

## SILVER \$2,500



---

## BRONZE \$1,000

Badcock (\$1,500) • Miller Construction • Bulhed • J H Ham Engineering

### COPPER \$500

Bank of Central Florida  
Mosquito Joe  
Southern Glass Products  
John Hugh Shannon, PA  
The Osler Family  
Highland Homes  
The Estates at Carpenters  
Grasslands Women's Tennis Team  
Captained by Margeson  
Payne Air conditioning

### FRIENDS \$250

All Creatures Animal Clinic  
Daniel's Realty Company  
Cover to Cover Girls Book Club  
Modern Paints  
Ben & Susan LeFrancois  
Waller Insurance Partners, Inc.  
Dr. Curtis W. Cassidy, M.D., P.A.  
Parry's Landscaping

### IN-KIND

Hall Communications • Ashton Events • J H Ham Engineering  
Mosquito Joe • Trabeka & Co. • Century Signs



JUNIOR LEAGUE OF  
**GREATER  
LAKELAND**

**SOROSIS BUILDING**  
90 LAKE MORTON DR.  
LAKELAND, FL 33801

863.682.2112 | JLGL.ORG |  

To rent the historic Junior League of Greater Lakeland's Sorosis Building for your next event, visit [JuniorLeagueSorosisBuilding.com](http://JuniorLeagueSorosisBuilding.com) or email us at [rentals@jgl.org](mailto:rentals@jgl.org).



Save  
*the*  
Date

**11.16.17**

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR  
THE 2017 JUNIOR LEAGUE

**SPOTLIGHT ON STYLE**