End of Year Celebration!

Inside...General Membership Meeting
Awards, Grants, Photos & More
What a year! Our 85th year of service in the River Region is complete. We have learned about past community projects that the JLM accomplished and about current community projects we served this year. We’re also looking to the future of the JLM, excitedly anticipating our new community projects, some of which we’ve already started! Many leaders have been developed this year, from our newest provisional members to those who will be serving on the Board of Directors next year. We’ve recognized our Sustainer of the Year, Dianne Teague, who continues to utilize the fundraising skills she learned in the JLM as she continues serving our community.

I hope you enjoy reading this issue as much as I enjoyed overseeing it! I am thankful for the opportunity the JLM provided me to experience magazine editing. I’ve dreamed about serving on the managing staff of a magazine. I am grateful for the dedicated participation of our League Logs staff. Their timely article submissions were entertaining to read. In addition to those staff members, there have been many others who submitted articles to the magazine. Thank you for your articles. I am thankful also for our graphic designer, who suggested and implemented a graphic redesign this year. Our new advertising manager has increased ad sales, and our printer has continued to faithfully produce a beautiful product. So many people help make this publication what it is! Thank you all for your encouragement and support!

As we move to the next season of Junior League service, let us remember our past and seek to continue serving our community with enthusiasm and faithfulness. We will continue to have many opportunities to “Live. Learn. Lead.” as we serve in new community projects and participate in old and new JLM fundraisers.

Jenny Thiessen
League Logs Editor

Mission Statement
The Junior League of Montgomery, 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. Its purpose is exclusively educational and charitable.

The opinions expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect those of The Junior League of Montgomery, Inc.

Do what you can, with what you have, where you are.
Theodore Roosevelt

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League Logs Editor
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The enduring legacy of Junior League founder, Mary Harriman. Mary was born to great wealth as the daughter of a 19th century railroad magnate. Living in New York, she was emotionally moved by the appalling living conditions of many immigrants in her community. Rather than look away, Mary acted. She realized her efforts, when combined with the talents and resources of other women, could make a bigger impact than anything she might do alone. So at 19, the daughter of one of the nation’s wealthiest men formed the first Junior League.

And she didn’t just write a check. Mary mobilized a group of 80 women to actively work to improve child health, nutrition and literacy among some of the neediest in her community. Realizing a knowledgeable and skilled volunteer is more likely to make a lasting impact, Mary decided training should be central to the mission of The Junior League. Armed with newfound information and training, Junior League volunteers found themselves confident in their ability to develop solutions to problems in their communities.

The Junior League of Montgomery continues this heritage today. One hundred and eleven years after the framework of our mission was laid, over 700 women in the Montgomery area move it forward each year. In 1926, a handful of women in Montgomery were themselves “emotionally moved” by conditions they sought to improve, and took action. Their action—across our eighty-six years—has resulted in partnering with or creating over 200 programs in the River Region that have changed our community for the better. And you can help. Visit our website jlmontgomery.org for information about how to join us or how to support us through our dynamic fundraising events.

It has been my honor to serve as JLM President this year, and I am confident that passionate volunteers, our noble Mission, inspiring vision, and collective wisdom will sustain an organization which will continue to be creative, inclusive, flexible, and relevant. I look forward to the ways The Junior League of Montgomery will change our community in the years to come.

Marnie Smith Dillon
President
Junior League of Montgomery
This year in the magazine we’ve highlighted some famous Junior League members, some of our past presidents and other Sustainers. They’ve all had an impressive impact on their communities, helping to make life better in their own way.

In this issue, we are proud to recognize our Sustainer of the Year, Dianne Teague. Dianne is another incredible woman who has been helping to make life better for those around her. Dianne joined the Junior League of Montgomery in 1979, when Burke Chambers served as president. She fondly remembers her provisional year, full of fundraising and starting many community projects, like the children’s activity zone at Jubilee CityFest. Also that year, JLM members discussed the effects of the Equal Rights Amendment. Members researched, held forums both for and against, and then presented their findings both in the state of Alabama and nationally.

Dianne encourages all JLM members to take advantage of all the training the JLM offers. JLM training may come in bits and pieces, but if given the opportunity to attend, take advantage of each session offered. She encourages us all to participate in fundraising for our League, whether it is through the fund Development committee or through serving on the committee for one of our fundraising events. She believes that a personal touch contributes to any successful fundraising campaign.

This training in fundraising has served her well, as she worked this past year to raise funds for Alabama eHealth, an initiative of Montgomery Aids Outreach (MAO) telemedicine network. This network is the first of its kind in the United States. The project will be presented in Washington, D.C. this summer. The telemedicine network allows access to care for patients who live in rural areas and who are unable to go to doctors’ offices in the city.

Dianne also feels our Sustainers need to be more involved with new members. She recalled her provisional year, when new members were invited to attend a reception at a Sustainer’s home. She recalled that those Sustainers were such strong examples for her. She was inspired by these older members of the JLM who did quite a lot in the community during a time when it was novel for women to be involved.

Dianne continues to serve the River Region community through her membership on the Governor’s Mansion board, the Montgomery Christian School board and the Ruby Prevo Foundation. She also owns a small construction company, which she formed after a fire damaged her home, and she needed just the right someone to reconstruct the historic pieces of her home.

Family is her highest priority. Dianne was married to Barry Teague, who passed away suddenly in July 2006. They have two sons, both of whom are married with children. She loves spending time with Matt and Erin, Clay and Jayme, and of course, all the grandchildren: Olivia, Meagher, Miller, Butler and William. She is happy they will all soon live in Montgomery so she can enjoy even more time with them. One of Dianne’s favorite travel destinations is New England in the fall. She drives the back roads to observe the magnificently colored leaves. Mostly, though, Dianne is a homebody who loves to work on yard projects, spend time with her grandchildren, and read. She is a history buff, and she is currently reading Killing Lincoln by Bill O’Reilly and Martin Dugard.

What’s the best advice she would like to pass along? Recognize that every person has a story. Take time to get to know people as individuals and learn their story. Value every person.
Photography by the Robertsonsons

Contact David Robertsonson

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The Junior League of Montgomery 2012

League Logs
Rebalancing Your Assets
PUTS YOU IN CHARGE

By Ash Rajan
of Merrill Lynch Global Wealth Management

Volatile markets can take your portfolio on a roller-coaster ride. Regular rebalancing can help ease the bumps and reduce the risks.

For just a minute, think of your long-term financial strategy as a cross-country car trip. You know where you want to end up, and you have a pretty good idea of how long it should take to get there. At the same time, you know that here and there you’re going to run into heavy traffic, inclement weather, detours and other obstacles to a safe and timely arrival. And of course, you’re always looking for opportunities to reach your destination in the smartest, easiest way. As an intelligent traveler, you will probably consult a GPS device to look for better routes, check weather reports and traffic updates for potential problems, and maybe visit a local Web site to make sure there’s no roadwork along the way.

These easy steps can make your trip relatively smooth and surprise-free. Similarly, there are moves you can make as an investor that will help you to avoid a number of pitfalls and take advantage of opportunities. One of the most important is regular rebalancing—adjusting your mix of stocks, bonds, cash and, for qualified investors, alternative investments to those original targets so that your investments reflect the strategy you have decided best suits your goals, time horizon and risk tolerance.

The market volatility of the past couple of years shows pretty clearly why rebalancing your portfolio is a sensible idea. Between October 2007 and March 2009, the value of stocks (as measured by the S&P 500) declined 46.5%, and many investors cashed out. At the same time, bonds posted gains, as measured by the S&P 500 declined 46.5%, and many people increased their fixed-income holdings. As a result, the percentage of stocks in most portfolios shrunk markedly over this period, while bond and cash allocations grew in the majority of cases. When the markets reversed course in the ensuing months, investors who hadn’t rebalanced their holdings missed the chance to reap the gains.

When the markets alter the shape of your portfolio in this way, there’s less potential for the long-term growth that markets have historically provided and greater exposure to risk and lost opportunities. Reviewing your portfolio regularly ensures that you—not the markets—manage your assets.

Sell Overperformers. Seek Opportunities.

Start your portfolio review by examining which assets have overperformed and which have underperformed during a set period of time. Leverage your financial advisor’s firm’s research insights as you consider shifting funds out of asset classes that exceed your targets—and are thereby growing into a larger percentage of your holdings—and moving them into underrepresented asset classes. With the help of your financial advisor, you can define asset-allocation parameters that are appropriate to your goals, your risk profile and your liquidity needs, among other considerations.

How do you determine when you need to add to or subtract from a particular asset class? Most investors can tolerate a short-term fluctuation of 5% from their allocation model pretty well. Much more than that indicates a need for change—or at least to start a dialogue with your financial advisor.

Rebalancing can help achieve the twin goals of reducing the risk of overexposure and increasing diversification. The most straightforward strategy is to sell some of your best performers and use the proceeds to purchase undervalued assets—either by expanding positions in securities you already hold or by choosing different investments in the same asset class or sector. Alternatively, you may decide to devote the proceeds from your sales to asset classes that are underrepresented or absent in your portfolio to increase diversification.

Rebalancing can also be an opportunity to take advantage of investment options. As you consider which positions to sell and purchase, look at what’s happening in the marketplace. Talk to your financial advisor about different sectors, asset classes, geographical regions and market trends that are consistent with your strategy and risk tolerance.

How Often Is “Regularly”?

Active rebalancing is especially important following a prolonged period of market volatility. However, many financial professionals recommend revising your portfolio on a regular schedule regardless of market conditions. An annual review is usually adequate. It represents a happy medium between too often and not often enough. It also nicely matches other market assessments, such as year-to-date performance, and any life changes—such as marriage, divorce, education, retirement or inheritance—that may have occurred during the past year to alter your attitude toward risk.

In addition to the annual review, it’s a good idea to make adjustments if your allocation to a given asset class shifts by more than 10 percentage points. Even in unusual conditions, though, you should weigh the need for frequent full-scale overhauls carefully, since the transaction costs may offset the benefits.

Remember that investment products are not bank guaranteed, may lose value, and are not FDIC insured. Asset allocation, diversification, and rebalancing do not protect you fully against losses in a declining market, but establishing a rule of regular recalibration helps you respond to market movements with a well thought-out strategy. This process shouldn’t be viewed as merely an action but as a mind-set and as a partnership between you and your financial advisor. It’s a conscious step that will help you approach your portfolio in a disciplined way. And that’s valuable in any market.

Ash Rajan is U.S. Chief Investment Strategist, Investment Management & Guidance for Merrill Lynch Global Wealth Management.

For more information, contact Merrill Lynch Financial Advisor Marcy Ingram of the Montgomery office at 1-866-656-2449 or www.ml.com/marcy_ingram

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Grant Workshop

By Ashley White

On July 18, a community grants workshop will be offered at the League office. Jennifer Seymour, Community Research chair, and I, Community Council VP, planned, organized, and implemented this event for any 501(c)3 agencies wishing to submit a grant application to the Junior League for the 2012-2013 year.

Having served on the Community Research committee for several years, we saw a huge need for offering this meeting to inform agencies of JLM expectations. The Junior League is unique in that each financial award is accompanied by volunteers to help implement the projects funded. The purpose of the workshop is to inform non-profit agencies within the community about the opportunity to partner with the Junior League and also to instruct the potential JLM grant partners how to effectively write a grant for JLM funds. Specifically, we will discuss details about the monies requested and the importance of the volunteer component within the grant application. All non-profit agencies wishing to partner with the League are invited to participate.

The workshop agenda will include the following topics:
- Junior League Mission
- Junior League Structure
- Junior League Board
- League Resources
- Community Research Committee
- Grant Application
- Kinds of Placements/What is a Placement
- Community Research Timeline

Grant applications are due in August, and the Community Research committee starts meeting in early September. Community Research is an “In-League” placement, and this group of women divides all of the applications among themselves and researches each grant. Members contact each agency to do a site visit (when appropriate) and ask the agencies questions about the budget, volunteer component, and timeline. The committee then meets weekly until December discussing the pros and cons of each application and making sure the volunteer component is a good match for our League members. In December, the committee submits the agency names and amounts of funding recommended to the Board of Directors and then to the General Membership at the first of the year.

These placements must be “picked” by our members to receive funding, meaning our members have to sign up to participate in the placement. Unfortunately, in the past some agencies have not been funded for lack of interest by League members. Community agencies are given contracts and recognized at the May membership meeting and funds are distributed to the agencies in early June.
Back in March, Junior League of Montgomery members participated in a drive to collect items to pack a purse for Aid to Inmate Mothers. When I learned about Project Pack a Purse, I was certain that this was a project my employees could support. What a perfect fit for MhM Services, Inc. to participate in this outreach! MhM Correctional Services began a philanthropic outreach program just last year and reached out across the 15 states where services are provided having food drives, coat drives, and donating time to projects to assist the needy.

MhM provides mental health services to inmates across the country via contracts with Departments of Corrections. Not only was this a project staff could relate to but also a project that is close to their hearts. Many of the inmates who will benefit from this project are the same ones MhM provides services for while they are incarcerated. We know first-hand the difficulty some of the women face after being released from prison.

Beginning with the regional office staff and expanding the information to our sites around the state, we eventually gathered three large boxes of clothing, toiletries and other items that can be used by women moving back into the community setting. Our staff seemed to particularly select items that were colorful or soft or warm or gently scented – things which these women have been without. At our most recent state-wide meeting, site administrators came with lotions, personal hygiene items and small clothing items in bags or small boxes and smilingly added them to boxes filling up on a table.

After that meeting, when Gretchen Fischer came to our office to accept our donations for Project Pack a Purse, we were delighted to have enough to require the use of a dolly to bring the three large boxes along with four clear backpacks out to her car.

For more information about Aid to Inmate Mothers and Project Pack A Purse, please visit their website at www.inmatemoms.org
Marnie Dillon, Suzanne Davidson, and I had the privilege of attending the 2012 AJLI Annual Conference in San Francisco, CA on April 18–22. We arrived in San Francisco to perfect record temperatures for the area, but most of our time was spent in meetings and breakout sessions where we learned about “Leadership Reimagined” and reflected back on the Strategic Roadmap journey. These workshops helped us gain new skills and tools to help lead our League and allowed us to network with other Junior Leagues from across the country to learn how they operate effectively in their communities. The goal of attending these sessions is for each of us to learn new ideas and strategies to help move our League forward in the community and help us successfully impact our members and community agencies we partner with each year. Some of the workshops we attended included Leadership for a New Nominating Paradigm, Collaborative Decision Making, Personifying Leadership, Keeping Teams on Track, and Parliamentary Procedure: Learning the Ropes.

This year’s keynote speaker was Jennifer Siebel Newsom, the writer, director and producer of the documentary Miss Representation. By focusing on the words of prominent American women as varied as Condoleezza Rice, Nancy Pelosi, Katie Couric, Rachel Maddow, Margaret Cho, Rosario Dawson and Gloria Steinem, the film details how women are judged more strongly on their beauty and sexuality over their capacity as leaders. The Oprah Winfrey Network has acquired the broadcast rights to Miss Representation for its documentary film club. Ms. Newsom, a well-known actress who has appeared in numerous films and television shows, including In the Valley of Elah, Something's Gotta Give, Rent, Life, Mad Men, and The Nanny Express, is also the Founder and Chief Executive Officer of MissRepresentation.org, a call-to-action movement that gives women and girls the tools to realize their full potential.

The annual banquet was held Saturday night where several of our sister Leagues were recognized for their hard work and achievements throughout the year. The gavel was passed from AJLI’s outgoing president Delly Beakman to Toni Freeman who will serve as president this year.

Thank you for allowing Marnie, Suzanne, and me the honor of representing our League at the AJLI 90th Annual Conference. We are enthusiastic about the future of our organization!
AJLI leverages the collective purchasing power of Junior League members to provide individual and group discounts for a number of products and services. Here is how YOU can access these discounts and learn more about AJLI benefits!

1. Visit the www.jlmontgomery.org website, log in, and click the red AJLI link at the top right corner of your screen.
2. Next, members will be prompted to create a user name and password.
3. "Voila!" the world of AJLI is there in front of your eyes. Click the "Services" tab to find the "Benefits for You!" information.

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Log onto www.jlmontgomery.org to learn about all of the offers available to League members!

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- Car Rental Discounts
  Alamo,AVIS and Hertz are all on board to offer AJLI members a discount when renting!

- Joan Hornig Jewelry
  Jewelry meant to be noticed and talked about, as it carries the all-important message that philanthropy is beautiful, personal and worth promoting. Available online or at luxury department stores such as Neiman Marcus, Bergdorf Goodman and Saks Fifth Avenue.

Did You Know?

BENEFITS OF LEAGUE MEMBERSHIP

By Cindy DeLongchamp

Not only does membership in Junior League of Montgomery offer you an opportunity to make a difference in the community through volunteering and getting to know some oh-so-fabulous ladies, but there are even MORE benefits that the Association of Junior Leagues International, Inc. (AJLI) provides to its members nationwide.

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From hosting November Speak Up meetings to donating items for the Bloomingdeals fundraiser, Sustainers continue to give their time and gifts to the League after fulfilling their active membership duties through years of serving our community in League volunteer projects. And while there are many advantages of staying active in the League, by being granted Sustainer status, the most anticipated event is the annual Sustainer’s Tea.

Past League President Laura Stevenson is enjoying her first year as a Sustainer and noted that “the purpose of this Tea is to keep the Sustainers connected and engaged.” Junior League Relations Chair, Stacey Hill, rose to the challenge of planning this year’s event and wisely enlisted the talents of her mother-in-law and Junior League Sustainer, Maria Hill, who served as hostess for the luncheon on the afternoon of April 10.

Stacey Hill took her design cue from President Marnie Dillon’s motto and favorite color palette to create a beautiful luncheon setting, complete with a cloudless sky and ideal midday temperature for outdoor dining. Her arrangements and décor were the epitome of grace and southern style. Guests of honor were greeted by fresh cut floral arrangements consisting of white daisies and hyacinth set on several tables covered with white tablecloths and Tiffany-blue table toppers. Silver and glass pitchers brimmed with ice water at each table and beverage station. Coordinating place cards, decorated with neatly tied blue ribbons, were printed with the heading “Live. Learn. Lead.” and displayed at each place setting. The card included the message “Thank you for your continued support of the Junior League 2011-2012.”

Maria Hill’s kitchen hummed with the hustle and bustle of helpers preparing white “picnic” box lunches for each guest. A floral napkin and clear fork were placed atop each white box and busy hands tied everything together with a blue ribbon and then topped off each box with a white flower, tucked into the bow. Mrs. Hill is the owner of the catering service, The King’s Creations, and her selections for the luncheon included chilled pink shrimp and tomato aspic, with a side of marinated asparagus, whole green beans and grilled chicken in a colorful pasta salad, set off with slices of kiwi fruit, orange cumquat and a sprig of fresh rosemary. Dessert was a fluffy lemon mousse spooned into bright pink and green tulip-shaped baking cups and garnished with curled zest and candy sprinkles. White sangria was served over ice in clear wine glasses.

After introductions, Maria Hill welcomed her fellow Sustainers and thanked all in attendance for their years of service to the Junior League of Montgomery. She expressed her delight in the opportunity to offer her home for the 2012 Sustainer’s Tea and encouraged everyone to “see love in the smallest details to the biggest” as both she, her daughter-in-law Stacey and granddaughter Isabel Hill worked diligently to ensure a memorable afternoon for the group. After everyone bowed their heads and Mrs. Hill led the group in a blessing, Marnie Dillon thanked the Hill ladies for all of their planning and work. To the group, she offered the Junior League’s appreciation “for the legacy that you have all created from your hearts and hands over the many years” and noted that the day was also a celebration of the 86-year anniversary of the Junior League of Montgomery.
A vast variety of topics were covered, from local and state government to photography and how to cook and eat locally. Committee members Becky Haynes, Kehina Houser, Summer Patterson and April Wise worked throughout the year to make sure all members had easy access to Education and Training events, scheduled at various times in hopes of being convenient for all.

The most popular Education and Training meeting of the year was when Probate Judge Reese McKinney, Jr. spoke to the members regarding his office, the responsibilities of the Montgomery County Probate Judge, and the challenges he has faced through his many years of service to the county. It was quite impressive to the more than 70 women in attendance to gain an in depth knowledge of his office’s day-to-day operations.

Also very popular were the programs by DeLeigh Kelly about how to take beautiful photographs, and the program by well-known Montgomery columnist and blogger Jennifer Kornegay about the new trend toward eating and cooking with locally grown fruits and vegetables.

It was a great joy for the Education and Training Committee to put together the schedule of events for the 2011-2012 League year, and our hope is that the membership enjoyed the programs as much as we enjoyed planning them.

The Junior League of Montgomery
League Logs | Summer 2012

Education & Training

The 2011-2012 Education and Training Committee, chaired by Carolyn East, focused on offering the membership meaningful and useful sessions throughout the League year.

A vast variety of topics were covered, from local and state government to photography and how to cook and eat locally.

Committee members Becky Haynes, Keina Houser, Summer Patterson and April Wise worked throughout the year to make sure all members had easy access to Education and Training events, scheduled at various times in hopes of being convenient for all.

The most popular Education and Training meeting of the year was when Probate Judge Reese McKinney, Jr. spoke to the members regarding his office, the responsibilities of the Montgomery County Probate Judge, and the challenges he has faced through his many years of service to the county. It was quite impressive to the more than 70 women in attendance to gain an in depth knowledge of his office’s day-to-day operations.

Also very popular were the programs by DeLeigh Kelly about how to take beautiful photographs, and the program by well-known Montgomery columnist and blogger Jennifer Kornegay about the new trend toward eating and cooking with locally grown fruits and vegetables.

It was a great joy for the Education and Training Committee to put together the schedule of events for the 2011-2012 League year, and our hope is that the membership enjoyed the programs as much as we enjoyed planning them.

The 2011-2012 Education and Training Committee, chaired by Carolyn East, focused on offering the membership meaningful and useful sessions throughout the League year.
League members, now over 700 strong, will look to Suzanne to successfully navigate the new opportunities in the upcoming year, while she establishes her own balance between a very demanding position and her life as a wife, mother, and avid volunteer in the community. Suzanne laughingly admitted that she is often asked the question, “Why be President of the Junior League?” Drawing on her faith and the words of Luke 12:48, she paraphrased that “to whom much is given, much is expected.” Suzanne noted how grateful her family is to Montgomery and serving as President is just one way she can give back to the community that has provided so many blessings to both her and her family. The final General Membership meeting of the year is traditionally the most anticipated meeting, when League highlights of the year are showcased and awards are presented. This year’s May meeting was no exception, but it was without a doubt, exceptional. Outgoing President, Marnie Dillon, called the meeting to order shortly after 7 p.m., following a moment of social time that members in attendance enjoyed in the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts foyer, surrounded by Jennie Weller’s delicious appetizers and beautiful floral table arrangements. Members took their seats in the museum auditorium as Community Council Vice President, Dawn Stephens and Lisa Stevens recognized the 2012-2013 Community Grant Recipients. Representatives from the eight local charities joined the ladies on stage as Dawn presented an over-sized check in the amount of $92,000 to the group, the total of the Junior League of Montgomery’s Grant Recipient Awards.
Kara Cosby ended her presentation by acknowledging the dozen ladies who elected to maintain their League ties by becoming Sustainers, and then asked all "graduates" of the 2011-2012 Provisional class to join her on stage to introduce the 42 newest Junior League of Montgomery activists.

Placement Chair & recipient of the "Women to Watch" award, Kelly Whitaker and Placement Co-Chair, Kelly Pate took the stage to recognize and honor all the 2011-2012 Placement chairs/persons. It is no small task to chair a committee in the Junior League. These positions require a great deal of time and personal commitment to manage the group of volunteers and act as liaison to the recipient group throughout the year to see the committee goal to its completion. The Junior League of Montgomery is truly fortunate to have such a strong group of leaders within our membership.

The Tonda West Outstanding Provisional Award is one of the newest Junior League of Montgomery awards, and is presented to one member of the Provisional class each Spring. The excerpt below, taken from page 23 of the 2008 League Logs Summer issue, written by Heather Coleman, explains why the award was established.

Introducing: The Tonda West Outstanding Provisional Award. One of the mini-placements for the Provisional Class of 2007-2008 was the Adullam House. Adullam House serves children from birth to age 18 whose parents are incarcerated by providing the children a home. Junior League volunteers assisted children and the home's operation in various ways. The women on this committee were asked to assist the people who run the organization. One of the placement's chairs went beyond her required volunteer commitment. She graciously gave of her time and energies to meet the needs of the organization and then gave of her time to have a positive impact on the children. She organized a group of ladies to volunteer 6-8 hours per week to fix the hair of the children at the Adullam House. At one point she was called in for an emergency "hair dressing" at midnight for a 13 year old girl who had school pictures the next day. This young lady had never had her hair fixed before in her life. We will never truly know the impact that Tonda West has had on the lives of these young girls at Adullam House but we will always remember the way her giving spirit touched our hearts. For this reason, the Junior League of Montgomery has established the Tonda West Outstanding Provisional Award. She has established a standard of commitment for both Provisionals and Active members to emulate in the years to come. Tonda West is the first provisional to receive this award.

Elizabeth Lawlor, Provisional Chair and Melissa George Bowman, Provisional Co-Chair announced that from the Provisional Class of 2011-2012, Sherry White was selected as this year’s recipient of the Tonda West Outstanding Provisional Award.

The meeting’s "grand finale" began by President-Elect, Suzanne Davidson, graciously describing outgoing President, Marnie Dillon, as someone with “a servant’s heart.” She commended Marnie on her many years of service to the organization. Marnie reviewed several of the highlights of the year that she was most proud of, including the enormous success of Bloomingdeals, which doubled the previous year’s revenue generation, and equates to more money going to grant recipients next Spring. She surprised incoming President Suzanne Davidson on stage by presenting her with a set of special "tools": a one-of-a-kind, round, vintage black patent leather, Tiffany Tool Kit, that would make Holly Golightly green with envy. The patent bag was adorned with an elaborate bow in Marnie’s own “signature” color…Tiffany-blue, of course.

The Breakfast at Tiffany's moment was quickly outdone when Marnie Dillon successfully pulled off what may go down in JLM history as the most extraordinary passing of the gavel ceremony in our 86 year history. Marnie invited eleven of the past Presidents of the Junior League of Montgomery to join her on stage as the token of leadership, a polished wood gavel, was passed from hand to hand, spanning 42 years of League leadership. Starting from the right side of the stage, Anne Upchurch (1970-1971) passed the gavel to Tootsie Emmert (1972-1973). It was then passed to Emilie Reid (1988-1989), Susan Patton (1995-1996), Jan Hodgson (1997-1998), Shen McKean (1998-1999), Charlene Holtsford (2002-2003), Leah Stephens (2007-2008), Susannah Cleveland (2008-2009), Heather Coleman (2009-2010) and then Laura Stevenson (2010-2011). Marnie Dillon (2010-2011) then took her place in this unique sisterhood and after receiving the gavel, ceremoniously handed it to Suzanne Davidson, to officially mark the beginning of the 87th year of the Junior League of Montgomery.
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Suzanne Davidson will serve as the 2012-2013 President. Suzanne grew up in Opelika and graduated from Samford University with a degree in Public Administration. She also holds a Masters in Public Administration from the university of Alabama at Birmingham.

Suzanne’s past Junior League experience includes placements with Medical Outreach Ministries and the Janice Capilouto Center for the Deaf. She has served as fund Development Chair and Co-Chair, fundraising Council Vice President and President-Elect. Suzanne attends first united Methodist Church where she has served on the Administrative Board and as Chair of the Fall Bazaar. She is past President of the Montgomery-Autauga-Elmore Medical Alliance and is the President of the Board of the Children’s Museum of Alabama. She has also served on the Board of the Volunteer and Information Center.

Suzanne is excited about the variety of community projects that the Junior League will undertake in the coming year. From mentoring women at Mary Ellen’s hearth to establishing a food pantry at Montgomery Aids Outreach, League volunteers will be busy putting the mission of the Junior League into action. She believes that together, all League members—provisionals, actives and sustainers—can accomplish great things. The motto for the coming year: one mission, one membership, one league, encompasses those beliefs.

Suzanne is married to Stephen Davidson, an Oncologist at the Montgomery Cancer Center. They have two children, Wyatt (12) and Lela (7). Suzanne loves spending time at Lake Martin with her family, playing tennis and reading.

Dawn Stephens is serving as the President-Elect for 2012-2013. Dawn grew up in Montgomery and has a bachelor’s degree in Marketing from Auburn University.

Dawn’s prior League service includes Community Council Vice President, Advisory/Strategic Planning, Holiday Market and Decorator Show House Steering Committees, Nominating and Community Research Chair.

In the community, Dawn is currently on the Board of the Montgomery Clean City Commission, the Volunteer and Information Center and will be starting Leadership Montgomery Class of XXX this summer. She is a member of First United Methodist Church where she has been on the Administrative Board, chair of Family Ministries, on Nominating and Leadership Development Committee, the Worship Committee and taught Sunday school for five years. She volunteers every year for Vacation Bible School and served on the UMW Bazaar Steering Committee for six years and co-chaired and chaired the event. Along with other community leaders, she also served on the leadership team this past year at the New Church @ 301 Dexter, a re-start and revitalization of Dexter Avenue united Methodist Church.

Dawn is married to Gary Stephens, who is originally from huntsville and has a finance degree from Athens State and a law degree from Jones School of Law. They have two children, Oliver, who is nine years old and will be in third grade at Forest Avenue Academic Magnet and Maggie, who is four and attends Trinity Presbyterian School and Emory (4) attends First United Methodist preschool. Hayley enjoys spending time with her family, traveling, cooking, and is an avid Auburn football fan.

Hayley McClellan Harris grew up in Anniston, Alabama. She attended Auburn University and graduated with a Master’s degree in Communication Disorders. She has practiced speech-language pathology for 12 years in the Montgomery area, and currently works part-time at Baptist Medical Center South.

Hayley joined the Junior League of Montgomery in 2002 and has served on various committees including the following: MACOA, Community Sampler, Fund Development, and Arrangements (chair). She is an active member of First United Methodist Church where she is co-chairing Children’s Council, chairing VBS registration, serving as Sunday school class secretary, and handling publicity for the Fall Bazaar.

Hayley is married to Jason Harris, a physical therapist with Rehab Associates. They have two daughters, Bentley (6) attends Trinity Presbyterian School and Emory (4) attends First United Methodist preschool. Hayley enjoys spending time with her family, traveling, cooking, and is an avid Auburn football fan.
Communications Council VP

JENNY THIESSEN

Jenny Thiessen will serve as the 2012-2013 Communications Council Vice President. Jenny and her husband Doug moved to Montgomery in 2007 from Lubbock, Texas. Doug is the CEO of Alabama AG Credit. Jenny graduated with a B.A. in History from The University of Texas at Austin. She worked as an Office Manager for a law firm in Lubbock. Currently, her passion is to serve her new community as a volunteer. She volunteered as a docent at the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts, where she also chaired the 2011 Bazaar d’Art. Jenny served on the birdhouse committee for the Family Sunshine Center’s 2012 Making homes Safe havens. This year, she and Doug hosted college athletes for the Blue gray Tennis Tournament. She currently serves on the Montgomery Regional Board of Magic Moments. Recently, Jenny received the In-League Placement volunteer of the Year. In 2011, she received the “Women to Watch” award. She has participated in many placements, including League Logs editor and co-editor, League Lines co-editor, IMPACT Alabama, Holiday Market Publications and Set-up Chair, League Logs Staff writer and Camp Smile-A-Mite. Jenny and Doug attend Frazer United Methodist Church. When she’s not volunteering in the community, Jenny enjoys reading, shopping and exploring Alabama and the Southeast.

Membership Council VP

JEANIE PARNELL

Jeanie Parnell grew up in Montgomery and is a graduate of Auburn University, where she earned her B.S. in Interior Design. Since joining the League in 2002, Jeanie has served as Fund Development Chair in 2007-2008, Advisory and Strategic Planning Chair in 2008-2009, and Nominating Chair in 2010-2011. She has also been active in placements such as MANE, the Children’s Literacy Guild, and the Holiday Market Preview Party Committee. This past year she served as the placement chair for Community Sampler. Jeanie attends the First United Methodist Church in Montgomery where she teaches the three-year-old Sunday school class and is active with the Children’s Council. She also serves on the Montgomery Academy Alumni Council and does volunteer work at the school. She is married to Matt Parnell, an attorney with Parnell and Crum. She is a stay-at-home mom to their three children Bennett (7), Blake (4), and Kate (3). Jeanie loves going to the beach, reading, writing, and painting.

Community Council VP

ASHLEY WHITE

Ashley Killian White is Community Council Vice President for 2012-2013. She is originally from Birmingham, Alabama. Ashley moved to Montgomery after graduating from Auburn University and Cumberland School of Law. She is married to Nowell White, who is a manager at Glidden Professional. She and Nowell have a daughter, Killian Adams (5), and a son Cooper Thomas (23 months).

Ashley currently works as a senior staff attorney for Judge Beth Kellum on the Court of Criminal Appeals. She is a graduate of Leadership Montgomery, Class XXVI, serves as the Immediate Past President of the Family Sunshine Center Board of Directors, and also serves on the Advisory Board for the Landmarks Foundation. Ashley has previously served on the Bazaar D’Art committee and the Live Auction committee for the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts. Ashley and her husband are members of First United Methodist Church where Ashley serves on the Children’s Council.

Since joining the League in 2002, Ashley has served as a volunteer for Rebuilding Together and MACOA. She has also served on the Arrangements Committee, the Holiday Market steering committee, and as chair and co-chair of the Community Research committee and the Placement committee. Ashley most recently served on the Junior League Board of Directors as the Operations Council Vice President.

Operations Council VP

DELL MURDOCK

Dell Murdock grew up in Hartford, Alabama, and attended Auburn University, graduating with a B.S. in Business Administration in Finance. She is currently employed as a Treasury Specialist at Hyundai Motor Manufacturing Alabama.

Dell joined the Junior League in 2000, and immediately found her calling—Holiday Market! She has served as Silent Auction Chair, Treasurer, Merchant Chair and, Chairman of holiday Market, and fundraising vice President. This past year she served as Recording Secretary.

Dell is married to Randall Murdock. She enjoys spending time at the beach, playing Bunko, reading and watching Auburn football.

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Allison Coats Haigler will serve as Nominating Vice President. Allison, a Prattville native, is a graduate of the University of Alabama and received her M.A. from Alabama State University. She currently teaches third grade at the Montgomery Academy and her husband Charles is the owner of Greenville Motor Company.

Allison’s past work with the Junior League of Montgomery includes Taste of the River Region, DHR Back to School, and Community Sampler Chair. She has also served on the Community Council and Membership Council.

Allison enjoys trips to the beach, spending time with friends and family, and watching Alabama football.

Laura Preston Maxey will serve this year as our Finance Council Vice President. Laura is a CPA for ALFA Insurance.

Since joining the League, Laura has served on the Adullam House committee, Meals on Wheels committee, and held the role this past year as Assistant Treasurer. Other past community activities include acting as the Alumnae New Member Coordinator and Alumnae VP Finance for the Alpha Gamma Delta-Theta Beta Chapter, hosting college athletes for the Blue Gray Tennis Tournament, and serving as a Loaned Executive for United Way.

Laura is married to Stan Maxey, who is a partner in ValueCenters, LLC. They attend First United Methodist Church where Laura has served on the Young Adult Council. In her spare time she enjoys traveling, running, and attending sewing classes.

Laura grew up in Orangeburg, SC and graduated from Spelman College with a Bachelor of Science in Biology. She also holds a Master of Science in Public Health in epidemiology from the University of South Carolina.

Helen joined the Junior League in 2007 and has enjoyed working in various community funded placements. Some of her placements have included Medical Outreach Ministries, Family Justice Center, and the Children’s Center of Montgomery. Helen is a member of St. Jude Catholic Church, the Montgomery-Autauga-Elmore Medical Alliance, and Jack and Jill of America, Inc.

Helen is married to Brian C. Gary, a Montgomery general surgeon. She is a stay-at-home mom to her daughter Claire (6) and son Brian “Deuce” (2). Helen enjoys spending time with her family, reading, playing tennis, and going to the beach.
Felicia Long is from Montgomery and practices law with Haskell Slaughter Young & Gallion, representing clients in a variety of civil litigation and insurance defense matters. Before joining the firm, she served as a law clerk to Associate Justice Champ Lyons, Jr. of the Supreme Court of Alabama. Felicia holds a B.A. in Public Administration from Auburn University, and a juris doctorate from Thomas Goode Jones School of Law.

Felicia's past Junior League placements include the Holiday Market Steering committee (Gift Wrap chair and Food Solicitations chair), the Bridge Builders committee, and the S.T.E.P. Ballet Foundation committee. In the community, Felicia serves on the Board of Directors for the Metro YMCA, and on the Board of Directors of the Britton YMCA, serving as its Chair in 2008-2009. She enjoys coaching student teams who participate in Alabama's Youth Judicial Program each year, which provides high school students an opportunity to learn about the judicial branch of government through the preparation and presentation of a mock case. She was recently selected to serve on the Board of Directors for the Montgomery County Bar Association and will chair the MCBA's 2012 Annual Charity Event to benefit the Montgomery County Bar Association, as well as Panhellenic representative. Jan served as Junior League Logs editor, Recording Secretary, Rummage Sale Chairman, Provisional Chairman, Ways and Means Chairman, President-Elect and President (1997-98). One of Jan's favorite League placements was the Jimmy Hitchcock Memorial Award this coming year. Felicia is married to Bobby Long, who is an Equity Analyst at Retirement Systems of Alabama. They have a Yorkshire Terrier named Samson, and enjoy traveling and the outdoors.

Kimberly Strag Baker will serve as the 2012-2013 Member-at-Large as well as the Taste of the River Region co-chair. Kimberly has served in many different areas of the Junior League. Her prior League experience includes most recently serving as Nominating Vice-President; she has chaired multiple placements, and has served on both the Community Research and Membership Council Committees. Kimberly has received the "Women to Watch" award from her peers in the Junior League, and she is proud to be serving her 10th year of service in the Junior League of Montgomery.

Kimberly is currently serving as Ex-officio for the Board of Directors for CielWorks where she has served as President of the Board, Outreach Chairman as well as Artistic Chairman. Kimberly also serves on the Advisory Board for Alabama e-Health, an initiative of Montgomery AIDS Outreach.

Kimberly is married to Benjamin E. Baker, Jr., a Montgomery attorney. They have three children: Isabella (10); Benjamin (8); and Liam (2). She is a member of Christchurch EP, where she serves as a Sunday school teacher and is a trained Catechesis leader. In her spare time, Kimberly enjoys playing tennis; volunteering for her neighborhood, Old Cloverdale; and spending time with her family and friends.

Gretchen Fischer is the Junior League of Montgomery's current Office Manager. She has held this position since the summer of 2006. Before that she was an active member of the League for 11 years. Gretchen is a Louisiana native and attended Auburn University where she earned her degree in Fine Arts. She is married to Andrew Fischer and has 2 daughters, Claire and Katie. In her free time she enjoys Auburn football, traveling and cooking.

Jan Hodgson will serve as Sustaining Advisor this year. Jan is the new Kindergarten Resource teacher at The Montgomery Academy where she has taught Kindergarten for 22 years. She has a B.S. and M.S. in Elementary Education with a concentration in mathematics from Auburn University. Jan grew up in Scottsboro, Alabama and met her husband of 34 years, Bill, at Auburn. They have two grown children: a daughter, Blair, a recently married financial analyst living in New Orleans, and a son, Bill, Jr., who is a consultant for a consulting firm in Charlotte, N.C.

Jan's experience in the League includes League Logs editor, Recording Secretary, Rummage Sale Chairman, Provisional Chairman, Ways and Means Chairman, President-Elect and President (1997-98). One of Jan's favorite League placements was reading to children and providing incentives for Paterson Elementary School to make sure the students came to school.

In the community, Jan has served as President of the Montgomery Ballet Board of Directors for 3 terms, and she has served as Recording Secretary, VP of Special Events, Chairman of the Advisory Board, and as President of the Friends of the Ballet. Jan is a member of the Altar Guild at the Church of the Ascension, where she and Bill have taught Junior High Sunday school. She has served on the Auburn University School of Education Advisory Committee and as President of the Kappa Delta Alumnae Association, as well as Panhellicene representative. Jan served as the first chairman of the Flimp Festival at the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts and as chair of the museum's first birthday party at Blount Cultural Park. She also chaired the Fine Arts Committee for the POA at The Montgomery Academy.

In her spare time, Jan enjoys entertaining, reading, sewing, waterskiing on Lake Martin, snow skiing and deep sea fishing with her family at Perdido Key.
Fundraising is not light and easy work these days. That is why the Junior League of Montgomery has a Fund Development Committee to work within the community to develop relationships with local businesses and gain sponsorships for our many events and projects.

The Fund Development Committee uses the League’s most valuable assets, its members, to personally work with businesses and other generous donors to tailor sponsorship programs to fit their different needs. By selling sponsorships to local businesses for events like Holiday Market, Taste of the River Region and Bloomingdeals, local businesses not only gain more local name recognition, but they are also seen as a leader in community projects with the League.

Sally Corley, Fund Development chair reported, “This year we had a very successful year—even in a down economy. We were able to double the amount of funds raised from the previous year’s Taste of the River Region event and exceeded the amount raised last year for both the holiday Market and Bloomingdeals.”

Sponsorship funds do not offset event expenses, but go directly into the League’s income so that it can be distributed back to community non-profit organizations. Marketing through the League reaches a multitude of shoppers in the Tri-County market. Through commercials for events, the League Logs magazine and the event itself, local businesses that buy sponsorships are spotlighted at different levels based on the sponsorship package they choose.

Over ten percent of the League’s income comes through the Fund Development committee’s work. Though the majority of funds raised come from local businesses, donations can be received through other outlets as well. Individuals from the community who want to see their charitable contributions handled wisely can donate to the League. Individuals can also donate in memory of someone. Recognition can be given through our different publications, or it can be kept private. Junior League members can also donate through the Junior League member’s Pacesetter program. Pacesetters are members who want to donate beyond their dues to further the League’s mission.

Members who served on the Fund Development committee this year include Munich Cable-Ware, Julia Henig, Gina Izer, Sarah Johnston, and Michelle Mowery. This committee was chaired by Sally Corley. Erica Williams served as co-chair.

If you are a local business owner and or individual who would like to work with the League through sponsorship and donations please call our 2012 Fund Development chair Erica Williams at 334-850-1119.
League Wisdom from the Past

FEATURING LISA WEIL

By Christen Price

Sustainer Lisa Weil was always taught to be kind. Her parents, who still remain as the most inspirational people in her life, raised Lisa in Birmingham before she met her husband, Andy. Her parents shared with Lisa as a little girl the importance of giving back to their community by volunteering their time and resources to various organizations in Birmingham. Lisa’s motto now is, “If each of us would give just a little bit, our world would be an even better place to live.”

Since joining the Junior League of Montgomery in 1987, Lisa has done just that. Over her time in the League, she spent most of her energy in development and fundraising. She found sponsors for Holiday Market and also worked with the Montgomery Zoo. Her fondest memory of serving the League is the people and the connections she made over the years. She said, “I have a couple of friends who were in my provisional class that to this day we still talk about our new member tea and getting introduced to the membership. How much fun it was!”

Through serving JLM, Lisa says she learned how to be a good steward and advocate for what she believes in. Today, she still utilizes this lesson in her community involvement. Lisa serves as the Secretary of the State Council on the Arts, Volunteer Chair for The American Red Cross of Central AL, and The Alabama Shakespeare Festival Theatre. She is also the past chairman of the Armchair Auction and past president of Temple Beth-El Sisterhood. She also volunteers at The Family Sunshine Center. Lisa says, “The way I give back to this wonderful community is by telling people what a great place Montgomery is to live and raise a family!”

Lisa and her husband Andy, (Managing Director of AlaTrust, Inc. and a Director of River Bank and Trust), have lived in Montgomery since they married 30 years ago and have three children. Their oldest, Drew, is married to Lauren Sawyer of Anniston, and works as a financial Advisor with Merrill Lynch in Birmingham. Their daughter, Amanda, is engaged to Kevin Sokol of Birmingham, and has adopted her mother’s enthusiasm of fundraising with her job as the Strategic Fundraising Associate for the Birmingham Jewish Foundation. Their youngest, Dustin, is a sophomore at Southern Methodist University in Dallas and is studying advertising.

Lisa is an Independent Consultant with Rodan and Fields Dermatologists and partners with the doctors who created Proactive for products to reduce fine lines and wrinkles and sun damaged skin. She adores Montgomery and says, “Sometimes it is hard to do all that there is to do in Montgomery!” With her energy and enthusiasm toward life, Lisa shares that the greatest gift she can give is a compliment. She says, “To give someone a compliment from your heart is not hard to do...to know I’ve made someone’s day a little brighter makes my day brighter too!”

Sustainer Lisa Weil was always taught to be kind. Her parents, who still remain as the most inspirational people in her life, raised Lisa in Birmingham before she met her husband, Andy. Her parents shared with Lisa as a little girl the importance of giving back to their community by volunteering their time and resources to various organizations in Birmingham. Lisa’s motto now is, “If each of us would give just a little bit, our world would be an even better place to live.”

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Since joining the Junior League of Montgomery in 1987, Lisa has done just that. Over her time in the League, she spent most of her energy in development and fundraising. She found sponsors for Holiday Market and also worked with the Montgomery Zoo. Her fondest memory of serving the League is the people and the connections she made over the years. She said, “I have a couple of friends who were in my provisional class that to this day we still talk about our new member tea and getting introduced to the membership. How much fun it was!”

Through serving JLM, Lisa says she learned how to be a good steward and advocate for what she believes in. Today, she still utilizes this lesson in her community involvement. Lisa serves as the Secretary of the State Council on the Arts, Volunteer Chair for The American Red Cross of Central AL, and The Alabama Shakespeare Festival Theatre. She is also the past chairman of the Armchair Auction and past president of Temple Beth-El Sisterhood. She also volunteers at The Family Sunshine Center. Lisa says, “The way I give back to this wonderful community is by telling people what a great place Montgomery is to live and raise a family!”

Lisa and her husband Andy, (Managing Director of AlaTrust, Inc. and a Director of River Bank and Trust), have lived in Montgomery since they married 30 years ago and have three children. Their oldest, Drew, is married to Lauren Sawyer of Anniston, and works as a financial Advisor with Merrill Lynch in Birmingham. Their daughter, Amanda, is engaged to Kevin Sokol of Birmingham, and has adopted her mother’s enthusiasm of fundraising with her job as the Strategic Fundraising Associate for the Birmingham Jewish Foundation. Their youngest, Dustin, is a sophomore at Southern Methodist University in Dallas and is studying advertising.

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Volunteering

OUR TIME AND TALENTS

By Anna Kate Bowen, Brittney Garner, Marcy Ingram, Theresa Patterson and Christen Price

Our members have been very active in our funded and unfunded placements this year! In the previous issues of this magazine, we spotlighted a few of the organizations who received grants and volunteers from the JLM. In this issue, we will highlight our work with the following organizations: Aid to Inmate Mothers, Family Sunshine Center, Mid-Alabama Coalition for the Homeless, Rebuilding Together, Rosa Parks Museum, and Impact Alabama’s SaveFirst program.

Aid to Inmate Mothers

Did you know that about 3,000 children in the state of Alabama have a mother in prison? Before I became a volunteer for the Junior League, I had never thought about the impact on a child that has an incarcerated mother. The Junior League of Montgomery granted $10,000 and volunteers to Aid to Inmate Mothers (AIM), which is a program that provides services to Alabama’s incarcerated women with emphasis on enhancing personal growth and strengthening the bonds between inmate mothers and their children.

JLM member Anna Dees worked to ready a house for the women in the program to live in after they are released from incarceration. The house provides the women an immediate home, which gives them a sense of stability and support. AIM provides the women with all the tools they need to re-establish themselves and their relationships with their children after incarceration. As a placement, JLM sponsored a room in the house that is affectionately called the “JLM Suite.” Anna said, “We have enjoyed working as a group to make this not just a house but a home for these women.” Members of this placement also took part in an empowerment seminar for the women on May 5. The seminar was an all-day event with several break-out sessions with inspirational topics.

Pamela, an inmate who was helped by AIM, is thankful for the hope provided by this program. After she was released from a 10-year prison sentence at Tutwiler Prison for Women, she says it was thanks to AIM that she was able to move on with her life. In her words, “they were a light in a dark place.”

The mother of two, who is in her mid-50’s, explains how most of her early life was spent on the run from abusive men. Twice she was forced to uproot her life and move to another state in order to escape her abusers. With a voice steeped in years of experience, she gently said, “Over the years I’ve learned that some women can’t leave their abusers, but it wasn’t that way for me... it was like lifting a dark cloud.”

AIM is a program built around compassion towards these families. They provide monthly visitation times for mothers to connect with their children face-to-face. In between visits, children also get the gift of hearing their mothers tell them a bedtime story through a DVD recording. Each month, volunteers record the mothers reading a bedtime story, words of encouragement, and songs. For some children, this is the only way for them to stay connected with their incarcerated mother. A mother at Tutwiler Prison said, “To actually be able to send them a part of me, my voice reading them a story, as well as the gift of a book and personal message is such a blessing. I thank you all for this from the bottom of my heart. I can never tell you what joy this has brought me and my children.”

The vision of AIM is to create a criminal justice model that respects and understands the rights of the children affected by their mothers’ imprisonment and recognizes and helps to address the many burdens carried by the children and families as a result of incarceration. JLM is proud to have partnered with this program. Members witnessed firsthand the powerful impact that AIM has on these women and their families.

Family Sunshine Center

The Family Sunshine Center (FSC) first began serving our area in 1981 to provide refuge to abused women and children, giving them the help they need to not only recover but also prepare them for starting over in life. Serving Montgomery, Autauga, Butler, Chilton, Crenshaw, Elmore, and Lowndes counties, the Family Sunshine Center offers critical services to victims coming out of abusive homes, along with counseling and housing. They give hope and healing, while offering a path to a fresh start.

This path to a fresh start for many of the families at the Family Sunshine Center continues at the Exodus Center. Opening its doors in 2001, the Exodus Center offers transitional housing for two years where these women and children live as they reenter school, the workforce, and or start an education and training program for a new career. The women also attend counseling once a week with their children to continue the healing process. This year the Junior League granted $2,368 to the FSC while JLM volunteers participated in monthly activities with the Exodus community. JLM members offered anti-bullying classes and self-esteem classes. They also participated in many outside events including Zoo Boo at Halloween, a Corks and Canvas art outing, a visit to the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts, a riverboat cruise, and attended Jubilee’s Kids fest.

Catherine Miller, who served as committee chair and organizer for this year’s events, reported that this was such a rewarding volunteer placement. “Watching the kids get involved and participate in each event was really great. They are amazing kids who have been through so much. The best part was watching them open up to us, seeing how excited they were to see us each month, and telling us thank you for being there was really special,” said Catherine. Sadly many of these children saw their mothers abused and some were abused themselves. If it were not for the Family Sunshine Center and the Junior League many of these children would not have had the opportunity to participate in the events they enjoyed this year. “They really loved the riverboat cruise and the painting at Corks and Canvas,” said Miller.

Many of the Junior League women enjoyed volunteering with the FSC so much that this was a repeat placement for them. League member volunteers for this year’s activities with the center were Jennifer Ardis, Adrian Cooper, Jeri Groce, Leslie Hughes, Mia Kromeier, April Pugh, Ellenann Yelverton, and Catherine Miller. The Junior League of Montgomery has been a long-time supporter of the Family Sunshine Center and also a large financial supporter in the construction of the Exodus Center. For more information about the Family Sunshine Center, please visit their website at familysunshine.org.
**Mid-Alabama Coalition for the Homeless**

The Mid-Alabama Coalition for the Homeless (MACH) received $5,000 from the Junior League of Montgomery, as well as JLM members to assist in their blanket drives and resource fair. The JLM volunteers served at three blanket drives in November and a resource fair in April. The blanket drives were held at different sites, providing convenience to donors to drop off their donations. Blankets were collected at Regions Bank on Coliseum Blvd, Sinclair’s in Old Cloverdale and the Rave movie theater on Vaughn Road. The MACH committee members expressed how heart-warming it was to participate in this placement as they collected warm blankets for the homeless and assisted with the resource fair.

The resource fair offered many services to the homeless, from eye examinations, legal advice, and haircuts to a meal. Our members who served in this placement felt a real connection to those in our area who are homeless, through individual contact with homeless individuals as they obtained help at the Resource Fair.

The vision of the Mid-Alabama Coalition for the Homeless is to be the leader in our community’s effort to plan, coordinate, and develop resources with the goal of ending homelessness. The Mid-Alabama Coalition for the Homeless serves as a vehicle to secure HUD funding and provides support to and resources for organizations that provide services for the homeless in the River Region. For more information, visit their website http://macha-homeless.org

The JLM members who participated in this placement included the following: Nicci Jones, Kristin Bentley, Ivy Ashworth, Wendy Hobbie, Leslie Meadows, Nicole Lowe, Anissa Parker, Anne Ferrell Rhodes, Charlotte Largen, and Ashley McDonald.

**Rebuilding Together**

Rebuilding Together is the leading national volunteer organization that, in partnership with the community, rehabilitates the houses of low-income homeowners, particularly the elderly and disabled, so they may continue to live in warmth, safety and independence. The Junior League of Montgomery awarded $10,000 to Rebuilding Together this year. JLM members Jennifer Brown, Mary Causey, Amber Dennis, Jill Farris, Christine Garrett, Mary Alston Geddie, Susan Hunt, Wendy Ingram, Julie Jenkins, Meg Lewis, Tiffany McCauley, Jessica Roberts, Amy Sadler, Jennifer Stevenson, and Katherine Trumble put on their work gloves on this year to lend a hand.

The goal of Rebuilding Together repairs is to assist the homeowners to live in a warm, safe, and dry place. This year, these JLM members, along with some helpful husbands and friends, spent over 100 hours helping one homeowner in particular. They installed grab bars and a new hand-held shower head, modified the bathtub to make it a walk-in, replaced vinyl flooring with tile, and also repaired many of the appliances and electrical outlets. On the outside of the home, they removed an old picket fence and repaired the privacy gate while also sprucing up the yard with new shrubs and flowers. Committee chair, Amy Sadler, remarked, “This workday was fabulous!”

Homeowners chosen for the Rebuilding Together program are low-income families and elderly or disabled individuals. Because of illness, aging, and inflation, many of these homeowners are unable to repair work on their homes. The majority of these homeowners are women who live alone and some spend more than 40% of their income on housing expenditures but just can’t afford to make repairs. Many of our neighbors have worked hard all their lives and have been physically and financially able to repair their homes for most of that time. The result is a loss of the homeowner’s dignity and crumbling neighborhoods in our beloved city.

Since Rebuilding Together began in Montgomery in 1993, over 500 homes have been assisted. This year, JLM was able to help two homeowners in need and spent countless, back-breaking hours to upgrade the homes to livable and safe conditions. All repairs made to the homes are cost-free to the homeowner and they are encouraged to work alongside volunteers in the neighborly spirit. Anyone over the age of 16 can volunteer for the program, which is the nation’s largest volunteer organization preserving and revitalizing low-income houses and communities.
The Junior League of Montgomery
League Logs
Summer 2012

The Rosa Parks Library and Museum

Umoja (oo-MO-jah) Unity, Nia (NEE-ah) Purpose, Kuumba (kuh-OOM-bah) Creativity and Imani (ee-MAH-nee) Faith are a few of the Kwanzaa principles in which students at Seth Johnson Elementary School enrolled in the "I Believe I Can Fly" program focused on during a nine-week period.

The Rosa Parks Museum, under the direction of Georgette Norman, implements programs all the time at the museum on various topics. This program for which the Junior League provided the grant focused on the book, *Fia and the Butterfly: 7 Stories for Character Education*. All of the girls enrolled in this project received a copy of the book to read and a notebook to record all notes from their weekly discussions.

*Fia and the Butterfly: 7 Stories for Character Education* was written by Dr. Lonnetta M. Taylor-Gaines, who is from Mobile, Alabama. In this book, Dr. Gaines attempted to pass on values to the reader that she received from her parents, relatives, neighbors, teachers, ministers, and other significant role models as she grew up in the South during the 1950's and 1960's. Those values, like the values of the celebration Kwanzaa, are based on the following: a love for and dedication to making things better for our children, respect for our elders, an understanding of the importance of learning and education, a commitment to community uplift, and abiding in our Creator.

Fia, an 11 year old girl who lives during the Civil Rights period became afraid to go to church after learning about the bombing of the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church that killed four little girls in Birmingham, Alabama on September 15, 1963. The reader travels with her as she learns lessons about life and herself. Upon completion of the book, each student participates in character education activities in order to learn their own lessons and more about themselves.

Dr. Georgette Norman, Viola Moten and Rickey Brown of the Rosa Parks Museum attempted to implement those values and the principles of Kwanzaa with a group of young ladies every week. The group met to discuss the book, write about the principles and learn interpretive dance moves to the song "I Believe I Can Fly." During the finale, more than 25 girls participated in a program presented to their principal, school librarian, family and friends.

The girls spoke candidly about the principles of Kwanzaa and character traits and what it all meant to them. They wrote short poems about themselves titled "I Am." The 5th graders performed their own cheer moves to "I Believe I Can Fly" and the 3rd and 4th graders executed an interpretive dance to "I Believe I Can Fly." All girls that completed the project received a sash and character patches they earned for their participation in the program. One of the patches was a butterfly resembling the Tiger Swallowtail Butterfly, which is the state of Alabama butterfly.

Junior League members involved in this placement were Theresa Patterson (Chair), Carrie Gray and Emily Henrich.
IMPACT Alabama

During the summer of 2004 Stephen Black founded Alabama's first nonprofit organization dedicated to developing a successful program of service-learning projects geared towards higher education institutions. Since its establishment, Impact Alabama has worked together with many universities and colleges across the state to promote social justice projects by encouraging students to interact with and become interested in their communities.

Impact Alabama seeks to create a state “in which its young citizens understand, appreciate, and engage actively in civic and public life—contributing their diverse talents to solve local and state problems, influence public policy, and pursue the common good.”

For the past eight years Impact Alabama has tirelessly worked to encourage young people to participate in service opportunities designed to promote learning and a sense of civic responsibility. Positive change and growth in government begins at the local level, with citizens taking a stand against what they believe to be wrong and promoting wholeheartedly that which they believe to be just. By teaching citizens at a young age that they have the power to affect change, we, as a society, can cultivate caring and responsible future generations.

One important project that Impact Alabama has undertaken is SaveFirst. The program provides tax preparation services for lower income families throughout Alabama who qualify for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). In 2011 over 500 college students in Alabama prepared approximately 4,300 tax returns for families that qualified for EITC. The college students had a unique opportunity to gain working knowledge of the tax process and were able to successfully obtain $8 million in tax refunds for the families they served. By taking advantage of SaveFirst’s free tax preparation services instead of employing expensive commercial tax preparers, participating families were able to save over $1.3 million in fees.

The 2011 tax season saw a 20% increase in the number of participants in SaveFirst, demonstrating the effectiveness and success of the five-year old program. Currently over 70,000 families in Montgomery alone qualify for EITC. The program hopes to continually grow its efforts, helping both lower income families to retain more of their tax refund and teaching college students and volunteers valuable experience with tax preparation.

The Junior League of Birmingham began volunteering and working with SaveFirst two years ago. As the program grows larger every year so does the need for more volunteers willing to help their community. The Junior League will continue its efforts in the future and asks that you consider joining them. Certification training sessions are held in December or early-January with volunteering sessions running continuously from mid-January to the end of February. The training software is extremely volunteer friendly and follows a simple step-by-step process.

Impact Alabama’s mission is to instill a strong sense of civic responsibility in the young citizens of this state. By volunteering with Impact Alabama’s SaveFirst program we can set an example for young Alabamians while simultaneously reaching out a helping hand to those in need.

Those JLM members who served with Impact Alabama this past tax season were Mitzi Cole, Ashley Brandle and Belle Cauthen. For more information please visit the Impact Alabama website at http://impactalabama.org/

Community Sampler

We have all experienced walking into a bakery or restaurant and seen so many wonderful choices and could not decide what to order—we wanted to try everything. The experience of “sampling” different projects is just what some of our members experienced as a part of the Community Sampler placement. Participating in this placement allowed volunteers opportunities to serve in different events and one-time projects.

JLM members who participated in the Community Sampler placement included Leigh Anne Luna, Arica Smith, Samantha Sims, Amy Godose, Lauri Boswell, and Jeanie Parnell. They volunteered at local schools, the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts, the Tim Tebow event, and the Montgomery Kidney Center, as well as assisting with the Volunteer of the Year Award event and even helping with tornado victims.

Jeanie Parnell stated, “I enjoyed volunteering in this placement because there are so many different opportunities and it broadens your understanding of the community we serve.” The diverse volunteer opportunities also allow members to discover a new passion for their community. The Community Sampler placement offered the members participating not only diverse opportunities, but also flexible hours and with our busy schedules, that is like having your cake and eating it, too!
Thank you for your Service!

The following women have been active members of the JLM for more than ten and twenty years! We appreciate their faithfulness and continued commitment to the JLM!

20+ Years
B.B. Burnett
Kay Brummal
Kara Cosby
Marnie Dillon
Michelle Hamilton
Stacey Hill
Paige Justice
Tamara Knight-Fleming

10+ Years
Elizabeth Lawlor
Carmen McCullough
Dell Murdock
Katie Poundstone
Dawn Stephens
Lisa Stevens
Kelli Wise

Thank you to our Donors!
We appreciate all of our donors who contribute generously to the Junior League of Montgomery. With your donations, we are able to continue to give back to our community!

Grand Investor
River Bank & Trust

Premier Investor
Baptist Health

Investor
Blue Cross Blue Shield
Entec Stations

Benefactor
Loree & Owen Aronov

Grand Patron
Harmon Dennis & Bradshaw
ITEC
Leigh Anne Nevins, DMD
ServisFirst Bank

Patron
Alabama Power
Associated Psychologists
Breck Honea State Farm Insurance

Patron (continued)
Calhoun Foods
Sally Corley
Crum Family Charitable Foundation
Suzanne Davidson
HM League Angels
The Hobb's Foundation
Interpublic Group
Norfolk Southern Corporation
in honor of Elizabeth Lawlor
Publix
Robert F. Henry Tile
Nancy Shinbaum
Dawn Stephens
Leigh Winslett
Kelli Wise

In Kind Donors
Prime Magazine
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The UPS store

Women of Hope offers support group meetings, the 2nd Tuesday of each month, free of charge to any breast cancer patients/survivors, caregivers, family members, friends, or anyone interested in becoming a part of this compassionate journey. WOH support group meets at Frazer United Methodist Church at 5:30 PM in room 8114. Light refreshments are served. We encourage you to bring a friend and join Women of Hope...Women Of Montgomery Embracing andNurturing Hope Of Prevention and Eradication of breast cancer... as we pledge to give hope, promote healing and advance our community for the cause! Hope is the assurance that one day we will be able to live cancer free. For more information regarding these support group meetings, please contact Women of Hope at 334-220-5959, email womenofhope@charterm.net, or visit www.thewomenofhope.org. Also, check us out on Facebook.
Our 2012 Bloomingdeals rummage sale raised almost $20,000 in cash to give back to our community.

This sale also directly impacted the community in many ways: we helped a family who lost their home to a fire find some much needed household basics; we helped one of our JLM funded community placements, Aid to Inmate Mothers, furnish a room in their home; someone donated a violin, which in turn was donated to Clefworks to use in educating young students; and, as always, a bride found her dream wedding dress in the boutique.

Over 1400 people attended the two-day event. Many shoppers come year after year to find some of the best deals on gently used items. As usual, the linens department was the first department to sell out. Our Sustainers worked the value shop, known as “Bloomies Best” and made $4400 for the League. We had outstanding furniture donations this year, and many shoppers were able to find just the right item for their home.

Thank you again to all the members of the 2012 Bloomingdeals steering committee for a job well done! Thanks to all the Sustainers who came to work alongside Actives and Provisionals to make this event such a success!
Thank You JLM!

May 18, 2012

Junior League of Montgomery, Inc.
3370 Carter Hill Road
Montgomery, Alabama 36111

Dear Junior League of Montgomery Members,

I would like to thank you for your generous contribution of $1000.00 to Montgomery’s Habitat for Humanity. At this time and in this economy, we are most grateful for your assistance in helping to provide decent affordable housing for those most in need in our community.

It is through donations such as yours that we are able to fulfill our mission of “building simple decent homes in partnership with God's people in need.”

Your donation during this difficult time especially appreciated and may God bless each of you for your generosity.

Sincerely,

Bob Blasingame
Executive Director

Habitat for Humanity

May 30, 2012

Ms. Dio H. Sykes
Interim Chair, Board of Directors
Montgomery” Mental Health America

Dear Friends,

We are so grateful for your generous donation of $1500.00 to Mental Health America of Montgomery for the purchase of much-needed supplies.

We plan to use the funds to purchase counseling bags, and we appreciate the appropriateness of these items. The counseling bags will assist our therapists in their work with children and adults.

Please accept our thanks for your generosity. We are committed to providing the highest quality services to our clients, and your donation will help us continue to meet the needs of our community.

Sincerely,

Jim Davidson
President

June 16, 2012

Dear Members of the Junior League of Montgomery,

Thank you very much for your gift of $200.00 to Montgomery Christian School. Your new computer has already been purchased with your funds. We appreciate your willingness to help us build the reading skills and enthusiasm of our students.

Sincerely,

Joan Daniels
The Junior League of Montgomery
League Logs
Summer 2012

June 25, 2012

Mrs. Dawn H. Stephens
Community Co-Chair Vice President
Junior League of Montgomery
3570 Center Hill Road
Montgomery, AL 36111

Dear Mrs. Stephens,

Attached are two photographs of examples of the recently installed handrails in the women’s and men’s restrooms at the Crump Senior Center. One was taken in the men’s restroom, and the other was taken in the women’s restroom. Elderly people have already expressed their appreciation for the installation of the handrails in the restrooms. Thank you again to the members of the Junior League of Montgomery for the $552.00 used in the purchase and installation of the handrails.

Very truly yours,

Martha Poole Simmons
Volunteer, Crump Senior Center

June 7, 2011

Ms. Suzanne Davidson
Junior League of Montgomery
5370 Center Hill Road
Montgomery, AL 36111

Dear Ms. Davidson,

On behalf of the Junior League of Central Alabama (JLCA), I want to thank you for the generous contribution of $5,000.00 from the Junior League of Central Alabama (JLCA) toward the purchase of two end tables. This donation will help us provide a warm, welcoming atmosphere for our patrons. The tables will be delivered on June 10th, 2011.

Additionally, I would like to express our gratitude for the support and encouragement provided by the Junior League of Montgomery. Your commitment to our mission is truly inspiring and greatly appreciated. Together, we can make a difference in the lives of those we serve.

Again, thank you for your generosity. We look forward to continuing our partnership with the Junior League of Montgomery.

Sincerely,

Deborah L. Elton
Executive Director

June 4, 2012

Mrs. Dawn H. Stephens
Community Co-Chair Vice President
Junior League of Montgomery
3570 Center Hill Road
Montgomery, AL 36111

Dear Mrs. Stephens,

On behalf of the members who participated in activities at the Crump Senior Center at 5755 Center Hill Road, Montgomery, Alabama, I want to express our gratitude for the support and encouragement provided by the Junior League of Montgomery. Your dedication to the community is truly inspiring and greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Martha Poole Simmons
Volunteer, Crump Senior Center

June 10, 2011

Ms. Suzanne Davidson
Junior League of Montgomery
5370 Center Hill Road
Montgomery, AL 36111

Dear Ms. Davidson,

Thank you for your gift to help support the work of the Junior League of Montgomery.

We sincerely appreciate your donation of $1,000.00 for our Wheels On Wheels project.

Your generosity enables MACA and our dedicated volunteers to continue to provide services that make a difference in the lives of individuals and families in our community. Your support helps us continue to provide resources, programs, and services that enhance the quality of life for our clients.

Thank you again for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Richard R. Hesterman
Executive Director

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA - The Junior League of Montgomery (JLM) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the lives of women and children through community service projects and programs. The JLM is committed to raising awareness of the needs of Montgomery’s senior citizens and working to improve the quality of their lives. These efforts include funding for local organizations and programs that support the needs of our community, such as Meals on Wheels, Senior Center programs, and other initiatives that benefit those who are elderly.

The JLM is a proud member of the Junior League of America, an association of women committed to improving the communities in which we live through volunteer service and leadership. The JLM is committed to making a positive impact on the lives of women and children in Montgomery and to fostering a sense of community involvement and dedication to service. The JLM is also a member of the Montgomery Area Council of Junior Leagues (MACA), which provides support and resources to all Junior Leagues in the area. This support helps the JLM to continue to provide meaningful programs and services to the community.
Community Assistance Funds

Recently, the Community Council met to review several funding requests submitted by community agencies. The following agencies were awarded funds for their programs:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agency</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tr>
<td>Baptist Health Foundation</td>
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<td>Crump Senior Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>The New Church @ 301 Dexter</td>
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<td>Blessed Be the Brownbag Program</td>
<td>$907</td>
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<td>Montgomery Christian School</td>
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<td>Montgomery County Water Festival</td>
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<td>Salvation Army</td>
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<tr>
<td>Family Guidance Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>The new Church @ 301 Dexter</td>
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<tr>
<td>Montgomery County Water Festival</td>
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<td>Salvation Army</td>
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<td>YMCA Camp Chandler</td>
<td>$500</td>
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PUT YOUR SUNSCREEN ON!

Skin cancer is the most common form of cancer in the United States.

One person dies of melanoma every hour.

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Use sunscreen with SPF of 30 or higher and apply 20-30 minutes before going outdoors.

Alabama Comprehensive Cancer Control Coalition
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facebook.com/AlCompCancerCoalition
ADPH.ORG
The class chose five agencies from a list of 20 League approved charitable groups. They divided the $5000 among the following groups: Montgomery habitat for humanity, ASk Reading Readiness, Child Protect, and Alabama Sickle Cell Foundation.

The provisional class was led by Elizabeth Lawlor. Elizabeth chose to echo JLM President Marnie Dillon’s theme for the year, Live. Learn. Lead. This theme was woven into all their meetings and volunteer work through the year. Five provisional class meetings were held this year. In August, they received an overview of how the League works, learned about the organizational structure of the League and the levels of membership. They also learned about their expectations as provisional members.

The September meeting explained the League’s financial matters. They learned about League income from membership dues, donations and fundraisers. They learned how the funds were administered to operate the League and how funds were divided throughout the community projects and charities.

During November’s meeting, the provisionals learned how placements and volunteer work are organized through the League and how and when members choose their placement. They also learned how community grants are issued and how agencies we support are funded.

February’s meeting was all about being the best member you can be. Membership development, recruiting and retaining members were the topics discussed. This meeting also explained the nominating process for members who wish to serve as officers, and discussed placement choices available for provisionals.

The provisional year culminated at their May meeting. At this meeting, they reviewed Junior League of Montgomery’s key elements, including active member obligations. Provisional chair Elizabeth Lawlor asked our newest members to take ownership of their League membership, to be engaged in their placement choices, fundraising efforts and to really dig in. At the conclusion of the meeting, the provisional class members wrote letters to themselves of expectations and goals they wanted to meet as new League members.

Congratulations to the newest members of the Junior League of Montgomery! We are excited about the work you will contribute to our community. Special thanks are extended to Elizabeth Lawlor and the provisional committee for leading such a wonderful class. The other members of the provisional committee include Melissa Bowman, co-chair, Amber Buchaman, Carrie Cauthen, Lisa Fiore, Bernadette Hollinger, Renee LaBaza, Angela McCormick, Tina Nixon, and Marie Wise.
WELCOME TO THE LEAGUE!
Provisional Class 2011–2012

In each issue of League Logs, we want to feature a few of our provisional members so that we can all meet them and welcome them to the League. Please greet these new members when you see them at our next event! Photography by the Robertsons.

Amber Cameron  Mary Margaret Carroll  Margaret Cornwell
Megan Robinson  Danita Rose  Elizabeth Saliba
Morgan Cowling  Casey Earnest  Melissa Eubanks
Sonya Stallworth  Carna Triftshauser
Colorectal cancer can affect anyone.

If you are 50 or older, get screened for colorectal cancer.

Colorectal cancer is the 2nd leading cancer killer in Alabama.

Find colorectal cancer early by getting one of these procedures:
- High-sensitivity gFOBT, IFoBT, or FIT annually
- Flexible sigmoidoscopy every 5 years
- Colonoscopy every 10 years

Do you want to be screened but are worried about:
- Transportation
- Cost
- Time

The FIT is an easy way to be tested for colorectal cancer:
- No need to change eating habits
- No need to change medications
- No liquids to drink
- No day off work
- Done in privacy of your home
- Mail back in a few days

This test is covered by many health insurance plans, including Medicare, Medicaid, and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Alabama. Be healthy and celebrate your life!

Ask your doctor about screening options for colorectal cancer, including the new take-home test called FIT or IFoBT. If you are at high risk for colorectal cancer, you may need to be screened more frequently.

For more information, talk to your doctor or visit ADPH.ORG/FITWAY.
everyone’s talkin
The must-haves for the 2012 school year.

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