

LEAGUE LINES

2018-2019
ANNUAL REPORT



**THRIFT SALE
50TH ANNIVERSARY**

pg. 11



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

**Katherine Fitzwater • Sheila Lotterhos • Callie Miller
Maggie Ross • Brittany Sale • Stacy Walsh**

Member tributes respectfully submitted by League Historian Sheila Lotterhos

LETTER FROM CALLIE MILLER

President 2018-2020

As I think of the 2018-19 year, I think of progress. I am proud of the progress our volunteers and leadership team have made this year in moving the needle on important community and League initiatives. I cannot emphasize enough how much I appreciate our Provisionals, Active, and Sustaining Members. Without you, we are not an organization capable of doing good and making a significant impact in our community as we have this year. You are leading progress and change.

As the President of the League, I remain humbled and full of pride in knowing that I represent the most dynamic, well-respected and powerful organization comprised of diverse women in our community. Thank you for the generosity of your time, resources, ideas, and passion that drives our organization forward.

As you review this Annual Report, you will see that we had an outstanding year. We raised a considerable amount of money to support the operations of the League and the needs of our community. Thrift Sale was a tremendous success in its first year back, we hosted a beautiful 1920's inspired Spotlight on Style Fashion Show and enhanced the impact that ProAm has in our community with a great evening party, tournament, and free community tennis clinic and storytime. We hosted the inaugural Light Up Lakeland, revamped Ready to Read, extended the reach of Reading is Fundamental and hosted a beautiful World of Reading festival to inspire the imaginations of children.

Progress does not denote completion but momentum. And the League will continue supporting our community with great momentum and refinement; ensuring that we remain operationally sound, community-minded and committed to membership development. Let's let our passion pull us forward. Our planning is what has given us great direction but our passion is what will propel the League forward - this year and for years to come.



Our League continues to be a well-respected leader whose focus is to build a stronger community for the future of Lakeland.

My best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Callie Miller". The script is elegant and cursive.

Callie Miller, 2018-2020 President

2018-2019 BOARD of DIRECTORS

President, Callie Miller

Community Vice President, Paulette Brown

Finance Vice President, Erin Montgomery

Treasurer, Heather Jones

Funding Director, Stacy Walsh

Membership Vice President, Jessica Brown

Communications Vice President, Katherine Fitzwater

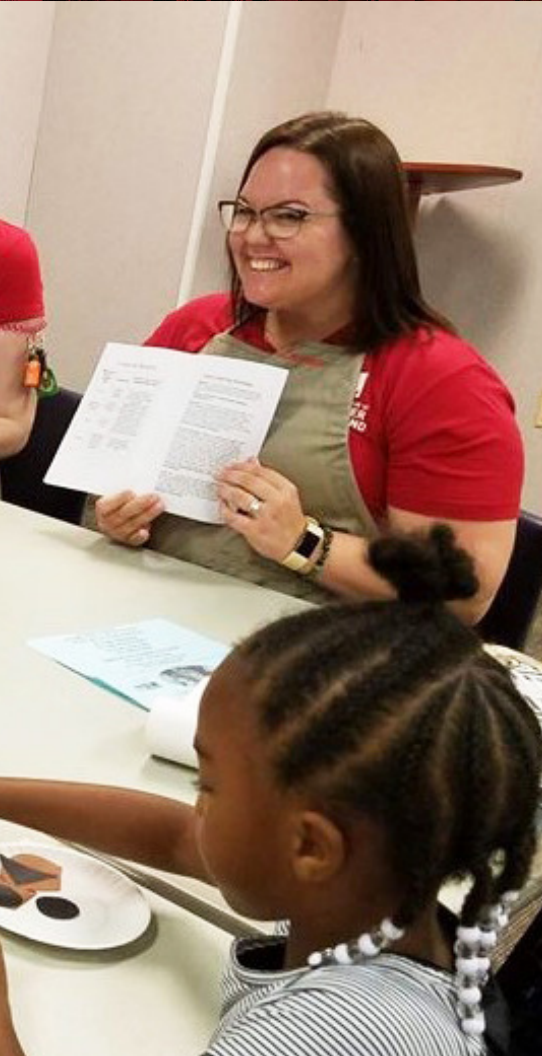
Secretary, Carley James

Corresponding Secretary, Courtney Larson

Bylaws & Parliamentarian, Jillian Traurig



COMMUN IMPACT



The Junior League of Greater Lakeland works to strengthen our community through outreach programs designed to provide maximum impact to our community through volunteering, partnership and financial support.





ITY



Community Outreach

The Junior League benefits greatly from the thoughtful input of community members. Thus, the League established a new Community Advisory Board to advise, guide and celebrate the direction and accomplishments of the League.

The League sought Advisory Board members who have strong community involvement, a passion for the League and various professional and personal backgrounds to provide feedback to help move the League into swift action to meet our community needs. Advisory Board Members were invited to attend two meetings during the year, assist in judging the Lakeland Christmas Parade, support the Women of Excellence campaign and host a roundtable discussion at our April General Membership Meeting.

THANK YOU TO OUR 2018-2019 COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS:

Ashley Barnett, Philanthropist & Junior League Active Member

Nancy Cattarius, Hall Communications

Matt Clark, Broadway Real Estate

Greta Dupuy, Publix Super Markets & United Way of Central Florida

Merissa Green, Polk County School Board

Daniel Haight, Lakeland Regional Health

Amy Laderer, Southern Homes & Junior League Sustaining Member

Chrisane Long, Maximize Digital Media

Dana Moore, Judge

Gina Saunders, Gaines Jewelers & Junior League Sustaining Member

Bill Schichtel, Heath Funeral Chapel

Steve Scruggs, Lakeland Economic Development Council

Our April General Membership Meeting was a wonderful evening of educating our members through roundtable discussions on the current state of affairs in three areas of interest to our League:

- Women's & Children's Wellness led by Daniel Haight | assisted by Nancy Cattarius
- School Readiness, led by Merissa Green
- Lakeland Economic Forecast, led by Steve Scruggs | assisted by Matt Clark, Bill Schichtel and Chrissanne Long





Ready to Read

According to the National Commission on Reading, the single most significant factor influencing a child's early educational success is an introduction to books and being read to at home prior to beginning school. Due to an abundance of literacy-focused programs for school-aged children, and with feedback from community stakeholders, Ready to Read revamped their program to focus on educating parents and caregivers on the value of early literacy and to provide a tool-kit for in-home literacy success of children birth to five years old in the Greater Lakeland community.

To support this new initiative, our League partnered with the Learning Resource Center on the development of a curriculum to be used by Junior League volunteers. Training on this newly formed curriculum occurred on November 10 with nearly a dozen Junior League members

The League hosted our first Ready to Read event on Tuesday, March 12 at the Salvation Army HALO Center with approximately 68 children and caregivers. During this interactive workshop, trained League volunteers conducted an educational training, craft time, a nutritious meal was provided, and each child was sent home with a bag of two books and associated activities. The two books provided for this workshop were 'Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?' and 'A Ball for Daisy.' One very special piece of this training is that 'A Ball for Daisy' is a book with no words but a fun storyline, thus allowing a child's imagination to be engaged regardless of the caregivers comfort in reading.

With the aim of taking this program into the community where children and their families are able to attend easily, the Board voted to approve a partnership with the Lakeland Public Library. Partnering with the Library allows the League to easily host events at any of their sites, leverage Library resources, and invites a Library representative to each Ready to Read event to provide long term access to free books by signing up for a library card.

The next Ready to Read event took place on April 25 at 6 p.m. at the Larry Jackson Library. The League is seeing tremendous success and interest in these events and looks forward to increasing the number of events in 2019-20.



Christmas Parade

The Junior League of Greater Lakeland and the City of Lakeland were proud to present the 38th annual Lakeland Christmas Parade on December 6. The theme was “A Storybook Christmas,” inspiring the imaginations of children and promoting the joy of reading. One of the Junior League’s longest standing events, the parade is a tradition our community looks forward to.

This year, we were able to pass out 5,000 books to children in the community before the parade. Every child who attended left with “The Biggest Christmas Tree Ever”. We were even able to give away several copies to local teachers to share with their classes.

Instead of the traditional high-profile community member serving as grand marshal, the League prompted an essay contest, asking 3rd through 5th grade students this question: If you were in charge of decorating a float for the Christmas parade, what storybook would you select to inspire your float, why that book and how would you decorate your float?

Laney Kirkpatrick, a 10-year-old student, submitted her response: “I would love to inspire my float with ‘The Ugly Duckling’ story because he is special and he gets made fun of a lot,” she wrote. “I have chosen this book because you can be beautiful just the way you are. It doesn’t matter what others think about you. Being different is hard but really good in other ways.”

Laney, who suffers from hair loss due to unknown reasons, never mentioned her condition in her essay to our judges, who picked her story because of the wonderful themes of being yourself. “We didn’t know she was writing about herself,” said Chelsea Mullings, the chair for the Christmas Parade. “There were a lot of great essays, and it came down to three (finalists).” But Laney’s stood out from the pack, she said. “We loved it.”



CHRISTMAS PARADE FLOAT WINNERS:

- Judges’ Choice Award: Grayson School of Dance
- Best Pro Float: Lakeland Public Library
- Most Outstanding Band: George Jenkins High School
- Most Original Float: Central Florida Athletics
- Best Youth/Educational Float: Churchwell Elementary
- Best Community Float: Medulla Baptist
- Best Business Float: Chick-Fil-A
- Best Themed Float: Strawberry Express Cloggers



SPAC

Our State Public Affairs Committee had a great year attending conferences and monitoring important statewide legislation. We stand prepared to advocate where needed for a safer and healthier community.

CRPD

The Community Research & Program Development (CRPD) committee partnered with the Community Council and Funding event committees to identify objectives and measurable goals for each event prior to it occurring. These metrics will support our desire to measure the meaningful impact we are making in our community and identify opportunities.

Reading Is Fundamental

Reading Is Fundamental (RIF) continues to provide opportunities for children to experience the life-changing impact of reading. Each year, the League distributes approximately 10,000 books to Title 1 Elementary Schools in our community. During Spring 2019, we distributed books to Jesse Keen, Crystal Lake, Griffin Elementary, Oscar J Pope, Philip O'Brien, Socrum Elementary, Medulla Elementary and Southwest Elementary. Thank you to all of the volunteers who participated in this year's RIF distributions.

In addition to distributing books through the school system, the League had the opportunity to distribute more than 6,000 books to our community. Highlands Grove Elementary received 300 books to support a goal to reach low income students and parents through engagement classes. The Clerk of Courts received 700 books and stuffed animals to comfort children during domestic violence cases at the courthouse. And, the Junior League distributed 5,000 books at this year's Christmas Parade.





World of Reading

The annual World of Reading Festival was held in Barnett Family Park Saturday, April 13. This free event was open to families and children of all ages.

“Where will reading Take You” was the continued theme and spotlight book tents were focused on the setting or topic of the books. The tents endeavored to make its featured story come alive. The books included: *A Pizza the Size of the Sun* by Jack Prelutsky; *Charlotte’s Web* by E.B. White; *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie* by Laura Numeroff; and *Where the Wild Things Are* by Maurice Sendak. Each tent also featured a craft for the children to create and take home with them. Once each child completed the tent activity and received a stamp on their passport, they were invited to select a book from the Spotlight Book Tent of their favorite book of the four tents and then also select an AR book from the Junior League book area to take home for free! Children’s musical guru, Jack Hartmann, performed at the event, along with face painting and balloon artists for even more family fun.



“

This event has the most profound effect on children. It’s one thing to read a book, but it’s another to meet a real author and learn what goes into writing a book! It plants a “can-do” seed in a child’s head.” said Mandy Middleton, the event chair. “We are so very proud to present this event to our community. Anything that promotes a love of reading is a step in the right direction!”

In addition to the activities and spotlight tent book giveaways, two featured authors autographed books and met guests at the event. Dr. John Becker, known for his books *Maggie the Talented Mouse* and *Mugambi’s Journey*, and Marisa Carbone Finotti, who wrote *The Treasure of Amelia Island* and *Paintbrushes and Arrows*, were featured. Children in attendance received a free copy of their books.



Children's Fest

The League had the privilege of presenting Explorations V's Children's Fest in April allowing our children's museum to be free to the public that day. Due to the League's support, this was the first opportunity for the museum to be free for the public. The museum reported that of their approximately 3,000 guests, 1 in 3 shared in a survey that had it not been for the gift from the League, they would not have been able to afford the \$9 admission to enter.



Woman of Excellence Campaign

This year we held the inaugural Women of Excellence Campaign to honor extraordinary and inspirational women for their contributions to our community. This initiative celebrates the achievements of women who are activists, trailblazers and role models with high ethical standards and a strong sense of community responsibility.

A WOMEN OF EXCELLENCE RECIPIENT IS A WOMAN WHO:

1. demonstrates high ethical standards personally
2. is a recognized role model
3. has a strong sense of community responsibility
4. and is outstanding in her contributions within her community



More than 100 handwritten notes were mailed to women recognizing the impact they make through their personal, professional, and community endeavours. In addition, the Junior League of Greater Lakeland supported a new community event facilitated by the Lakeland Chamber of Commerce, the ATHENA Awards, which formally celebrates the accomplishments of women in our community. The ATHENA Awards took place on Tuesday, August 20.

FUNDING UPDATE

The League has made a significant impact in our community through our philanthropic outreach. From our successful community projects to our signature fundraising events, we raised the funds necessary to positively impact our community. Thank you to the many organizations and community members who entrust us to be good stewards of your finances so that we can collectively make a positive impact in our community.

To our active and sustaining members, thank you for your ongoing support of our Annual Appeal. Each year, you give generously to the League and we thank you for that support.

\$99 AND UNDER

Jennifer Alexander
Katie Blondell
Stephanie Brown
Robin Butz
Patricia Fore
Sheila Lotterhos
Erica Lupercio
Marsha Marshall
Nicole Minott
Peggy Newsome
Raymond & Elizabeth Phillips
Antonette & Christopher Stone
PHR Services
Heather Pharris
Emily Plank
Marsha Vass
Joy Williams

\$100-\$199

Bena Bayless
Chanel Bellotto
Pat & Ralph Blalock
Kathleen Cashdollar
Lindsey Cope
Bonnie Edwards
The Elmhurst Family Fund
within the GiveWell Community
Foundation
Katherine Fitzwater
Mary A Hinson
Margaret Thumberg
Carolyn & Patrick Stoia
Imperial Florida Sales Company
Josephine L. Sawyer
Ashley Murphy
Mrs. Mason Mays

\$200-\$999

Antonette & Christopher Stone
Callie & Zach Miller
Lu Fitzwater

\$1000+

Anonymous
Amy & Ed Laderer

SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Sheila Lotterhos
In Honor of Kami Lawson:
*Lakeland Regional Health
Information Technology
Department
JLGL Provisional Committee*

Donors listed as of May 31, 2019. If you believe your name has been omitted in error, please contact the Treasurer at treasurer@jlgf.org.



Thrift Sale

During the 50th Anniversary year of the original Thrift Sale, the Junior League of Greater Lakeland was thrilled to bring the Thrift Sale back to our community.

The Thrift Sale was hosted in a 6,000 sq. ft. warehouse generously donated by The Ruthvens. A very special thank you to our presenting partner, AgAmerica Lending.

As with previous years, we were excited to offer our community an opportunity to purchase high-quality items, at a low cost, while raising critical funds that allow the League to further our mission. A very special thank you to all of our members who generously donated gently loved and new items, and for all who volunteered with pricing, organizing and supporting the day-of sales.



In its first year back in quite some time, the Thrift Sale raised more than \$28,000 and hosted more than 750 community shoppers.

Remaining items from the sale were shared with other non-profit partners including: A Night To Shine, One More Child/Florida Baptist Children's Homes, Combee Connection, Goodwill and Salvation Army.



ProAm Party, Kids Clinic, and Tournament

The ProAm Tennis Tournament celebrated its 40th year on March 2 and 3, 2019 at the Winter Haven Tennis Center. Sustaining members Kim Lafferty and Lauren Respass coordinated the tournament.

Joe Helm, with the Lakeland Ledger, wrote the below outstanding summary of the Tournament.

“ It may have been the 40th rendition of the Junior League of Greater Lakeland ProAm tennis tournament, which finished Sunday, but in many ways 2019 was a year of firsts.

This year marked the first time the event was contested at the spectacular, brand new Winter Haven City Tennis Center, away from the event’s usual home in Lakeland. It also boasted first-time champions in both the men’s and the women’s draws.

On the men’s side, flight one winners Jason Hood and Kevin Estroff took on flight two winners David Veliz and Jim Maskas in the first semifinal. While Hood and Estroff got off to a good start, going up early in the match 4-3, Veliz and Maskas ultimately prevailed 7-5, 6-4. In the other semifinal, Lakeland’s Steve Moseley and former University of Florida standout Trey Johnson dominated from the outset, completely overwhelming the fatigued team of Victor Albo and Jimbo Bryce 6-2, 6-2.

In the championship match, the first for all four ProAm finalists, it was Johnson and Moseley who struck first, taking an early 2-0 lead after holding serve and breaking Veliz’s serve. From there, Maskas and Veliz played error free, taking the first set 6-4. In the 2nd set, Veliz, a former standout at Southeastern University and current



teaching pro at the Beerman Tennis Center, took control of the net while Maskas returned well. The duo played as though they’d won multiple titles together, but their Sunday 6-4, 6-2 victory marked their first.

“Playing with David Veliz is a pure joy,” said Maskas. “Both his ability as a player and his calm, polite demeanor made it more relaxing. It was a lot of fun finally winning the event. As usual, the Junior League did a great job of organizing and running the tournament. The Winter Haven facility is a first rate complex from both a player and spectator standpoint. Thanks to head pro Dave Saltman and Kim Lafferty for keeping the matches running so smoothly.”

On the women’s side, in the first semifinal, Adelaide Wood and Elisa Buffington beat Jennifer Galhaus and Ann Marie Rainer 6-2, 6-1. Jessica Succapira and Melissa Ellis were 6-1, 6-3 victors over Erin Bryce and Denise Saltman to earn the other finals berth.

In the final, Brandon’s Succapira and Lakeland’s Ellis proved to be too strong, winning easily by 6-3, 6-1 scores. It was the first ProAm victory for both players.”

| BY JOE HELMS, THE LEDGER



The ProAm Tennis Tournament Player and Sponsor Party was held on Friday, March 1 at the Junior League of Greater Lakeland Sorosis Building. The committee collected 107 silent auction packages and 9 live auction packages, which raised nearly \$35,000 for the League’s mission. The live auction included several vacations, fishing charters, a day with Sheriff Grady Judd, a Goldendoodle puppy who was on-site to play with guests during the event and the most coveted item of all, braces from Dr. Greg Scott Orthodontics.

Everyone raved about the quality of the food catered by Nineteen61 and drinks provided by Tucker’s Southside. The event was enhanced with a gateway of wine won by Corey Miller, a cigar and bourbon-tasting display providing by Cigar Life, and music provided by Rane Made.

In addition to this already fun-filled weekend, the League introduced an inaugural free community kid’s tennis clinic. Registration was open with 100 spots for sign-ups, and we completely filled the slots within 24 hours! The kid’s tennis clinic was held at the Beerman Family Tennis Center in Lakeland. Each participant was gifted with a tennis racket, bag, t-shirt, and ball so that they could continue playing after the event. Further, storytime in the park was held at the adjacent Commonground Playground where volunteers shared snacks and read Dr. Seuss’ book, “Oh, the Things You can Do that are Good for you!” Each child at Storytime was also gifted a copy of Seuss’ book.



Light Up Lakeland

On December 9, the Sunday after the Christmas Parade, the community lined the curbs in front of their homes with beautiful luminaries for our very-first Light Up Lakeland for Literacy event in partnership with The Lunz Group! At 6pm, the City of Lakeland residents set out the luminaries to “shine a light,” and bringing awareness to the League as well as the literacy needs within our community. More than \$13,000 was raised to benefit the League’s initiatives in women’s and children’s wellness, and specifically, literacy development for birth through school-aged children. Kits were sold for \$15 for 20 or \$30 for 30 luminaries, which include sand, candles, bags and instructions. Orders were delivered to homes the week prior.

LIGHT UP LAKELAND 2019

The event date is set for Sunday, December 8 with luminary lighting at 6:00 p.m.

SPOTLIGHT ON STYLE



Spotlight on Style Fashion Show

The Roaring 20's was the theme and the Spotlight on Style Fashion Show was a spectacular evening. Guests were greeted through the courtyard of the Junior League of Greater Lakeland Sorosis Building as they checked in, perused the community vendors, mingled with friends, stopped to get their picture taken at the step-and-repeat, and were welcomed to the VIP Party hosted by The Mortgage Firm South. A very special 'thank you' to Nick and Ashley Barnett for partnering with the League to present this year's Spotlight on Style.

Fresco's Bakery and Bistro delighted our senses with a delicious cuisine and Cravory Cakes & Confections treated guests to the most wonderful macarons. Revival poured delicious signature cocktails all evening and DJ Cory Barron ensured the event was full of entertainment.

VIP Guests were treated to a beautiful black stone bracelet from Bourbon & Bowties.

Each model look was carefully planned and beautifully delivered by notable members from our own community. Models included League actives, sustaining members and past presidents, community leaders and philanthropists, and business owners.



Returning the event to the Junior League Sorosis Building allowed our venue to be shown off in perfect theme with the 1920's attire adorned by guests and highlighted by the models.



FUNDING

Presenting
Partner

hley
T

Spotlight on Style required a large volunteer crew and an extremely detailed backstage operation. As models were dressed and ready for lineup, they were taken to receive accessories by Gaines Jewelers, Stationery Loft, Haley Michelle Boutique, and Hattie's Branches who provided jewelry. They were then placed in lineup, walked in the show and back to their tent to dress in their next looks.



**THANK YOU TO OUR EVENT PARTNERS, AND
THE LEAGUE VOLUNTEERS WHO HELPED THE
DAY OF THE EVENT!**



Clothing and Accessories

- 8.28 Boutique
- Hattie's Branches
- 5th and Hall
- BELK
- Haley Michelle Boutique
- Etcetera
- Nathan's Menswear
- Gaines Jewelers

Notable Vendors

- Bella Visage
- DJ Cory Barron
- A Chair Affair
- Premier Party Rentals
- Luis & Co.
- Frescos Bakery & Bistro
- Revival
- Cravory Cakes & Confections

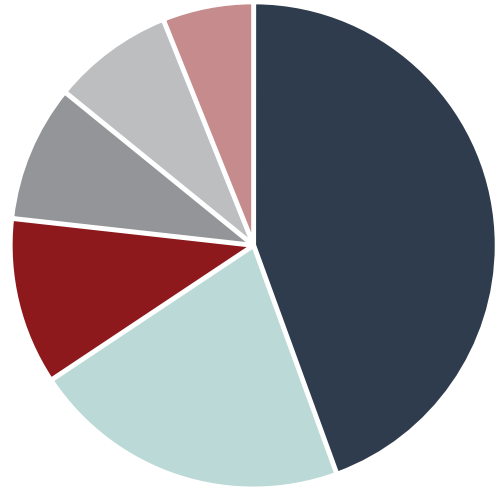
Hair and Makeup

- Salon Chateau

FINANCIALS

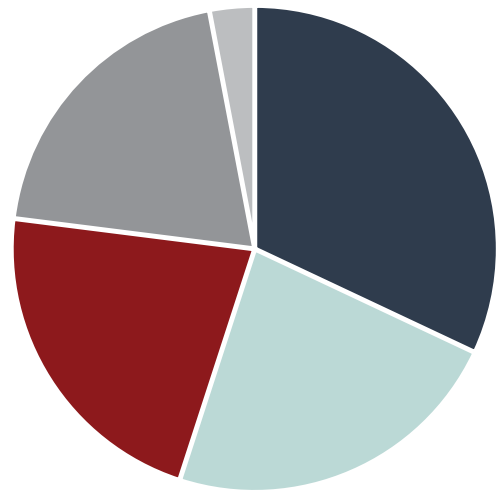
Total Expenses

- Meaningful Community Impact - 44%
- Building Operations & Major Repairs - 21%
- Fundraising & Event Expenses - 11%
- League Operations - 9%
- Leadership Development - 8%
- Employee - 6%



Total Revenue

- Fundraising - 32%
- Partnerships - 23%
- Building Rental - 22%
- Membership Dues & Fees - 20%
- Other - 3%



HONOR OUR LEGACY

What better way to ensure the long-term security and stability of the League for our membership and community than by giving to our annual fund. Simply put, your gift is your ability to Leave a Legacy that will allow the League to sustain our mission.

To learn more about the Annual Campaign and to make a gift, visit jlgl.org.
Questions? Contact funding@jlgl.org.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS



PUBLIX SUPER MARKETS
CHARITIES



MID-STATE
INDUSTRIAL MAINTENANCE



**NICK AND ASHLEY
BARNETT**



The Saunders Family



Hall Communications



American Vulkan Corporation
Bank of Central Florida
Bella Visage
Broadway Real Estate Services
Cover to Cover Girl's Book Club
Dentistry for Children: Dr. Bopp &
Dr. Tarver
DJ Cory Barron
Emily Plank Photography

Five-Star Family Growers
Florida's Natural Growers
Foundation
Frescos
Tiffany & Bill Kilpatrick
Kim & John Lafferty
Miller Law, P.A.
Callie & Zach Miller
Courtney & Ryan Larson with
Amerifirst (formerly, the Mortgage
Firm South)

Regal Automotive
Rooms To Go
Sale Insurance
Southern Glass Products
Strickland Construction
Sunshine Urgent Care
Payne Air Conditioning
Pete Gill Filmmaker

ANNUAL MEETING & SPRING BANQUET

The Junior League of Greater Lakeland held its annual Spring Banquet at the Lakeland Country Club on Tuesday, May 7, 2019.

More than 170 provisional, active and sustaining members were in attendance for the event celebrating the 86th year of the Junior League of Greater Lakeland's commitment to improving our community. President Callie Miller presided as she began her second term as President.

Funding Director Stacy Walsh announced that through the League's signature fundraising events and partnerships, the League raised over \$192,000 to positively impact our community.

Past President Sarah Dukes McKay announced the first recipient of the Sarah D. McKay Award established by the League in 2018 to honor her lifetime commitment to improving our community. The 2019 Sarah D. McKay Award recipient is Anne Furr.

After a year of leadership development and community service opportunities, 30 women graduated from Provisional to Active membership.

The 2019-2020 Board of Directors of the Junior League of Greater Lakeland was installed.



Over 170 members in attendance





Annual Award Winners

2018-2019 ANNUAL AWARD WINNERS

HEART OF THE LEAGUE was awarded to an active member with amazing passion for the Junior League. The recipient of this award was **Alyss Ruster**, who received this award for her dedication and countless hours given to ensure the Thrift Sale was a success. Alyss is hardworking and encourages other members to do more.

SPIRIT OF THE LEAGUE was awarded to an active member who is enthusiastic and full of pride for the League. The recipient of the award was **Katherine Fitzwater**, who received this award for her leadership on the Communications and Admissions-Provisional Committees as well as her ongoing support of all aspects of the League.

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR was 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. This year's recipient was **Sara Scoynes**. Sara gave countless hours to support the League Thrift Sale in addition to being a dedicated member of the Admissions-Provisional Committee and always willing to assist the League in any capacity. Sara is a hard working, passionate and kind volunteer.

BRIDGE TO THE COMMUNITY was awarded to an active member who is not only an amazing asset to our League, but is involved in numerous other organizations throughout our community. This year there were two recipients of this award **Angel Davis** and **Lauren Albaum**. Angel served as the 2018-2019 co-chair of the League's Ready to Read Committee helping the League create a multi-year partnership with the Lakeland Public Library. In addition to her League involvement, Angel serves as a Volunteers In Service to the Elderly (VISTE) volunteer and board member and is a member of the United Way Young Leaders Society Steering Committee. Lauren served as the 2018-2019 co-chair of the League's Community Outreach Committee and was instrumental in bringing back the Community Advisory Board. In addition to her League involvement, Lauren is a member of the United Way Young Leaders Society and EMERGE Lakeland and serves on the board of Explorations V Children's Museum.

SUSTAINER OF THE YEAR was awarded to a sustaining member who has given tremendous support to our League. The recipient of this award was **Laura Taft**, who received this award for stepping up in a major way to not only serve as Sustaining Advisor to the 2018 Thrift Sale Committee, but gave hundreds of hours of her time to help make the event a success. The League could not have done this event without her help, guidance and hard work.

PROVISIONAL OF THE YEAR was awarded to a new member who goes above and beyond the expectations set for this level of membership. The recipient of this award was **Genise Austin-Holliday**, who received this award for her genuine interest in getting to know the women in her Provisional class and her exceptional effort and assistance during volunteer projects, most notably during the Christmas Parade. Genise has a warm personality and always has a smile on her face.



Callie Miller began her second term as president



Sustainer Anne Barben Furr Honored With First Sarah D. MCKay Award

by Sheila Lotterhos, League Historian

When it comes to Past President Anne Barben Furr, words like dependable, professional, civic-minded and responsible immediately come to mind. But that's only part of the picture. This civic leader, architect's wife, mother of three, grandmother of five and community volunteer loves to laugh and appreciates creativity. So it's no surprise that Anne would not only co-chair our 100th Hurrah Follies but that she would introduce the holiday tradition of the Lakeland Christmas Parade to the community and assure its 38-year success by involving the Junior League and its volunteers.

"Anne is the only person I know who could talk me into dressing in a Miss Piggy costume to ride in a convertible as Grand Marshall for the first Lakeland Christmas Parade," said Sustainer Emeritus Bena Bayless who later served during Anne's League presidency as her sustaining advisor. "I guess the secret's finally out now about Miss Piggy. As to Anne's presidency, it was so easy working with her. We had a lot of fun, and she was very responsible and efficient — just a great League president."

According to Anne's siblings (whose anonymity we shall endeavor to protect), her ability to marshal the troops for a parade began with Anne packing her mom's Woodie (i.e., a vintage station wagon with faux wood paneling) full of teenaged friends and "pulling into the local A & W, everyone jumping out, running around the car, getting back in and driving away, all while giggling like kindergartners." Supervisory skills? Anne obviously believed in experience being the best teacher — "While babysitting the youngest two, she went back to bed, and they spent the morning 'watering' the living room with the garden hose." No doubt Anne's humility was honed when her baby brother "often tricycled in front of her high school friends, with him clad in nothing more than cowboy boots and a hat." So we clearly have Anne's siblings to thank for her early leadership training and her signature game face, sometimes crowned by a fleeting glimpse of incredulity.

After high school graduation, Anne decided to major in education, attended Queen's College for two years, and received both her undergraduate and graduate degrees from the University of Florida. Anne then taught in both the Marion and Polk County



school systems and tutored at the Learning Resource Center, an agency proudly founded by the League. Even after Anne became a Lakeland City Commissioner, she worked as a substitute teacher in local schools, keeping her finger on the pulse of our community's children, and for years, she was a facilitator of school/business partnerships for the Polk County School Board. All totaled Anne spent a dozen years on the Lakeland City Commission followed by an equally long stint as the executive director of the Lakeland Downtown Development Authority.

Anne's volunteer work includes service on the boards of Leadership Lakeland Alumni Association, Lakeland Kiwanis Club, Heart of Florida Girl Scout Council and Lakeland Area Chamber of Commerce as well as Volunteers in Service to the Elderly (VISTE) Advisory Board, Good Shepherd's Lakeland Hospice House Advisory Committee and as a director of Community Southern Bank. Anne also chaired Leadership Lakeland Class VIII, the Lakeland Regional Health Board of Trustees, the Central Florida Regional Planning Council and the Central Florida Speech and Hearing Center Board.

Anne served the League as Follies Co-Chair, Nominating Chair, RIF Chair ("Possibly my favorite placement as it dovetailed many of the things I love best," she stated), Treasurer and President. In 2014-2015, Anne held the position of sustaining advisor to President Ashley Link who had this to say about her friend and mentor, "I made an excellent decision, if I do say so myself, when I asked Anne to serve as my sustaining advisor when I was president. She is wise, compassionate, patient and discerning,



all qualities I admire and greatly appreciate. Not to mention, she is devoted to this community and to this League, both of which would not be where they are today without her influence and contributions. Anne makes everyone around her better because we all try to exude just a little bit of what she has. On a list of people who deserve this recognition, she is at the top.”

great work with the League and the Lakeland community, I know that the Polk County School Board must be especially proud of Anne for her work as a teacher, a substitute, a tutor and a facilitator of school/business partnerships. Anne is so deserving, and I am proud to have the opportunity to present this extraordinary woman with our League award for extraordinary service. Well done, Anne!”

Those of us who were seated near Anne can testify by the expression on her face that she wasn’t exaggerating when she stated, “To say I am shocked to receive this award is an understatement. I am floored, but I am also honored to receive an award named for Sarah Dukes McKay whom I consider not only an amazing community leader, but a favorite mentor and long-time friend. The fact that it comes from the Junior League, an organization I’ve loved and served for years, makes it all the sweeter. Thank you from the bottom of my heart. I’ll treasure this always.”

We all share JLGL President Callie Miller’s sentiments when she said, “The Sarah D. McKay award was established in May 2018 to recognize a long-standing League member who personifies philanthropy, leadership, empowerment and inclusiveness, and a commitment to improving our community. Anne Furr personifies those attributes, and it was an honor to recognize her this spring. We are thankful for Anne’s continued love of our community and our League. May we all strive to give as generously of ourselves.”

“Anne is so deserving, and I am proud to have the opportunity to present this extraordinary woman with our League award for extraordinary service.” - SARAH DUKES MCKAY

As busy in retirement as she was before, Anne is currently serving as secretary of the GiveWell Community Foundation Board, vice chair of the Good Shepherd Hospice Board and on the exciting new Bonnett Springs Park Steering Committee. Bearing in mind her remarkable resume of community service, there is little wonder that Anne received the 2007 Woman of Distinction Award, the 2005 Jere Annis Leadership Award, and the 2002 Partnership Award. Hence it is with great pride that the Junior League awarded Anne our first Sarah D. McKay Award.

Past President Sarah Dukes McKay, one of AJLI’s Notable Members and a Great Floridian, presented this inaugural award to Anne at the Spring Banquet and said, “I have known Anne Furr as a friend for many years, and in addition to her



MEMBERSHIP

PROVISIONALS

30

ACTIVES

127

SUSTAINERS AND
SUSTAINER EMERITUS

356

TOTAL

513



2018-2019 BOARD of DIRECTORS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President

Callie Miller

Sustaining VP

Tiffany Osler

Finance VP

Erin Montgomery

Membership VP

Jessica Brown

Community Council VP

Paulette Brown

Secretary

Carley James

Parliamentarian

Jillian Traurig

OFFICE MANAGER

Missy deZayas

(863) 682-2112

rentals@jlgf.org

BOARD MEMBERS

Courtney Larson
Corresponding Secretary

Katherine Fitzwater
Communications VP

Heather Jones
Treasurer

Stacy Walsh
Funding Director

Rachel Cashdollar
Assistant Funding VP

Emily Paladino
Assistant Community VP

Alyss Ruster
Asst. Membership VP

Alexa Russo
Assist. Communications VP

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Community

Kara Simm &
Lauren Albaum,
Community Outreach

Angel David &
Stephanie Brown,
Ready to Read

Mandy Middleton
World of Reading

Victoria Martin
Reading is Fundamental

Chelsea Mullings
Christmas Parade

Amanda Lamont
CRPD

Courtenay Fulmer &
Mallory Putnam,
SPAC

Membership

Lauren Nettles &
Karlle Holliday,
Education & Training

Libby Prestipino
Placement

Lauren Huffman
Provisional

Barbara Cadiz
Arrangements

Katie Blondell
Special Events

Courtney Larson
Sustainer Liaison

Funding

Alyss Ruster
Thrift Sale

Veronica Jackson
Woman of the Year

Lauren Respass &
Kim Lafferty,
ProAm Tennis Tournament

Traci Allen &
Linda Dowers,
ProAm Party & Kid's Clinic

Jenn Melton &
Rebecca Paul,
Fashion Show

Maggie Ross,
Light Up Lakeland

PROVISIONAL YEAR IN REVIEW

The 2018-2019 provisional course was a great success for the Junior League of Greater Lakeland! On May 7, 2019 we welcomed 30 new active members at the annual Spring Banquet at the Lakeland Country Club. These women have a passion for volunteering, leadership development, and improving the Lakeland community.



Sustaining Member Tiffany Kilpatrick graciously hosted approximately 75 women in her home to kick off the provisional course with the New Member Welcome Party on August 16, 2018. On August 19, a new member retreat was held at the Junior League Sorosis Building that marked the official start of the year. Membership VP Jessica Brown and Provisional Chair Lauren Huffman reviewed new member requirements and gave an overview of the League. New members were introduced to the Board of Directors and Provisional Committee, got to know each other through fun icebreakers and learned some history of the League from a panel that included Sustaining Members Alice O'Riley, Stephanie Madden and Kami Lawson. The half-day retreat continues to prove to be a fundamental part of a great provisional course.

In keeping with tradition, the Provisional Class supported the Christmas Parade committee by serving as day-of volunteers for the annual Lakeland Christmas Parade. This event is always a lot of fun for our new members and gets everyone in the holiday spirit.

Provisional meetings were held on the second Tuesday of each month providing an opportunity for our new members to learn about the Junior League of Greater Lakeland history, organizational structure, fundraisers, projects and community impact. Organizations and businesses throughout Lakeland welcomed the League into their spaces to host meetings. Locations included: the Polk Theatre, Catapult, Explorations V Children's Museum and Hall Communications. By holding meetings at various locations, new members are able to see first hand the impact the League continues to have on our community and learn more about the businesses that support the League.

Our sustaining members continue to play a critical role in the new member course. Each month a group of sustaining members provide food and beverages for the new members and offer an opportunity for fellowship before each meeting. The Provisional Committee thanks everyone involved in making the 2018-2019 new member course a success!

To help with the 2019-2020 Provisional Course, please contact Allison Becton and Tracy DiCesare at provisionals@jlggl.org.



Provisionals at the Spring Banquet



New member welcome party



Provisional committee

NEW SUSTAINERS

Kelly Altman	Emily Plank
Paulette Brown	Katherine Schichtel Rogers
Erin Dewitt	Jennie Scully
Amanda Hermann	Lanette Strong
Amanda Middleton	Julie Walding
Erin Montgomery	

NEW ACTIVES

Caroline Albertson	Jahlinda Jones
Genise Austin-Holliday	Jessica Klecki
Nicole Bradham	Meredith Marshall
Ashley Bunn	Caroline Masters
Chimere Butler	Shannon May
Rebecca Christian	Jaquis Mccollough
Melaina Chromy	Meredith Mcgoff
Jayde Coleman	Kira Perkins
Jamie Cooler	Mckenzie Richardson
Bailey Ferguson	Kelsey Samson
Vicki Finn	Kaitlin Stimmel
Rachel Fredrick	Nicole Summers
Jennifer Freeman-Walker	Macy Thurn
Toni Frustaglio	Sara Tooman
Virginia Graves	Carolyn Woodger

TRANSFER MEMBERS

Allison Conn Junior League of Orlando	Katherine Sultenfuss Schichtel Junior League of Tampa
Jean Read Junior League of St. Petersburg	Kate Wallace Junior League of Tallahassee

SPECIAL EVENTS



LEAGUE LATTES AT HILLCREST COFFEE



PROAM PARTY



COOKIE EXCHANGE



ODI CONFERENCE



PROSPECTIVE MEMBER DROP IN



SPRING SUSTAINER PARTY

REMEMBERING SUSTAINER KAMI ANN LAWSON

AND THE SPIRIT OF VOLUNTARISM

Members of the League were saddened to hear of the sudden death of Sustainer Kami Ann Lawson (49) on April 17, 2019.

Though Kami had only transferred into the Lakeland League a few years ago, she jumped in with both feet, quickly becoming a very active and much appreciated volunteer. Kami grew up in Pinellas County and graduated from Clearwater Central Catholic High School and Florida State University. Friends that knew her said she was a huge Seminole fan, and as pictures from her early years indicate, this love for sports was ingrained in Kami as was a cheerleader's enthusiasm which she brought to everything from her profession as an IT specialist in the medical field to her volunteer work.

Kami was very active in Kiwanis and served on the board of the PACE Center for Girls (Polk) as well as being in the Junior League which she served loyally in communities from South Carolina to Florida. While in the Jacksonville League, Kami enjoyed working on Whale of A Sale, an interest which easily transferred to her helping on Thrift Sale here. Additionally, Kami volunteered to serve as Special Events Sustaining Advisor and was serving as Provisional Sustaining Advisor when she died.

Kami became good friends with Past President Pat Blalock after the two met and sat together at Junior League Book Club. They soon enjoyed spending time together at dinner and at regular intervals. Pat was quick to point out that Kami was always there to lend a helping hand both figuratively and literally, particularly after Pat had surgery and was recuperating. "She was just a good, good person and a sweet friend," Pat shared. That same sentiment was felt throughout the League from Provisionals, Actives, and Sustainers alike. Sustainer Lu Fitzwater said, "Kami gave 100 percent to the League," pointing out that Kami made an effort to attend all League events from World of Reading to our fundraisers to Book Club to Spring Banquet to Sustainer, Provisional, and membership meetings. Book Club Chairman Gloria Lunz echoed the sentiment of other members in saying, "My heart is so saddened. I will miss her."

Losing their sustaining advisor is a particularly hard blow for the Provisional Class and Provisional Committee, as Kami



had gotten to know them so well, serving as an inspiration to these burgeoning members and the committee for whom she gave her all. Provisional Chairman Lauren Huffman had this to say, "Kami was such an integral part of the Provisional Committee and truly had a heart to serve our community. She made an impact wherever she went. As the sustaining advisor, she helped our committee thrive by teaching us values laid down from Sustainers before us and ensuring we had the tools necessary to help our Provisionals blossom into the strong Actives they are becoming today. Kami attended and showed her support for virtually everything the League did, and she was quick to lend a helping hand wherever needed. Everyone on our committee and the Provisionals will miss her so much. I'd like to think that Kami is smiling right now, knowing how much of an impact she truly made on our entire membership."

President Callie Miller agreed with these sentiments and had this to say, "I don't think of Kami without smiling. Her joy for life shone through everything she did—that contagious sense of humor, the laugh that insisted you laugh along with her, and the boundless energy that had everyone around her working a little harder, reaching a little higher, and believing a little more. For sure, we are each better for having known her. But maybe her greatest gift to us was her intuitive ability to see, understand—and honestly care—about what was really important to every soul she met. Imagine being the first person in every group to reach out to a stranger, the member who never misses a call to action, and the person who sparkles so sincerely that however you feel inside, every room gets a little brighter when you enter. That was Kami. I join all of you in thanking God for sharing with us this remarkable woman we are proud to have called a friend, and pray we will use the lessons we learned from her to continue working to make our world a little better, stronger, and more Kami-like."

In closing, we would like to extend our deepest sympathy to Kami's family. While she was predeceased by her mother in 2014, Kami is survived by her father Ronald Lawson, her sister Kristi Lawson Welton (Scott), and her niece and nephew Ty and Lexi Welton. Please know we share in your grief and appreciate all that Kami contributed not only to our League, but to our community and beyond. She made a difference in many lives.

i n M E M O R I A M



REMEMBERING CICELY ANNE 'CIS' LAWS ANDERSON

It is with sadness that we announce the death of North Carolina native and Sustainer Emeritus Cicely Anne 'Cis' Laws Anderson who died Friday, August 3, 2018, in Tampa. Cis was 94. A graduate of Duke University's nursing program, Cis met Clarence, her future husband, in the operating room when he was a medical student. After marriage and service in the army, the young couple moved to Lakeland where Dr. Anderson practiced medicine for many years with Cis assisting him in his last year of practice. In addition to being a mother of four and a grandmother, Cis was active in the League, antique club, garden club, bridge club, PTA, PEO and First Presbyterian Church. Seeing the need for a kindergarten at Lime Street, she spearheaded the successful effort to establish one. As a pillar of devotion to friends and family, Cis played bridge with the same bridge group for 50 years until she moved to a retirement home in Tampa, and she devotedly cared for both of her parents as well as her husband until his death with Alzheimer's. Cis' love for reading dovetailed well with the League's focus on literacy, and for many years, she devotedly attended League functions. So it is with deepest sympathy that we extend our condolences to her sister Martha Laws Boyer, daughter Beth Witherspoon (Ross), daughter Anne McKnight (Richard), son Bobby (Cindy), Lonnie, and her grandchildren and great grandchildren. Thank you for sharing this lovely lady with us who was truly one of "The Greatest Generation".

REMEMBERING ANN EDWARDS CARTER

The League is sad to say goodbye to another Sustainer Emeritus, Ann Edwards Carter, who died at her Lakeland home on August 15, one week after a gathering for her 92nd birthday. A Florida native and a member of a pioneer citrus family, Ann was born in Tampa, grew up in Dade City, and studied music at Rollins College as well as with a leading Metropolitan Opera mezzo soprano. Moving to Lakeland in the 1950's with her husband Leonard, Ann's beautiful voice could be heard in the All Saints choir for many years, and her love for classical music and travel took her often in her youth to New York and abroad. In addition to being a member of the Junior League, Ann was an avid gardener, specifically a cultivator of bromeliads, and a member of the Lakeland Garden Club. Ann further loved bridge and exercise, with her daughter attributing Ann's long life to healthy eating habits and daily walks around Lake Hollingsworth. Ann is survived by her daughter Katharine Tipton Carter of Kinderhook, New York, her devoted daughter-in-law Joyce Carter of Wesley Chapel, her grandchildren, and of special mention her first cousin and oldest and dearest living friend, Betty Allen of Orlando. Ann was predeceased by her husband Leonard and her two sons, Leonard Carlisle Carter III, and LaMarcus Edwards Carter. To Ann's family, we extend not only our condolences but our fondest thanks for sharing this precious lady with us for so many years.

REMEMBERING SUSTAINER PATRICIA "TRISH" JOHNSON DEAL

On July 12, 2019, members of the League were saddened to hear news of the unexpected death of our friend Trish Deal (75). A native of Pensacola who represented her hometown as Queen of the Fiesta of Five Flags, Trish graduated from the University of Florida with undergraduate and graduate degrees in education. While at the University, she was an ATO Little Sister and a member of Chi Omega Sorority. After moving to Lakeland, Trish was active professionally and as a volunteer until her death. Her professional life included being the media specialist at Lime Street Elementary, St. Joseph Academy (where she helped establish

the media center), and Santa Fe High School. Trish also worked as a school substitute teacher at various public and private schools in the county, quickly becoming a popular figure on each campus. As one of the first "working actives" in our League, Trish's favorite placement was RIF, and she continued to volunteer over the years, graciously opening her home for Charity Ball parties and League meetings, serving as a sustaining advisor, and even line-dancing in Follies. Additionally, Trish was a member of various professional organizations, a past president of the Lawyers Wives Association of the Tenth Judicial Circuit, a past president of Lakeland Assemblies Cotillion Club, a past president of the Polk County Media Association, a board member of the Friends of the Polk Museum of Art, a past president of the Chi Omega alumnae chapter, a member of Lakeland Panhellenic, and a member of St. Joseph Catholic Church. A memorial at Santa Fe is being established in Trish's honor to help students there. Preceded in death by her parents Mary and Dave Johnson and her brother David, Trish is survived by her beloved daughter Mary Anne Olinsky (Mitch), her sister Cathy Thompson (the Hon. Judge Jim Thompson), her nephew the Hon Judge Nick Thompson (Chen ), great nephew Nicholas Thompson and other family members. We want her family to know how grateful we are for Trish's service to the League as well as for the warm friendship we shared.

REMEMBERING JOAN TRAWICK GRANT

We'd like to take this opportunity to remember yet another of our very own Golden Girls, Sustainer Emeritus Joan Trawick Grant, who died at home in Lakeland on July 3, 2018, at the age of 87. Born in Mobile, Alabama, Joan attended Wesleyan in Macon, Georgia, before starting her family and eventually settling here in Lakeland. In addition to her volunteer work with the Junior League, Joan was a member of the Lakeland Garden Club, the Antique Collectors Club, and First Presbyterian Church. Joan, who was a cooking enthusiast, was also a top realtor for many years and graciously supported League Lines with her ads. Joan is survived by her husband Peter L. Grant, her daughter Kimberly Nesmith (Robert Fullington), her son Thomas Keith Richardson, her daughter Ansley Richardson Apple (Michael), stepdaughter Barbara Grant Antonius (Scott): stepson Richard Scott Grant (Melissa), brother Lawrence "Larry" Trawick, and 14 grandchildren (nine grands and five great grands). We extend both our deepest sympathy and heartfelt gratitude to Joan's family for sharing this dear lady, their beloved "Fluffy", with us throughout the years.

REMEMBERING JUANITA FEEMSTER BLACK

"How will we know it's us without our past?" This quote from Steinbeck could well have been attributed to our friend and Sustainer Emeritus Juanita Feemster Black (89). A South Carolina native who worked for the Tulane archives after graduating from Huntington College, Juanita

knew the value of historic preservation in helping define a community's identity, and as a visionary, she was in the forefront of preserving some of Lakeland's most important structures for future generations. From the promenade around Lake Mirror to the old Coca-Cola plant that is now the Fire Department Headquarters to the former Lakeland High School now Lawton Chiles Middle Academy and so much more, Juanita's fingerprints are a major part of a now thriving Downtown. Juanita helped promote the city's architectural heritage in a number of ways including lobbying and raising awareness through events like the sale of Lakeland Christmas ornaments and countless tours of the city's older homes and buildings. As a consequence, Juanita was the winner of prestigious awards from both the state and the city for her individual impact in historic preservation. Juanita was an integral part of Lakeland's volunteer sector having been president of numerous organizations including Historic Lakeland, the Junior Women's Club, and Cleveland Court PTA while being involved on the boards of VISTE, Lakeland Little Theatre, the Colonial Dames, and the Hospital Foundation. As a League member, Juanita was an invaluable part of the team that helped found the children's museum, the forerunner of the Polk Museum of Art. Always quick with a smile and encouragement, Juanita influenced countless young League leaders when she served as Sustaining Advisor to Past President Sandy Allen. Of paramount importance to Juanita, though, was her family and the Lord. To that end, Juanita served faithfully at First Presbyterian Church where she was a Sunday school teacher, Circle leader, Bible Moderator, Elder, Clerk of the Session and Chairman of the Pastor Nominating Committee. She was elected an Honorary Life Member of the Women of the Church in 1983 and was also active in the Presbytery of Tampa Bay serving on the New Church Development Committee as well as the Presbytery Committee on Ministry. Preceded in death by her beloved husband Jim, Juanita is survived by her pride and joy: daughters JLGL Past President Doris Lyons (Tom) and JL of Tampa Past President Becky Charles (Ray), sons Gerry (Cheryl) and Jim (Vikkii), ten grandchildren including our JLGL Sustainer Stacey Lyons Cline (Kyle), and fourteen great grandchildren. To all of these family members, we extend our thanks, our love, and our deepest sympathy on Juanita's death this past October 23, 2019.

REMEMBERING PAULINE MANN BRENNAN

On October 17, 2019, the League lost our good friend and Sustainer Emeritus Pauline Mann Brennan (85). A native Floridian and graduate of Lakeland High School with a quick wit and even quicker mind, Pauline was a Foreign Language graduate of Wesleyan and at one time spoke or read seven different languages! After college, Pauline worked in DC for the National Security Agency (NSA) and soon began her marriage and family of three children. Upon returning to Lakeland, Pauline enjoyed her years teaching school at Lake Morton Elementary, Dixieland Elementary, and Lakeland High School. Additionally her professional career included work as a paralegal and co-ownership of Balloons Over Lakeland. As a League volunteer, Pauline particularly enjoyed Children's Theatre, Bargain Box, and Thrift Sale while serving as a source of inspiration and humor to all of her daughter Annie Laurie's friends as League members. Needlework Guild, Garden Club, Learning Resource Center, PEO and Nostalgia Antique Club (the latter of which she served as president) also profited from Pauline's involvement. Genealogy became a passion for Pauline who served as DAR Regent, Colonial Dames President, and a member of the Dames of the Magna Carta. Pauline was a lifelong Methodist and was buried from First Methodist Church in Lakeland with memorials going to the Florida United Methodist Children's Home. On behalf of the League, we'd like to extend our deepest sympathy and gratitude to her family for sharing Pauline with us. This includes her sister Ellen Walker Sutton (Brad), sister-in-law Sandra G. Walker, daughter and fellow JLGL Sustainer Annie-Laurie Brennan Wynn (Bill), son Weldon Earl Brennan 'Web', daughter Katherine Brennan Riner 'Katie' (Jeff), and her grandchildren and great grandchildren of whom she was so very proud. We will all remember Pauline fondly.

REMEMBERING BETSYE KAY FINCH

It is with sadness that we say goodbye to a community performing arts icon and our Sustainer Emeritus Betsye Kay Finch (92) who died March 3, 2019, after having been a League member for seven decades! Her name was synonymous with the dance world both in Lakeland and beyond. As a youngster, Betsye moved from her native Florida to New York City where she studied tap with Bill 'Bojangles' Robinson (tap instructor and dance partner for Shirley Temple) and where she danced as a Radio City Music Hall Rockette. Betsye worked in the theater industry where she was a member of Actor's Equity, AGVA, and SAG-AFTRA and was employed at NBC in New York City, as the personal assistant to Frances Horwich ('Miss Frances' of the Ding Dong School). During WWII, Betsye was a member of the Civil Air Patrol. A graduate of FSC who studied for a masters at John's Hopkins, Betsye eventually opened her own dance school in Lakeland where she taught various generations of Lakelanders, including many of our League members. The PMA and Children's Theatre were the focus of her League work, while she was also a member of the DAR, enjoyed local and regional theatre, helped with the restoration of the Polk Theatre, and hosted an evening musical radio program on WONN. Betsye was a long time member of All Saints Episcopal Church. Left to cherish Betsye's memory are her brother Ed Kay and his wife Charlotte, her daughter Alexis Rocker, her son Al Finch and his wife JLGL Sustainer Melissa, and her grandchildren Gavin and Alex Finch to whom we extend our deepest sympathy and love. Please know we are thinking of you in your loss.

REMEMBERING JEAN GREILING MUTZ

On May, 22, 2019, Sustainer Emeritus Jean Greiling Mutz (91) rejoined Oz, her husband of 70 years, who had died only five short weeks before her. An Indiana native, member of Chi Omega Sorority, and a piano and education major at Indiana University, Jean was a serious piano student, practicing eight hours a day, and later a concert pianist who taught both her children to play. After meeting her husband and the love of her life in college, they married, and Jean became a devoted wife, mother and grandmother as well as a community volunteer in Indiana.

After teaching for several years before the birth of her children, Jean became what the family refers to as "an intentional mother" and was Indianapolis' original Stay-In-School Chairman, working to minimize high school dropouts. Jean was also a PTA president along with being the president of the Service League, the Indiana Symphony Society, serving on the State Board of the Republican Women's Club, the Indianapolis Symphony Group Board, the University President's Council of the Indiana Art Museum and Alliance, as well as volunteering for many other causes.

In addition to her family and community, the real crux of Jean's life was her faith in Christ. For many years, both in Indiana and Florida, Jean was involved in Christian pursuits such as a decades long involvement with Bible Study Fellowship (BSF), starting the very first one in the state of Indiana which coincidentally was the second BSF in the United States. In the late 1970's, Jean and her husband Oz first began wintering in Naples where they eventually relocated, and later they decided to join their daughter and son and their families in Lakeland. Jean was quick to make friends and conducted a Bible Study in her home. The couple also joined First Presbyterian Church and were devoted supporters of prison ministry, remembering the Bible's charge not to forget those in prison.

Left to cherish her memory are her daughter Sustainer Marcy Mutz-Wickenkamp (David), her son Lakeland Mayor Bill Mutz (Pam), 15 grandchildren, 29 great grandchildren, and one great great grandchild. To her beloved family, we offer our deepest sympathy on their loss of both Jean and Oz, especially so close together. Please know you are in our thoughts and prayers.



JUNIOR LEAGUE OF
**GREATER
LAKELAND**

**PO BOX 8797
LAKELAND, FL
33806**

863.682.2112 | JLGL.ORG |  



To rent the historic Junior League of Greater Lakeland's Sorosis Building for your next event, visit JuniorLeagueSorosisBuilding.com or email us at rentals@jlg.org.

*Mark Your
Calendar!*

February 14, 2020
BLACK DIAMOND BALL

March 6-8, 2020
**PRO-AM TENNIS TOURNAMENT
AND SPONSOR VIP PARTY**

April 18, 2020
WORLD OF READING

May 5, 2020
**ANNUAL MEETING
AND SPRING BANQUET**