

# League *Logs*

SUMMER 2013



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A COMMUNITY PUBLICATION OF THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF MONTGOMERY, INC.





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#### 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  
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## EDITOR'S NOTES

*Everybody can be great...because anybody can serve.  
You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You  
don't have to make your subject and your verb agree to  
serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul  
generated by love.*

—Martin Luther King, Jr.

As we wrap up League Logs' 2012-2013 year with our summer issue, I am mindful of what a wonderful year it has been. The holiday 2012 issue highlighted our first Holiday Market at the Cramton Bowl multiplex, the spring 2013 issue debuted our inaugural Shamrock Shuffle 10K run, and in this issue, we read about the \$91,370 that was donated to local agencies at our May general membership meeting.

In this issue, you will see more examples of how Junior League funds were distributed in our community when you read about ClefWorks on page 44, the sensory room at Wilson Elementary on page 14 and a Lee High School field trip on page 58. On page 32, you will get to know your new board of directors who will serve the Junior League of Montgomery for 2013-2014.

It was my honor to serve you as the 2012-2013 League Logs editor, and even though I pass on the torch to Cindy DeLongchamp for the holiday issue, I will continue to remain involved in League Logs, as manager of advertising sales for the magazine. I will do all I can to promote League Logs and the wonderful community projects that the magazine is able to showcase free of charge to our community.

The comedienne Lily Tomlin once said, "I always wondered why somebody doesn't do something about that. Then I realized I was somebody." It really is inspiring to read about what we can accomplish together as Junior League members to make the River Region a better place for all of us.

*Carmen*





# League Logs

## SUMMER 2013 EDITION

Volume 87 Number 3



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THANK YOU  
FROM Lee  
High School  
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ONE MISSION. ONE MEMBERSHIP.  
ONE LEAGUE.

## Final General Membership Meeting

Guided by the "One Mission, One Membership, One League" motto, the Junior League of Montgomery enjoyed a productive and challenging year, ushering in a new spring fundraiser and new ideas.

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## ONE MISSION. ONE MEMBERSHIP. ONE LEAGUE.

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One Mission. One Membership.  
One League.

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"Some people give time, some money, some their skills and connections, some literally give their life's blood. But everyone has something to give." —Barbara Bush



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Junior League of Montgomery is made up of women with much to give. Over the past year, I have watched provisionals, actives and sustainers from all walks of life give their time, money, skills and connections to further our mission. While many things have changed over the last 87 years, our mission has remained constant. We strive to develop the potential of women, improve the community through the effective use of trained volunteers and to promote voluntarism.

I have been amazed at the giving spirit of our members this year. We are fortunate to have so many members willing and able to serve. Our members who have worked directly with the community this year inspired me with their enthusiasm and dedication. I enjoyed working in a community placement this year at the Medical AIDS Outreach Food Pantry. I loved being back in a community placement and hope to be able to do so again in the future as a sustainer.

Our members who coordinated our fundraisers this year have been incredible. They have given their time, skills and connections this year to make sure that our events were successful so that we could give back to the community through our grant program. Their dedication, creativity and enthusiasm for these fundraisers have been remarkable. But none of these fundraisers could be successful without our members who work at these events. Without all of us working together, achieving our mission would be impossible. So, thank you to the members for working at Holiday Market and the Shamrock Shuffle!

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as the President of the Junior League of Montgomery. It has been an incredible

journey that I will never forget. I deeply appreciate your support and encouragement along the way. I want to thank the Board of Directors for their guidance and support this year. They are an amazing group of women whom I am honored to have worked with.

I specifically want to express my appreciation to a few people. Jan Hodgson, my sustaining advisor, has been a sounding board and a wonderful source of strength this year. She has helped me more than she knows. I can't say enough good things about Dawn Stephens. She has been by my side every step of the way. She loves this organization and is going to do a fabulous job as President for 2013-2014. Finally, I want to thank Gretchen Fischer, our office manager, and Jacque Foshee, our donor relations director. Gretchen is such an asset to our organization and is the glue that holds things together. She has been invaluable to me this year and I truly couldn't have done this job without her. Jacque Foshee just completed her first year as our donor relations director and has done an amazing job of streamlining our fundraising efforts and maximizing our donor relations. She has transformed the way we approach our fundraising and is providing the continuity that we need.

I am excited about the great things the Junior League of Montgomery will accomplish next year and in the years to come!

Warmly,

*Suzanne Davidson*  
Suzanne Davidson



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# Tootsie Emmet

## SUSTAINER OF THE YEAR

By Cindy DeLongchamp



*"Finish each day and be done with it. You have done what you could. Some blunders and absurdities no doubt crept in; forget them as soon as you can. Tomorrow is a new day; begin it well and serenely and with too high a spirit to be encumbered with your old nonsense. This day is all that is good and fair. It is too dear, with its hopes and invitations, to waste a moment on yesterday."* —Ralph Waldo Emerson

These are words to live by according to Tootsie Emmet, the Junior League of Montgomery's Sustainer of the Year. Tootsie joined the Junior League in 1958 and recalls that she already knew a lot about the League and its positive reputation, as well as had many friends who were already members. Tootsie acknowledges that through her active years with the League and those beyond, many people believed in her, encouraged and supported her. She expressed her sincere gratitude to those [you know who you are!] who were always on her side!



Elizabeth 'Tootsie' Thigpen Emmet

Tootsie was quite an engaged League member. She was the editor for "A Guide to the City of Montgomery," published in 1969 for Montgomery's sesquicentennial celebration. Tootsie served as the Provisional Chair, Admissions Chair, Rummage Sale Treasurer and served on the Board of Directors as the Treasurer, Vice President and President, in 1972 and 1973. "I enjoyed and benefited from all the activities I participated in during my active membership. Serving as president gave me the opportunity to see the really big picture and to experience firsthand the positive impact the League has on the Montgomery community."

Tootsie served on the Placement and Nominating Committee, Community Research, and Puppet Committee. Puppet Committee? Yes, one of Tootsie's first League placements was Chair of the Puppet Committee. This committee served the

community by providing free entertainment for children. The committee decided to put on the play *Aladdin and His Wonderful Lamp*. League members painted all of the scenery, made the costumes, wrote the play, and selected and recorded the music! Elementary school students from all over Montgomery County came to the old museum to see the production. Tootsie fondly recalls one afternoon during rehearsals when a member was having difficulty with her lines. After her friend's multiple attempts at repeating a phrase, Tootsie hopped upon a chair, center-stage, and in her best Director's voice said, "Frances, repeat after me: 'How now brown cow.'" While Tootsie knew this to be a popular voice exercise used by speech coaches to aid in proper enunciation, the rest of the cast was caught totally off guard and everyone hit the floor laughing! Tootsie recalls hearing some of her fellow play volunteers shout out, "Who do you think you are? Cecil B. DeMille?" In retrospect, Tootsie realizes that she may have had somewhat of an overblown sense of her own importance in the play; however, the children loved the production and Frances delivered her lines perfectly, with or without that brown cow. Tootsie sadly admits that after her stint on the Puppet Committee, she never heard from Broadway or Hollywood. [Their loss!]

Tootsie offers a unique perspective due to her many years in the League and numerous Placement and community

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built, by understanding is  
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volunteer opportunities. When asked what she would like to share with others, she offered the following:

- Take advantage of every opportunity the League gives you to learn about working together for the common good.
- Be aware that you have influence over others and use it wisely.
- Know and care about the community and choose to be an active participant in it.
- Don't hesitate to try something new. If you need help, ask for it. Most people are honored to be asked, and more than willing to help. You have many people behind you and no one wants you to fail.
- When you make mistakes [we all do] admit them, learn from them and move on.
- Most importantly, don't forget to serve those in need. You will be glad you did, and a better person for it.

Although Tootsie joined the Sustainer ranks many years ago, she still keeps herself very busy. It has been her privilege to

serve on numerous and varied civic boards, with an emphasis on serving "at risk" families and children. Tootsie is currently on the Board of Directors of the Children's Museum of Alabama. The Junior League played an important role in helping to get this project started. Tootsie serves as Chairman of the Questplex Foundation Board, a project of the Montgomery City-County Public Library and the Children's Museum of Alabama. The campaign for Questplex is managed by the Questplex Foundation through the Central Alabama Community Foundation, and Tootsie is the Capital Campaign Chairman. She is the current President of the Board of Directors for the One Place Family Justice Center and is on the Development Committee for the Helping Montgomery Families Initiative.

The greatest achievement in Tootsie Emmet's life is her beloved family. Tootsie is very proud of her four children: Tommy, Elizabeth Hare, Virginia Humphrey and Daisy Bear. All of her children, with the exception of Elizabeth, live in Montgomery. Elizabeth resides in Alexander City on beautiful Lake Martin. Tootsie wants readers to know that if they have any spare time, ask her about her seven grandchildren, and her first great-granddaughter, Lovelace. She may have a picture or two to show off!





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# Springtime Luncheon

## HONORS LEAGUE SUSTAINERS

By Erin Schovel Turnham



The Junior League of Montgomery is made possible by the hard work of many women. Especially honored are the women who gave of themselves in active service to the League for ten years or more. To thank these sustainers, the League held a luncheon on Tuesday, March 19 at the home of Lulie Grant.

Mrs. Grant, a sustainer herself, graciously opened her beautiful Old Cloverdale home to welcome those who have given so much of their time and talent to the League. The service these sustainers have given has created a strong bond between the League and the many community-building organizations with which we have partnered over the years.

The luncheon was organized by Stacey Hill, League Relations Chair, and catered by Maria Hill of The King's Creations who is also a sustainer. Tables were set in Mrs. Grant's dining room, study and outside where the 75 gathered sustainers could choose to enjoy their lunch on the terrace or inside the Grants' lovely home. Lulie and Arthur Joe Grant, an architect who has practiced in England, France and the Middle East, have together incorporated artifacts and treasures from their

extensive travels into the fabric of their home. Arthur Joe describes the house as "a collection of memories from Lulie's and my travels together." Their home blends antiques from Alabama such as French doors rescued from a 150 year old house in Selma, with 18<sup>th</sup> century paneling in the living room saved from a London house being dismantled to make way for an office building. The brick used in the Grants' home is handmade and came from a pre-Civil war era house that once stood across the street from Montgomery's Davis Theatre. Antique mantel pieces from Italy and France, crown moulding from Egypt, Spanish tile in the terrace from Seville and in the library, a 17<sup>th</sup> century Japanese screen painted with a scene from the *Tale of Genji*, all evoke memories for the Grants of their life and travels together, memories they enjoy sharing.





In this elegant setting, sustainers sipped Maria Hill's tea punch and nibbled on her signature spicy, crisp cheese lace wafers. Members of the committee served the sustainers their plates of baked chicken salad in puff pastry perched atop nests of creamed spinach, marinated carrot bundles wrapped with leek bows, and fresh cantaloupe, strawberries and pineapple topped with an orange dipping sauce. Freshly baked cheese yeast rolls completed the plates. Dessert was a triple chocolate muffin garnished with a mint chocolate glaze, a mint leaf and a strawberry slice. The tables were draped with spring inspired floral and polka dot table cloths. Easter themed floral baskets,

china eggs and whimsical bunny figurines added finishing touches to the décor.

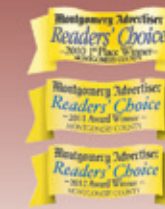
The beautiful weather was brought indoors through floral bouquets from the Grants' garden. The spring ambiance of the luncheon brightened spirits as the ladies enjoyed each other's company. League president Suzanne Davidson thanked the ladies for their years of service. Finally, as an extra thank you, sustainers found delicious fruit muffins arranged in a bag tied with ribbon at each place setting and decorated with a sentiment thanking them for their dedication.



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**PRIVACY AWAITS YOU**  
at this 4+ acre Pike Road property. Home offers 5 BR, 4.5 BA, large foyer open to great room w/FP, soaring ceiling heights, wood floors, built ins, dining rm, butler pantry w/sink, kitchen features double ovens, island, 2 sinks & huge pantry. There is also a separate study, upstairs bonus rm(5th BR)w/bath. 3 car garage, separate bay wired as workshop w/sink. \$399,900. Call Anna Kate at 799-3597.



**EXQUISITE DESIGN & ATTENTION TO DETAIL**  
Sitting on an oversized lot, this Pike Road home offers 4 BRs, 3.5 BAs plus a 5th BR/study/play room. Wood floors throughout the foyer, dining rm, living rm & great room w/custom stone hearth FP. The cook's kitchen features upgraded appliances, abundant cabinetry, pantry & breakfast/serving bar. The master suite has a huge walk in closet & spa like bath. \$349,900. Call Anna Kate at 799-3597.



**CHARMING OLD CLOVERDALE HOME.**  
Walk to Fairview restaurants, shops & theater! Spacious great room w/wood floors, 10ft ceilings & marble gas fireplace, separate dining room, sun rm, large breakfast, play rm /study area & spacious master. The kitchen has been updated & features a gas stove, subway tile back splash, antiqued granite & two pantries! Two large guest bedrooms upstairs. \$289,000. Call Anna Kate at 799-3597.



**PIKE ROAD LIVING**  
Enjoy the large great room w/handsome FP, dining rm, spacious kitchen w/breakfast rm & sunroom sitting area. The master has a FP, den/sitting area & access to screened back patio. Master bath boasts a large walk in closet, sep shower & his & her vanities. There's 5+/- acres, a large deck, pool w/fountain, play house, & a detached rec rm & work barn. \$315,000. Call Anna Kate at 799-3597.



**LAKESIDE LIVING IN PIKE ROAD!**  
Immaculate 3 BR, 2 BA features an open foyer, living (or dining) rm & great room w/new laminate wood floors & updated light fixtures. Spacious master offers 2 walk in closets plus a large updated bathroom. Utility room has space for washer dryer, freezer & a counter top for work space. Covered patio, new roof, new water heater, & HVAC (3 years old) & more! \$179,995. Call Anna Kate at 799-3597.



**SPREAD OUT**  
Spacious 5 BR home on a wooded lot in Sturbridge offers a large great room w/vaulted ceilings, FP, & wood floors. Separate dining rm w/wood floors located off the dream kitchen. Screened porch. Downstairs guest & master suite, add'l BRS up (1 could be bonus rm). \$299,000. Call Anna Kate 799-3597.



**LOADED WITH UPGRADES**  
Custom built, 3 BR, 3 BA builder's personal home. Wood floors in the great room w/stone fireplace & in the island kitchen w/gas cook top, pot filler, granite counter tops, beautiful back splash & double pantries. HUGE master has a separate rm which can be used for study, work out rm or child's rm. Just off the south end of Hwy 231 this property is very convenient to Montgomery & Wetumpka! \$259,900



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Upgrades-upgrades throughout this 3 BR, 2 BA in Ryan Ridge. Vinyl wood plank floors offer low maintenance in the living area. The great room is centered by a beautiful chandelier & gas FP. Upgraded flooring in dining rm, new tile floors in the kitchen & breakfast rm. \$138,000. Call Anna Kate at 799-3597.

**Call Anna Kate Bowen at 334-799-3597**





# JLM Grant Helps Children with Sensory Deficits

## AT WILSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

By Kara Cosby

Junior League of Montgomery donated \$1000 to the sensory integration program at Wilson Elementary School in order to buy a liquid projector, which is one part of the sensory room. The school received the money from a JLM Community Research grant earlier this year.

A liquid projector is a special projector that is mounted on the ceiling in the sensory room. Basically, there are hundreds of different "wheels" available that have various themes, and the wheels project soothing images on walls. For example, the wheel the school is using now looks like an underwater view of the sea. It is one way to soothe the children and create a different visual, sensory experience.

Wilson currently has 17 students in its Language Unit housed within the school. Not all of the students are diagnosed with autism, but the majority of the students have sensory deficits and are in need of these special language services.

Wilson celebrated Autism Awareness Day on Tuesday, April 2, with numerous activities and programs for the students as well as parents and the community. At approximately 9:38 a.m., which is 88 minutes into the school day (to represent the 1 in 88 children diagnosed with autism), all Wilson students met in the front circle for a balloon release. Teachers and students in each homeroom made posters with special messages about autism. After the release, students did an "autism walk," where they walked to different stations and discussed the messages on each stop around the campus about autism. Students and staff wore special "Light It Up Blue" t-shirts in support of the event. Local media outlets

were on hand to provide coverage of the event for television and local newspaper websites.

Later that morning, state and local dignitaries, as well as sponsors and school staff, were on hand to have a formal ribbon cutting ceremony for the Sensory Integration Room, which was a joint project with Auburn Montgomery, Home Depot, Junior League of Montgomery, and the Chantilly Walmart. MPS Board members, special education staff, and parents joined in officially opening the room. A reception was held after Language Unit teachers Elisabeth Newell and Lauren Breeding gave tours, answered questions, and spoke with the local media.

To wrap up the day, Wilson hosted a "Light It Up Blue" event at the school, and displayed the blue lighting around the school in honor of Autism Awareness Month. Home Depot on Chantilly Parkway transformed the school lighting to a cool blue color, which remained until the end of the month. Several speakers were on hand for the event, as well as students, staff and parents. The Wilson singers performed, and blue glow necklaces and bracelets were sold to raise money to buy additional items for the sensory room.

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DEPLOYED JLM MEMBER HAS

# Adventure of a Lifetime

By Mia L. Kreimeier, Major, U.S. Air Force



I have served in the U.S. Air Force for 20 years now and I have been a member of the Junior League since 2008. I moved to Montgomery from Washington, DC, in 2010 with my husband and 7 year-old daughter. Currently assigned at Maxwell AFB, I am the Chief of Mission Support at the Jeanne Holm Center for Officer Accessions and Citizen Development where I lead a team of personnelists in supporting Air Force ROTC Officer Training School, Junior ROTC and Civil Air Patrol-USAF.

I first became interested in joining the Air Force after Desert Storm (the first Gulf War). I was a high school senior at the time, and felt an overwhelming desire to give back to the country. As a personnel officer, I have had some really great opportunities to see places I wouldn't have otherwise been able to see. The personnel career field is versatile, so one can be assigned almost anywhere. In this article, I want to focus on my deployment to Djibouti because it was my first French-speaking job, the reason for which I went to school (better late than never).

I recently had the privilege of deploying to the Horn of Africa where I served at Camp Lemonnier on the Combined Joint Task Force (CJTF) as the Chief of Protocol. The Republic of Djibouti is a former French colony in the far east, or horn, of Africa (HoA). It is bordered by Eritrea to the north, Ethiopia to the west and south, and Somalia in the southeast. The people of Djibouti are beautiful and welcoming, and the landscape is a hot, dry desert climate. There seems to be little to no industry beyond the shipping industry which is host to all the imports and exports of the Gulf of Aden.

The mission of CJTF-HoA is to provide Civil Affairs support such as education, training, and assistance to the military forces and coalition partners in the area of operations. My 6-month journey began in July 2013, when I kissed and said

goodbye to my family and boarded the plane in Montgomery headed for Norfolk, Va., where I would await airlift for 24 hours. After spending the night in Virginia, I took a plane ride that lasted 34 hours, stopping along the way in places like Naples and Bahrain. We finally reached Djibouti at 4:30am, and the temperature was about 100 degrees. After processing, I was greeted by my new boss and driven to my new home in "CLUville." A CLU is a Containerized Living Unit or metal shipping container used to house military personnel. I unpacked a uniform and showered in the latrine, a communal restroom/shower facility. I then headed into the office and began the adventure of a lifetime.

My staff consisted of one navy yeoman, a young man named Nigel, serving a one-year tour, who became my wingman through thick and thin. A wingman is what an Air Force member calls a partner, buddy, or teammate who looks out for him or her at all times. My job was to plan and execute accommodations and itineraries for distinguished visitors. The camp receives more than 100 visits annually, so it's a very hectic and complex task for two people. For this reason, we had access to drivers and other support personnel who really helped us get the job done. Of course, as a French speaker, I prepared correspondence and did some interpreting which is essential when trying to build relationships.



Fortunately, it wasn't all work and no play for me. There were many leisure offerings in Djibouti, so there's always something to do in the off-hours. Typically, every military base has an MWR shop (Morale, Welfare, and Recreation) where one can plan excursions. The MWR shop offered trips to many other countries such as South Africa, Ethiopia, and Tanzania. I was lucky enough to get a four-day excursion to Zanzibar off the east coast.

I took the trip to Zanzibar, Tanzania with two other Americans. We stayed in Stone Town, which is the former historic British colony. In fact, many British and other European people were visiting over New Year's weekend, as we were. The area is famous for spices, especially cloves, so we went on a tour of a spice farm and were treated to a thorough education of plants and spices such as cinnamon, ginger, nutmeg, mangoes, coconuts and many others. Our tour guide was exceptional and extremely knowledgeable about the wildlife in the spice farm and surrounding forests.

We also went on a sunset sail on the Indian Ocean, keeping our eyes open for pirates. We sailed out and back while enjoying cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and live music. While travelling to Zanzibar, we met a gentleman from New Zealand who had come to swim with the whale sharks off the coast of Djibouti. The whale sharks migrate to warmer waters every

year during the winter months and many people travel from all over the world to experience the migration by swimming with the whale sharks. I am not a swimmer and therefore did not participate in this popular pastime, but the camp offered many trips for those who were interested.

We were able to volunteer in our off-duty time, and so I chose to participate in English Discussion Group or "EDG." This program is sponsored by the U.S. Ambassador and is wildly popular among the people assigned on the camp. Every day except Friday and Saturday, a group of volunteers goes to a different school and conducts cultural exchange and language improvement through conversation. I found this especially rewarding, so I went every opportunity that I could. In addition to elementary through high school, we also visited the university students. What struck me the most about these classes is the openness of the students and their teachers. They all speak their native French and Arabic, but also their tribal dialects of Somali and Affar. Yet, they participate in EDG to gain knowledge of English because they believe it is a critical skill to building a better life for themselves, whether they remain in Djibouti or travel to the West.

Another activity I enjoyed was visiting the baby orphanage. There are many orphan children in Djibouti, and the camp partners with a local orphanage where nuns care for about 40





babies and toddlers. The camp transports volunteers to the orphanage almost every day. I got to play with the babies, feed, bathe and diaper them. I also really enjoyed participating in the various charitable events sponsored by the U.S. Embassy.

The spouses and family members of U.S. and coalition partners would get together at the U.S. Residence and share our experiences of Djibouti. The name “French Connection” indicates our mutual penchant for the French language and culture.

My adventure to Djibouti ended January 31, when I had my shoes inspected for desert dirt, and boarded the flight back to the U.S.—again, stopping in other countries along the way, and finally arriving in Montgomery. I was greeted at the

airport by my family and co-workers holding a giant banner with my picture. While I enjoyed my time abroad, I am truly grateful to be home safely.

I’m looking forward to getting back into volunteering with the Junior League and working in my new placement: ClefWorks. My other interests are Civil Air Patrol and volunteering with the International Officer School as an Alabama Goodwill Ambassador. These two programs keep me busy interacting with a diverse group of people. Another adventure of mine will be hosting a foreign exchange student this next year. My family and I are really excited about having a teenager in the house and enjoying life with her in Montgomery.



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 and Nurturing 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 334-220-4599, email [womenofhope@charter.net](mailto:womenofhope@charter.net), or visit [www.thewomenofhope.org](http://www.thewomenofhope.org). Also, check us out on Facebook.

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# 2013 ASSOCIATION OF JUNIOR LEAGUES INTERNATIONAL Annual Conference

By Ashley White



The Association of Junior Leagues International (AJLI) was founded in 1901 by New York social activist Mary Harriman. The organization today is comprised of more than 155,000 women in 293 Leagues throughout Canada, Mexico, the United Kingdom and the United States. Together, this group constitutes one of the largest, most effective volunteer organizations in the world.

Suzanne Davidson, Dawn Stephens, and I had the privilege of attending the 2013 AJLI Annual Conference in Washington D.C. on May 16-18. The theme of this year's conference was "Leadership Empowered" and recognized that the Junior League member is "an extraordinary breed of woman capable of leading her community and of getting others to follow in tackling society's thorniest issues and orchestrating monumental, meaningful change while enhancing the social, cultural and political fabric of our civil society."

In an effort to further educate and empower leaders, conference organizers offered attendees numerous meetings, workshops, and panel presentations on topics ranging from risk management and parliamentary procedure to community collaborations and community impact. The meetings and workshops offered helped us gain new skills and tools necessary to move our League forward. In addition to learning new approaches to membership and community-based issues, we also were able to network with other Junior Leagues from across the country to learn how they operate effectively in their respective communities. Some of the workshops we attended included Powerhouse Collaboration for Community Impact, Prepare for a Tomorrow that Doesn't Look Like Today, Building Junior League Capacity: Junior League Model Programs, and Shifting the Power: Nonprofit Advocacy and Lobbying.

This year's keynote speaker was Zainab Salbi, an Iraqi-American writer, activist and founder of Women to Women International, an organization that equips women from conflict-born countries with job training for independence. The author of two books, Salbi was honored by President Bill Clinton for her work in 1993 in Bosnia and Herzegovina. She also received the 2010 David Rockefeller Bridging Leadership Award and was named one of 22 members of the Clinton Global Initiative Lead program.

The annual banquet was held Saturday night where several of our sister Leagues were recognized for their hard work and achievements throughout the year. Recently elected members to the AJLI Board of Directors were recognized, as well as all outgoing members of the Board. It was a wonderful evening highlighting the outstanding accomplishments of Leagues and individuals within those Leagues.

On behalf of Suzanne, Dawn and myself, I thank you for allowing us to represent Junior League of Montgomery at the AJLI 91st Annual Conference. We are energized and enthusiastic about the future of our organization!







# LEAGUE ANNOUNCES NEW SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AT Donor Appreciation Luncheon

By Jenny Thiessen



THANK YOU! GRAZIE! MAHALO! DANKE SCHÖN! MUCHAS GRACIAS! MERCI BEAUCOUP!

As children, we were taught to say "please" and "thank you." As adults, it is still good to say "please" and "thank you." Junior League of Montgomery recently said "thank you" to the individual and corporate sponsors who supported the League this year at a recent luncheon at Central.

Many donors and prospective donors attended along with members of the Board of Directors, the fund development committee, and the chairpersons of 2013-2014 fundraisers.

Suzanne Davidson welcomed all in attendance and introduced a video which represented some of the JLM events of the 2012-2013 year. JLM members mixed and mingled with all our donors to share with them a little bit about what we accomplish in the community with the monies donated to us. Jacque Foshee, our donor relations director, and Michelle Mowery, current chairperson of our fund development committee, introduced a new way of obtaining sponsorships for JLM. Junior League now offers a League-wide sponsorship which allows us to partner with companies and individuals for an entire year. These sponsors will be able to get their name out at all of our fundraisers.

Monetary gifts, both small and large, make a big impact on the work we as a group are able to accomplish in our community. Suzanne announced the organizations that will receive monies from Junior League for the 2013-2014 year. This year, we will serve the community in the following areas: ClefWorks, Medical AIDS Outreach, Montgomery Christian School, Montgomery City-County Public Library Summer Reading Program, Habitat for Humanity-Women Build, and Life Time Resolutions-II (Lotus Bloom Computer Enrichment Center.)

Through our fundraisers like Holiday Market and the Shamrock Shuffle, we are able to add more funds to support local agencies. With our community presentation of College and Career Night, we are able to provide area high school juniors and seniors and their parents with free information about post-high school educational opportunities. Through our partnership with the Alabama Restaurant Association (ARA) and the Taste of the River Region event, we are able to generate funds for our JLM agencies as well as other non-profit organizations supported by the ARA. In 2014, our rummage sale returns as not only a fundraiser, but also as a community service which provides much-needed clothing, furniture and other household items at a reduced cost.

We truly appreciate the individuals and corporate sponsors who support Junior League of Montgomery. Through individual and corporate sponsorships, we are able to further our mission of **promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women and improving the community** through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers.

If you are interested individually, or if your company is interested corporately, in partnering with Junior League of Montgomery, please contact Jacque Foshee at 334.432.0434 or [jacquefoshee@jlmontgomery.org](mailto:jacquefoshee@jlmontgomery.org).



# FINAL GENERAL Membership Meeting

By Katy Sulhoff



It seems like no sooner did the year begin, that it ended. Guided by the "One Mission, One Membership, One League" motto, the Junior League of Montgomery enjoyed a productive and challenging year, ushering in a new spring fundraiser and new ideas. Members gathered for the final general membership meeting of the year on May 14 at the Capital City Club to reflect upon the past year and celebrate many accomplishments.

The meeting began with a cocktail social hour in which an array of hors d'oeuvres was served. Ladies mingled and "caught up" until the meeting was called to order by League President, Suzanne Davidson. The regular order of business was overshadowed by more monumental agenda items, the first being the presentation of grants to several worthy River Region charitable organizations—a total of \$91,370 raised by Junior League members.

"The kindness that the Junior League of Montgomery has shown in supporting this project speaks volumes to their investment in meeting the great needs of the River Region," said Michael Murphree, CEO, Medical AIDS Outreach of Alabama.

Medical AIDS Outreach received \$20,000, one of the largest grants presented. The money will help the organization's food pantry.

A first for the League, members awarded a \$20,000 grant to Glenwood Autism & Behavioral Health Center to be used to open an outpatient treatment center in Montgomery. The League is partnering with the Central Alabama Community Foundation to assist in bringing a Glenwood clinic to Montgomery. The clinic will help children in our community who need treatment for autism spectrum disorders.

"The treatment center is the first of its kind in Montgomery. For many years, children who have needed treatment have traveled to Birmingham and other areas to receive treatment," said Ashley White, Junior League Community Council Vice-President. "With the money awarded, families will have expanded access to mental health services for children with autism."

Representatives from each organization were on hand to accept the grants, each expressing gratitude for the funds.

ClefWorks	\$11,000
Glenwood	\$20,000
Habitat for Humanity (Women Build)	\$15,000
Life Time Resolution II (Lotus Bloom Computer Enrichment Center)	\$11,009
Medical AIDS Outreach	\$20,000
Montgomery Christian Academy	\$9,270
Montgomery County Public Library Summer Reading Program	\$5,000

The grants presentation was followed by membership awards to recognize League members who have "stood out" or contributed above and beyond what is expected. Sustainer of the Year was awarded to Tootsie Emmet. The "Women to Watch" awards given to active members for five years or less

were: Tandra Elmore, Victoria Belton, Carrie Cauthen, and Candice Butterfield. The Community Placement of the Year was awarded to Medical AIDS Outreach, and the In-League Placement of the Year went to the Shamrock Shuffle in its inaugural year. The Community Placement Volunteer of the Year was given to Tamela Selmar for her service to women at Mary Ellen's Hearth at the Nellie Burge Community Center. Megan McCarthy was named the In-League Placement Volunteer of the Year for her outstanding work as Holiday Market Treasurer. The Tonda West Provisional of the Year Award was given to three women: Nicole Johnson, Deise Russell, and Quenita Mitchell. "These three ladies went above and beyond what was expected of them," said Melissa Bowman, Provisional Chair. "They not only completed all of their provisional requirements, but also volunteered to help with additional projects and always did so with such enthusiasm and positive attitudes. They were encouraging to their fellow class members and consistently demonstrated a commitment to helping the Junior League achieve its mission."





After the award presentation, it was time to recognize all Provisional members and welcome them as First Year Actives. After completing many hours of volunteer work, raising money, and getting to know other women in the League, Provisionals were proud to officially become members of the League.

While for some it was the beginning of their Junior League road, for others, it was a new chapter. Suzanne Davidson, Lisa Stevens, Jodie Champion, Munich Cabble-Ware, Vickie Wilson, Patti Powell, Amy Rodgers, and Jennifer Seymour transitioned into Sustainer status.

Common themes of the meeting were congratulations, gratitude, and highlighting great strides made in the last year. And it would not have been possible without the leadership of Suzanne Davidson. At the close of the meeting, Suzanne reflected upon her year as President, naming multiple

milestones: moving Holiday Market to a new location at the Montgomery Multiplex, initiating the new Shamrock Shuffle 10K spring fundraiser, and establishing a full-time JLM Fund Development position.

"That is a lot to be proud of this year and a lot that we have accomplished in the League," Suzanne said. "Thank you for the opportunity to be President."

With that, former League Presidents spanning decades of leadership lined up for the traditional Passing of the Gavel, handing off the treasured mallet one-by-one, and landing in the hands of the League's new President, Dawn Stephens. And then, for the first time, Dawn adjourned the meeting, ending the evening's events and the memorable 2012-2013 year of the League.

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# This Little Light

By Jeanie Parnell



Many of us know people who have a light, a certain likability and kindness that draws others to that person and makes them feel comfortable, loved, and happy. My friend Elliot Patterson Williams was like that. She had a light; in fact, she was a light.

Her greatest goal in life was to glorify God in all that she did. In her short thirty-six years, she accomplished that and much more, not only through her sunny disposition and everyday acts of kindness, but especially through her CaringBridge posts and testimonies during the last eight months of her life.



Elliot died of ovarian cancer last year. She left behind her sister, her parents, her loving husband, and her two precious children whom she cherished. It's not fair that Elliot had to give up her dream of being a mother, of being able to watch her children grow and teach them all the things in life she valued most: faith, kindness, and love. It isn't fair that her family and friends have to continue on living as if her absence isn't an abyss of loss that can never be filled again. But sometimes, life isn't fair, and certainly, cancer never is.

Elliot fought her illness like a soldier. She sought out the finest doctors, submitted herself to the most aggressive care, and for a while, it looked like she was going to win. It looked like she could beat this evil killer called cancer, and we all rallied around that hope. But in a mere matter of a few short weeks, hope turned to devastation. Ovarian cancer took Elliot's life swiftly, robbing her of the joys of motherhood and stealing the happy future she so deserved.

That is the way with cancer, and with ovarian cancer in particular. Did you know that half of women diagnosed with ovarian cancer die within five years? It is called the silent killer, with generic symptoms easily passed off as stress or

exhaustion. Currently, there is no diagnostic test that can determine a woman's risk or even early stages of this terrible disease. That is why education is so important. It is the only tool women have to guard themselves against a mortality rate that is as high as 80% and affects 1 in every 72 women in their lifetime. Ovarian cancer strikes women of all ages, as young as eleven and as old as ninety. It is imperative that every woman gets informed, takes good care of her health, and gets regularly scheduled check-ups with her doctor.

Elliot's Light is a group started unknowingly by Elliot, but continued through her friends and family, with the mission to educate the public about ovarian cancer. We invite you, your sisters, mothers, wives, and friends, to join us for an educational discussion on the topic given by **Dr. Ronald Alvarez**, chair of UAB's Division of Gynecological Oncology and President of the National Society of Gynecological Oncologists. Dr. Alvarez is listed in the top 100 doctors in the United States and will discuss ovarian cancer's symptoms, causes, and treatment, as well as the current state of research.



This informational discussion will be held during Ovarian Cancer Awareness month on **Thursday, September 12, from 11:30-1:00** in Trinity Hall at Trinity Presbyterian Church,



located at 1728 South Hull Street in Montgomery. A light lunch will be served with a thirty-minute social time before the program. Dr. Alvarez will speak from 12:00-12:30 in an effort to accommodate the work schedules of our guests. This event is free to the public, but we do ask that you register by sending an email to [elliotslight@gmail.com](mailto:elliotslight@gmail.com) or by calling 334-264-8662 so that we can be sure to accommodate

everyone. Please help us in our efforts to spread Elliot's light and educate others about ovarian cancer.

For more information about ovarian cancer, please visit the following websites: [www.nlovca.org](http://www.nlovca.org), [www.ocrf.org](http://www.ocrf.org), and <http://lovarian.org>. To visit Elliot's CaringBridge site or to hear her testimony, go to [www.caringbridge.org/visit/elliottwilliams](http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/elliottwilliams). We hope to see you September 12!



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2013-2014

# Board of Directors

## PRESIDENT DAWN STEPHENS



Dawn Stephens was born and raised in Montgomery. She has a bachelor's degree in marketing from Auburn University. She started graduate school at Troy and hopes to go back and finish her master's in the future. Her past work experience includes the Alabama State Bar, Executive Director of the Montgomery County Bar Association, Consultant with CH2M HILL, and Program Facilitator with the Alabama Clean Water Partnership.

Dawn joined the League as a provisional over a decade ago and her past League service includes serving as Community Council VP, Advisory/Strategic Planning, Nominating, Holiday Market and Decorator Show House Steering Committees, Community Research Chair, Community Research Committee, Publications, and Holiday Market silent auction. She volunteered this last year at the Medical AIDS

Outreach food pantry on Monday mornings and loved interacting with the clients.

In the community, Dawn recently graduated from Leadership Montgomery as a member of Class XXIX. She also just finished a term on the board of Hands on River Region, and served the last five years on the board of the Montgomery Clean City Commission.

She and her family are members of the new River City Church and have been instrumental in "re-establishing" a United Methodist presence downtown in the former Dexter Avenue United Methodist Church building. At FUMC, she was on the Administrative Board, Family Ministries Chair, Nominating and Leadership Development Committee, Sunday School teacher, and Chair of the United Methodist Women's Annual Fall Bazaar, Bazaar co-chair, Bazaar Steering committee for five years, Children's Council, and Young Adult Council, just to name a few areas of service. In fact, she still teaches Vacation Bible School at FUMC each year and helps as co-chair of VBS Registration.

Joining the Junior League has given Dawn opportunities in the community she's not sure she would have had otherwise. She says she has grown so much as a volunteer, employee, friend, person, and leader because of her experiences with the League.

She is married to Gary Stephens, who is originally from Huntsville. He attended Auburn University for two years and has a finance degree from Athens State and a law degree from Jones School of Law in Montgomery. They have two children, Oliver who is ten years old and will be in fourth grade at Forest Avenue Academic Magnet School, and Maggie, who is five, and will start kindergarten at Forest Avenue in the fall.



President-Elect  
**ASHLEY WHITE**

Ashley Killian White is originally from Birmingham, and moved to Montgomery after graduating from Auburn University and Cumberland School of Law. She is married to Nowell White. She and Nowell have a daughter who is 6 years old, Killian Adams White, and a son who is 2 years old, Cooper Thomas White.

Ashley currently works as a senior staff attorney for Judge Beth Kellum on the Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals. She is a graduate of Leadership Montgomery, Class XXVI, serves on the Leadership Montgomery Board of Directors, serves on the Advisory Council of the Family Sunshine Center, and also serves on the Advisory Board for the Landmarks Foundation. Ashley has previously served as President of the Family Sunshine Center Board of Directors, as Chair of the 2013 Bazaar D'Art fundraiser committee and as a member of the Live Auction committee for the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts. In 2012, Ashley received the Estelle Popkin Volunteer of the Year Award for her work with the Family Sunshine Center. 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, as chair and co-chair of both the Community Research committee and the Placement committee, as well as Operations Council Vice President. Ashley most recently served on the Junior League Board of Directors as the Community Council Vice President.



Recording Secretary  
**JENNY FRENCH**

Jenny was raised in Birmingham. She attended Auburn University for two years and graduated from the University of Alabama at Birmingham with a bachelor of science degree in nursing. Jenny moved to Montgomery in August of 2007 and is currently a stay-at-home mom to her four children.

Since joining the League, Jenny has served on MACOA, and has chaired the MACOA placement and the arrangements committee. She has also served in the community as a member of Montgomery-Autauga-Elmore County Medical Alliance. She attends St. James United Methodist Church, where she is an active volunteer for Vacation Bible School and the youth department. Jenny is also very active in her children's schools serving as room mother and as chair of the PTO.

Jenny is married to Stan French, a radiologist with Montgomery Radiology Associates. They have four children, Lauren (12), Hayley (9), Morgan (5), who attend Trinity Presbyterian School and Luke (4) who attends Vaughn Forest Preschool. Besides taking care of her children, Jenny enjoys cooking, traveling, reading, attending Auburn football games, and the company of good friends.





Community Council VP  
**JEANIE PARNELL**

Jeanie Parnell grew up in Montgomery and is a graduate of Auburn University, where she earned her bachelor of science degree in interior design. She is a newly published author, and her debut novel, "Fairhope," is a second place winner in the 2013 Amazon Breakthrough Novel Award.

Since joining the League in 2002, Jeanie has served on the Board of Directors as Fund Development Chair, Advisory and Strategic Planning Chair, Nominating Chair, and Membership Council Vice President. She has also been active in placements such as MANE, the Children's Literacy Guild, the Holiday Market preview party committee, and as placement chair for the Community Sampler committee.

Jeanie attends the First United Methodist Church 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. In the past, Jeanie has been active with the Landmarks Foundation, serving as co-chair for their fundraiser, and as a chapter advisor for her sorority. She is currently getting involved with the Children's Museum of Alabama and with ovarian cancer awareness.

Jeanie is married to Matt Parnell, an attorney with Parnell and Crum. They have three children, Bennett (8), Blake (5), and Kate (4), and Jeanie enjoys staying home with them. When she has time, Jeanie likes to write, paint, read, and travel.



Membership Council VP  
**KIMBERLY BAKER**

Kimberly Strag Baker grew up in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and has her bachelor of science degree from Auburn University. Kimberly is married to Benjamin E. Baker, Jr., an attorney at Beasley Allen. They have three children, Isabella (11), Benjamin (9) and Liam (3).

Kimberly has served the Junior League in many different areas. She has been the Nominating Vice President, Member at Large, as well as the Community Research and Membership Council committees. She has co-chaired Taste of the River Region, and will serve as chair this year. Kimberly has volunteered with and chaired various placements throughout the years such as Medical Outreach Ministries, DHR Back to School, ClefWorks and Brantwood Children's Home.

In her spare time, Kimberly serves on the Medical AIDS Outreach advisory board, Montgomery Music Project advisory board, and is the past president, vice president, outreach chair and artistic chair of the ClefWorks Board of Directors.

Kimberly attends Christchurch XP where she volunteers as a Sunday school teacher and vacation Bible school volunteer.

In her spare time she enjoys playing tennis, shopping, riding horses and spending time with family and friends.



Communications Council VP  
**ANGELA FOSHEE**

Angela grew up in Birmingham and graduated from Auburn University at Montgomery with a degree in information systems. She is employed with ALFA Insurance as an IT Systems Specialist (SE). She holds two Microsoft certifications (MCITP and MCTS), as well as a computer security certification (Security+) and is a Dell Certified Technician. She is currently studying for her Certified Ethical Hacker certification.

Since joining the League in 2006, Angela has served as the Website & Technology Chair where she managed the website redesign project, as well as Rebuilding Together, College and Career Night and arrangements committee. She volunteers in the community with Family Promise, Rebuilding Together and Habitat for Humanity.

Angela is married to John Hunter Foshee, a general contractor, architect and real estate broker with Foshee Design & Construction. In her spare time, she enjoys working on old cars with her husband, reading, gardening and fixing computers.



Operations Council VP  
**FELICIA LONG**

Felicia 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 Governance Chair, the Holiday Market steering committee (secretary, 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, Board of Directors for the Britton YMCA (former chairman), Board of Directors for the Jimmy Hitchcock Memorial Award (past president), Board of Directors for the Red Cross, and Board of Trustees for Frazer United Methodist Church. She is also on the Board of Directors for the Montgomery County Bar Association, where she chairs the bar association's annual charity event. Felicia 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.

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 the outdoors and traveling.





Fundraising VP  
**KARA COSBY**

Kara is the Technology Coordinator at James W. Wilson Elementary School. Prior to her teaching tenure, she served as the Director of Marketing and Public Relations for a local insurance company for over ten years. She has a B.A. in marketing and public relations/journalism from Auburn University, a master's degree in childhood education from Auburn University at Montgomery, and is currently pursuing an additional certification in instructional leadership. Kara is a lifelong resident of Montgomery (other than a great four years at Auburn) and is married to Tab Cosby, also from Montgomery. They have two sons: Zach (10) who is a student at Forest Avenue Academic Magnet School and Hunter (7) who attends Bear Exploration Center.

Kara's experience on the Board for the JLM includes Community Council Vice President, Communications Council Vice President, and Membership Council Vice President. Prior to serving on the Board, her League responsibilities included serving as Chair of Holiday Market and as Provisional Co-Chair and Chair. Kara has also served as Holiday Market silent auction co-chair, along with placements at Medical Outreach Ministries and the Adullam House. She is a past volunteer entertainment chair for Jubilee City Fest, has worked with the tutoring and mentoring program at First Baptist Church, and was on the science committee for the Children's Museum of Alabama.

Kara attends St. James United Methodist Church, where she has served on the Children's Council, and has taught preschool, Terrific Tuesdays, Sunday School and Vacation Bible School. Kara enjoys traveling with the family, especially for weekends at Lake Martin. Her favorite pastimes include flower arranging for weddings and special events, cooking, and entertaining friends.



Finance Council VP  
**ANNA WILSON**

Anna grew up in Montgomery and graduated from Birmingham-Southern College with a bachelor's degree in accounting. She also holds a master's degree in tax accounting from the University of Alabama. Currently, Anna is a CPA and works at Warren Averett as a manager in the tax department.

Anna's prior League service includes Assistant Treasurer, Community Council, Montgomery Education Foundation Committee Chair, Montgomery Cancer Wellness Committee, American Humanities Committee, and Back to School Committee. Anna is an active member of Frazer Memorial United Methodist Church, where she teaches Sunday school for Kindergartners.

Anna is married to Nathan Wilson, a staff attorney for Judge Scott Donaldson on the Court of Civil Appeals. They have two sons, Philip (7) who attends Trinity Presbyterian School, and Ben (3) who attends Frazer Memorial Preschool. Anna enjoys reading, watching movies, and spending time with family and friends.



Nominating Chair  
**DEBORAH MOORE**

A native of Montgomery and graduate of St. Jude High School, Deborah earned a bachelor's degree in mathematics at Tuskegee University before joining the IBM Corporation. She lived the "I've Been Moved" acronym during her long term career with "Big Blue," residing in several states across the nation while receiving honors for stellar achievements in the variety of positions she held.

Upon her return to Montgomery, she became the Society Columnist for the Montgomery Advertiser, the first African American to hold the position in the city's history.

Since joining the League, Deborah has been recognized with the League's 2009 "Women to Watch" Award; as a 2012 "Member Spotlight" honoree; and as chairwoman of the Medical AIDS Outreach Committee, which was recently honored as the League's 2013 Placement of the Year. She has served on the first Kids In the Kitchen Committee; College and Career Night Committee; Community Research Committee; the Community Council; Membership Council; and as Nominating Co-Chair.

While doing so, she served the community as president of both the American Cancer Society Leadership Council and the Montgomery Symphony League; Vice President of both the Montgomery Ballet and Goodwill Industries Volunteer Services; and as Secretary of the Montgomery Chapter of The Links, Inc. She also served on the boards of the Montgomery Symphony, Goodwill Industries of Central Alabama, Girl Scouts of South Central Alabama; as a member of the Montgomery Rotary Club, and on the Advisory Board of ClefWorks, for which she served as the chair of its first Composition Competition.

Enjoying needlepoint and traveling in her spare time, Deborah has two daughters, Stephanie and Ashley Moore.



Advisory/Strategic Planning Chair  
**LESLIE ROBERTSON**

Leslie Robertson will serve as the Advisory/Strategic Planning Chair for 2013-14. She joined the Junior League in 2004 and has held various positions over the years. Her placements have included tutoring at the Family Sunshine Center, Community Sampler Chair, MACOA Chair, three years on the Community Council, and three years on the Holiday Market committee where she chaired entertainment and the sustainer art booth. Leslie served on the JLM Placement Committee for two years.

Leslie grew up in Eufaula, and graduated from Auburn University in 2000 with a bachelor of arts in journalism. Currently, she is working on her master's degree in education. This fall, she will teach at First School, the preschool program at First United Methodist Church of Montgomery.

Leslie is a member of First United Methodist Church and serves on the Children's Council as well as in other leadership positions. Leslie is married to Bill Robertson, an attorney at Beasley Allen Law Firm, and they have two children, Henry (5) and Lucille (2). When she is not involved in church and community activities, Leslie enjoys playing tennis, reading, and spending time with her family.





Governance Chairman

**WYNN DEE ALLEN**

Wynn Dee Allen grew up in Birmingham. She is a law clerk for Judge Terry Moorner, a federal judge in the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Alabama. Before joining the federal court, she served as a law clerk to Judge Jimmy Fry and Judge Jean Brown of the Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals and as an adjunct professor at Faulkner University. Wynn Dee graduated summa cum laude with a B.F.A. in theatre studies from DePaul University. She also holds a juris doctorate from The University of Alabama School of Law.

Wynn Dee's prior League service includes chairing the Robert E. Lee High School Library Committee, the Cloverdale Playhouse Committee which received the 2011-2012 League Placement of the Year award, and the Shamrock Shuffle Committee, which recently received the 2012-2013 In-League Placement of the Year award. Wynn Dee has received the "Women to Watch" award from her peers in the Junior League and she is proud to be serving her fifth year of active service in the Junior League of Montgomery.

She is an active member of Holy Spirit Catholic Church. Wynn Dee has also served as the secretary of the Delta Delta Delta alumnae chapter in Montgomery.

Wynn Dee is married to Richard Allen, an attorney with Capell & Howard P.C., who is from Montgomery. They have one child, Harrison, who is seven years old and will be in second grade at Saint James School. In her spare time, Wynn Dee enjoys running, reading, and spending time with her family and friends.



Member-at-Large

**HAYLEY HARRIS**

Hayley McClellan Harris grew up in Anniston. She attended Auburn University, and graduated with a master's degree in communication disorders. She has practiced speech-language pathology for 13 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 served on various committees including: MACOA, community sampler, fund development, arrangements (chair) and Recording Secretary. She is an active member of First United Methodist Church where she is chairing Children's Council, chairing Vacation Bible School registration, serving as Sunday school class vice president, teaching children's church, and handling publicity for the Fall Bazaar.

Hayley is married to Jason Harris, a physical therapist with Rehab Associates. Their two daughters, Bentley (7) and Emory (5) attend Trinity Presbyterian School. Hayley enjoys spending time with her family, traveling, cooking, volunteering at her daughters' school, and is an avid Auburn football fan.



Director-at-Large

**MELISSA BOWMAN**

Melissa earned a degree in journalism from the University of Alabama and is Director of Marketing and Communications for the Montgomery Area Chamber of Commerce. She is President of the Public Relations Council of Alabama-Montgomery Chapter and a graduate of Leadership Montgomery Class XXIV. She currently serves on the boards of the Capri Community Film Society, the Montgomery Rotary Club, Magic Moments Montgomery Regional Board, the Montgomery Arts Council and the Old Cloverdale Association, as well as the advisory boards of the Family Sunshine Center and the Landmarks Foundation. Melissa's past Junior League responsibilities include serving as Communications Council Vice President, Provisional Class Chair, Governance Chair, Public Relations Chair, Holiday Market Publicity Chair and League Lines Editor.

Melissa's hobbies include writing, dancing and choreography. She also enjoys painting and since 2003 has had her own side business, Melissa's Muse, through which she hand paints original designs on decorative and functional objects. She has participated in local art shows and exhibits and has donated many of her pieces to philanthropic organizations, including the Junior League of Montgomery, to assist with fundraising efforts.

Melissa is married to Scott Bowman, Drama Director at the Montgomery Academy. Melissa and Scott live in Montgomery and are members of the Episcopal Church of the Ascension.



Sustaining Advisor

**LAURA STEVENSON**

Laura has been a member of the Junior League of Montgomery since 1996. She has chaired community placements such as DHR Back to School and AUM Speech and Hearing Clinic. Laura has also served on the Community Research Committee. Her leadership positions include Corresponding Secretary, Community Council Vice President and Membership Vice President. She proudly served as President of the Junior League of Montgomery from 2010-2011. She is a graduate of Spring Hill College with an undergraduate degree in international studies and a master's degree in early childhood education.

Laura is married to Young Stevenson. They have four children: Foy (18), Wilkie (16), Maureen (14) and Anna (6).



# A Focus on Men's Health

By Joyce Loyd-Davis, CRNP



**Ladies, let's face it; we have a great impact on the men in our lives.** We should use this influence to promote good health with these men. Whether it is a dad, brother, husband, son, or friend, we can have a positive influence on his health.

Men often neglect their health for several different reasons. Most of them live by the expression "if I feel good, then things are good." Well, we know that is not always the case. There are many conditions which do not manifest initially as a "bad feeling." In fact, cardiovascular disease is often known as a "silent killer." Men should have regular check-ups and they should know their baseline numbers. Therefore, we must encourage the men in our lives to make doctor appointments. They must ask questions and be in tune with their bodies.

*Research indicates seven essential things men can do to promote optimal health:*

**Get plenty of rest:** Lack of sleep is associated with many chronic conditions. It is essential to get adequate sleep to have your body in a resting state. Men who have physical or heavy labor jobs should especially get an adequate night's rest. It is recommended that the average amount of sleep should be between 7-9 hours.

**Avoid tobacco use:** Statistics have shown that increased use of tobacco has a direct correlation with poor health. Tobacco use increases the risk of cardiovascular disease, cancer and lung disease. Men that smoke should explore smoking cessation programs. Avoiding the use of tobacco can increase the longevity of one's life.

**Exercise regularly:** It is essential to exercise on a regular basis. Exercise increases the blood flow to our vital organs. It promotes weight loss or maintenance of our ideal weight. It is recommended for men to exercise at least 30 minutes, five days a week. Also, they need to engage in muscle strengthening at least 2-3 days a week. It improves a man's endurance and stamina.

**Eat healthy:** It is important to eat the right foods. Everything that looks good is NOT GOOD for us! Men must learn to incorporate all of the essential food groups in our diet, foods with good sources of minerals and vitamins. They also must learn portion control. Avoid foods which are high in calories, sugar, salt, fat or ALCOHOL!

**Control stress:** Yes, men must control stress and not allow stress to control them. Stress weakens the body and immune system. It is very important to manage the stressors in life. When overwhelmed, it is good to seek support. Men should connect socially and stay active to avoid stress.

**Have regular check-ups:** Men should have a doctor appointment on a regular basis to monitor their health. This is essential when it comes to prevention and early detection. They must pay attention to the signs and symptoms their bodies give. Also, it is very important to know one's numbers (blood pressure, glucose, cholesterol, and BMI). Screenings based on age and risk factors are also an important part of the health exam.

**Manage your chronic condition:** Men who suffer from chronic conditions such as hypertension, diabetes, COPD, cardiovascular disease, or asthma must learn to control the condition to better their prognosis. They must be aware of things that worsen the condition in order to avoid them. Taking medication as prescribed is a significant part of management.

So, ladies, we have our work cut out, but it is worth it! We can make a difference to the men in our lives. We should encourage the seven essential things highlighted above to help our men achieve optimal health! **Start today and have a**

discussion to see how you can help him achieve the steps to improve his health.

*Remember, the numbers matter:*

Blood Pressure .....	120/80 or less
Glucose .....	Less than 124
Cholesterol.....	less than 200
BMI.....	varies based on height

30+ Obese

25 to 29.9 Overweight

18.5 to 24.9 Ideal Weight

< 18.4 Underweight

Healthcare professionals use the BMI (Body Mass Index) to measure your ideal body weight. You can calculate your BMI using this formula:

$$BMI = \frac{\text{Weight (lb)} \times 703}{[\text{Height (in)}]^2}$$

Example: a 130 pound, 5ft 6in male has a 21 BMI.

$$\frac{130\text{lb} \times 703}{66^2} = \frac{91390}{4356} = 21 \text{ BMI}$$



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# TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES: AJLI'S Organizational Development Institute

By Deborah Hayes Moore



We chuckled at the little things we learn along life's journey as Jeanie Parnell's wet hair set off the TSA monitors at the airport checkpoint on a February morning. She was joining Karen Herman, Jenny Thiessen and me for an early-bird flight to Dallas, TX, where we would represent the Junior League of Montgomery at the 2013 Organizational Development Institute (ODI).

ODIs are training meetings generally held twice each year in selected locations across the U.S. The October session had been scheduled at the same time as Holiday Market, so we opted to pack our bags to attend the winter session hosted at the Westin Galleria Hotel by the Association of Junior Leagues International (AJLI) and the 2,196 active members of the Dallas League.

We were in excellent company for the three-day weekend, as more than 500 delegates comprised the largest attendance at an ODI. Ecstatic that we had completed our registration in late summer, we learned that the popularity of the Institute had exceeded AJLI's expectations and other delegates had to be lodged in five surrounding hotels.

## Four Women, Four Areas

With business on the agenda as soon as we arrived, the four of us adopted a "divide and conquer" strategy to focus on Achieving Community Impact, Fund Development, Nominating/Electing Leaders, and Membership Development, which were among the concentration areas of workshops, tools and plenary sessions.

To move the mission forward, some agendas were implemented to allow us to capture ideas from other League representatives that we could implement easily. Others were strategic—to educate, advocate and "plant a seed to grow a tree for newer

or future members to sit under." All gave us the opportunity to leverage the power of association through networking and the sharing of best practices and common solutions.

We met delegates from Leagues large and small, who are ahead of the curve as trailblazing Action Learning Teams, already implementing new organizational strategies. We met others who are raising large money amounts with only 100 members in their Leagues; and others who are supporting their community projects through events that are 100% funded by their members. It was interesting to hear how other Leagues function and to gain insight to their successes, but as we listened and shared, we had so many opportunities to feel great about the exceptional things we are doing in Montgomery.

## Women-to-Women

The energetic and smart "Queen of Lists" Susan Danish, AJLI's Executive Director; Anne Dalton, an impressive, walking resource of information; the captivating Vicki Clark, whom we had always heard about from the Annual Conferences; as well as AJLI's delightful Dee Brinkley, were among those with whom we had the opportunity to meet, mingle, and learn from throughout the weekend.

We were fortunate to hear activist Jan Edgar Langbein as one of our guest speakers. Not only was she a previous Mary Harriman Community Leadership Award honoree, but it was easy to see why they chose Alicia Key's "This Girl Is on Fire" as her introductory theme song. She enthralled us all with her message, and we shared a special elation when the U.S. Senate and House passed the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act a few days later, as a passionate example of her hard work.



< Karen Herman with Honolulu delegate Jennifer Stringfellow, Deborah Moore's ODI "Airplane Buddy" >



< Former Junior League of Montgomery member Cari Karns with Jenny Thiessen >

Karen Herman, Jenny Thiessen, AJLI Executive Director Susan Danish, Deborah Moore, Jeanie Parnell >



Paper airplanes are launched on the last day of ODI >



While there was much to absorb over the three days, there were pockets of time the four of us had the opportunity to commiserate with and learn things about each other.

We started our mornings together at breakfast, went our separate ways to our respective training sessions, and discovered a shared love of cookbooks during breaks as we admired and purchased the glossy publications of other Leagues.

We bonded over some simple things in life at our lunchtime table, such as the joys of diving into a tempting dessert before our entrée, and the benefits of a midday B-12 vitamin. Before heading back to our respective training rooms, we learned scarf-tying techniques from one of our own, and well as the nifty tip that Neutrogena hand cream not only softens the skin, but doesn't leave smudges on our computer keys.

## Let Them Eat Cake!

Knowledge-saturated, we were free in the evenings to enjoy the area. We were too pooped to venture out to commandeer a mechanical bull, and we didn't have room to pack our ball gowns to attend the Dallas League's Joie de Vivre, a Marie Antoinette-1600's French Era themed fundraiser. Our hotel opened into the Galleria shopping mall, so we were comforted by a little retail therapy, and the culinary delights of two wonderful restaurants just steps outside the entrance.

The hours zipped by as we shared some interesting items on the menu, and as we listened to the details of one member's wedding day and night that should be turned into her next

novel and a "made for TV" movie. We learned wine is one thing another member can't give up for Lent, and that Hermès needs to pay another a commission.

## Paper Airplanes

Sunday, we bade farewell to our Westin Heavenly Beds before breakfast, and to new friends made from Leagues across the country in our final session later that morning. We said special "goodbyes" to Cari Karns of New Mexico, a former member of Junior League of Montgomery; and to Honolulu friend, Jennifer Stringfellow, whom we "adopted" to join our foursome as she was the lone representative of her League.

In a special tribute to our travel departures, everyone was asked to create a paper airplane containing a special message about our respective roles, Leagues and plans for the future. On cue, 500 were sent flying across the room, each captured by another League member who was to contact her "airplane buddy" 30 days later by email. Then we were off to a final lunch together.

With fond memories, our "chariot" took us through the streets of Dallas, while we engaged in an intense discussion about Kennedy conspiracy theories on the way to the airport.

Thank you for allowing us to serve as your 2013 delegates, and for the opportunity to learn effective strategies to share with our Councils and Committees as we all set the stage for a new year of leadership and service in the River Region. Oh, and don't forget to make sure your hair is dry before you catch your next plane!





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## PLACEMENT SPOTLIGHT: ClefWorks

By Lisa Fiore



The ClefWorks mission is to provide the community with unique opportunities to experience Chamber music in casual, approachable environments and to promote the appreciation of this timeless, yet evolving art form.



Funding and volunteers from the Junior League help ClefWorks ensure that culturally underserved children in Montgomery have access to the arts, particularly classical music.

The JLM ClefWorks committee and I, committee chair, worked closely with ClefWorks Executive Director Leah Stephens and Vice President Lynne Payne, both JLM Sustainers, to plan a series of outreach concerts for elementary school children who would otherwise not have this kind of musical exposure. Emily Meister, Jennifer McDonald, and Melissa Warnke coordinated concerts with Flowers Elementary School, E.D. Nixon Elementary School and the YMCA Goodtimes afterschool program. These ladies coordinated three concerts by each group of musicians for each facility on the given day.

In October, committee members Nancy Shinbaum and Carina Tolliver helped welcome musical professors from Troy University. Robby Gibson, a classical guitarist, fascinated the students with his unusual fingernails that he uses as picks, while saxophonist Ray Smith entertained them with a penny whistle and "Under the Sea" from *The Little Mermaid*.

After performances by The JACK Quartet in January, Maranda Brown and Ellenann Yelverton assisted with a "musical petting

zoo" where children touched and played a violin and cello belonging to ClefWorks.

The ClefWorks festival season brought Sō Percussion to Montgomery in February. Gina Izer and Ann Winborne and the students added their own rhythm by following clapping instructions from the artists who performed on such unusual objects as coffee cups and flower pots. Sō Percussion was an experience, unlike anything in our area, that demonstrated how exciting classical music can be.

The Jazz Standards Combo from the University of Alabama performed in April, demonstrating a wide range of jazz and classical music with a little Stevie Wonder for good measure. The young ages of this group and the dedication to their instruments were really encouraging to the students.

The JLM committee ended the year with a presentation of *Duke Ellington: The Piano Prince and His Orchestra*, written by Andrea Davis Pinkney and illustrated by Brian Pinkney. All fifth graders at our outreach partners received their own paperback copy of this award-winning book, and a hardcover edition was donated to the school libraries. It is the hope of the committee that this will encourage summer reading as well as an interest in music that the children probably won't hear on the radio.



# Mark Your Calendar!



September 10, 2013  
General Membership Meeting  
M.A. upper school theater

September 16, 2013  
College & Career Night  
6-8pm Renaissance Hotel.  
Financial aid seminar begins at 6:30pm

September 29, 2013  
Taste of the River Region  
6pm Renaissance Hotel, \$30 Tickets

October 17-19, 2013  
25th Annual Holiday Market  
Multiplex at Cramton Bowl  
General admission is \$5 in advance and \$10 at the door. Tickets available September 3

Preview Party: Wednesday, Oct. 16  
6-9pm \$40  
Preview Party ticket that includes VIP event with Chris Hastings of Hot and Hot Fish Club in Birmingham- \$55

"Holiday How-to's": Thursday, Oct. 17  
2 pm: Christmas Tree Decorating by Rosemont Gardens  
3 pm: Holiday Party Planning by Jeffery Long Designs  
4 pm: Organic Gardening by E.A.T. South  
5 pm: Holiday Cooking by Davena McRae

Girls Night Out: Friday, Oct. 18

Santa's Workshop and Santa Photos: Saturday, Oct. 19

February 7 -8, 2014  
Rummage Sale  
Sale hours are 5-9pm on Friday and 8-11am Saturday at Garrett Coliseum  
If anyone in the community would like to donate rummage, please call Marie Wise at 334-549-5805 or visit our website at [www.jlmontgomery.org](http://www.jlmontgomery.org) for drop-off times/dates

March 15, 2014  
Shamrock Shuffle 10K Run



## CHILDREN'S CLOTHING EXCHANGE

SHOP MONTGOMERY'S FINEST  
CONSIGNMENT EVENT SALE

**The sale is held every February and September**

Find incredible values on children's clothing (including smocked & trunk show items), as well as shoes, toys, furniture and baby equipment; also women's purses, jewelry and accessories  
Home furnishings too from kitchen items and home décor to small electronics and furniture

**Become a consignor and make some money!**

Owners Heidi Pruett & Anne Tippet invite you to join the mailing list by going to the website,  
[www.childrensclothingexchange.com](http://www.childrensclothingexchange.com)

*The grass withers and the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.*  
Isaiah 40:8

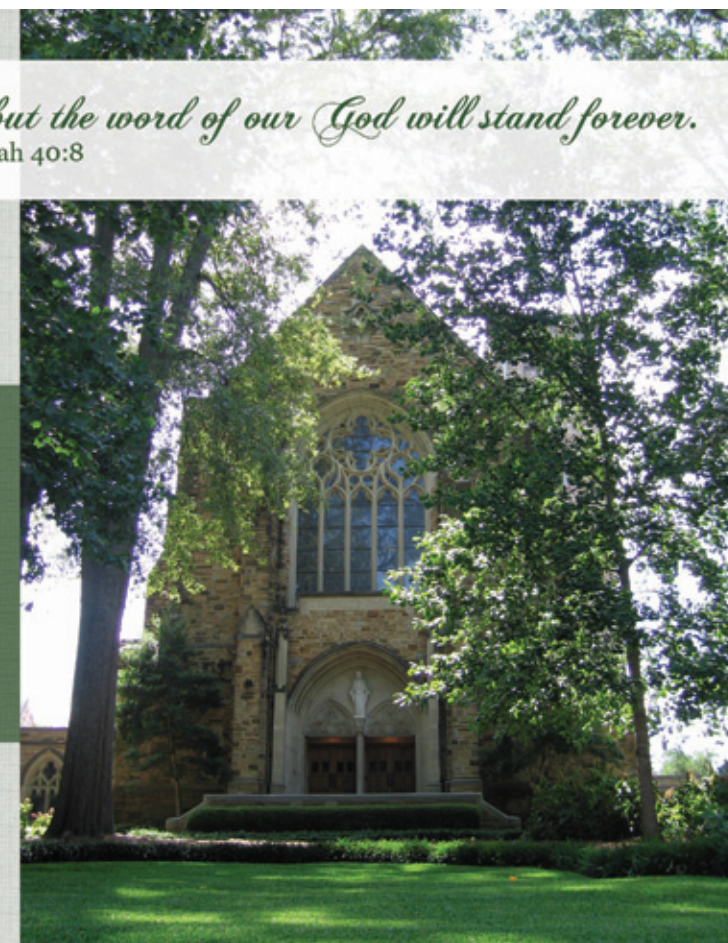
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Thank you to the following for donating to the Junior League of Montgomery's Pacesetters Campaign. Funds from this campaign help the JLM meet its mission of serving women and families in the Montgomery area.

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Charlene P. Holtsford      Dr. Melodie A. Jones      Eleanor Kohn      Mrs. Kyle Kyser      Carol Loeb  
Deborah Moore      Mrs. Robert E. Sasser      Katherine Sullivan

\$50-\$99

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Sug Keene      Elizabeth Killingsworth      Margaret Lowder      Erica Mejia      Gay Phillips  
Douglass Porter      Dianne Teague      Anne B. Upchurch      Sherry White

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Lisa Mims      Michelle Mowery      Jennifer Rogers  
Sheila Starke      Florence Tyson      Julia Ventress



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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!

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In Memory of Virginia Loe Belser (Leigh Anne Nevins)      In Memory of Olive Burroughs (Charneice McKenzie)  
In Honor of Suzanne Davidson's Great Presidency (Loree Aronov, Betty Bobbitt Byrne, Dawn Stephens)  
In Honor of Marnie Dillon (Leah Stephens)

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Grand Investor	\$20,000	40	60	2	20	Full page ad	20	20
Title Investor	\$15,000	30	50	1	16	Half page ad	15	15
Premier Investor	\$10,000	16	30	1	10	Half page ad	10	10
Gold Investor	\$5,000	8	20	1	8	Quarter page ad	8	8
Silver Investor	\$2,500	6	10	1	6	Quarter page ad	6	6
Bronze Investor	\$1,500	4	4	1	6		4	4
Supporter	\$500	2	4		4		4	4
Patron	\$250	2			2		2	2
Friend	\$100							

- Community Recognition for All Donor Levels**
- Printed name recognition on donor wall at Holiday Market, TORR, College & Career Night, Shamrock Shuffle and Bloomingdeals.
  - Printed name recognition in Junior League of Montgomery publications and on Junior League of Montgomery website.
  - Sponsorship must be received on or before August 15 to be guaranteed inclusion in fall Junior League publications.
  - The Junior League of Montgomery is a registered 501(c)(3) organization. Gifts are tax-deductible.
  - Not all events are held every year.

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☐ **YES!** We want to support the mission of the Junior League of Montgomery to promote voluntarism, develop the potential of women and improve the community through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers.

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Books ON THE Nightstand

Compiled by Marcy L. Ingram



A few years ago, the Alabama Tourism Bureau began publicizing "100 dishes to eat in Alabama." With those thoughts in mind, and to follow up on our Spring issue's feature of JLM's own Jeanie Parnell and her new book *Fairhope*, I thought we should take a look at some other "don't-miss" Alabama authors, recommended by a local book store employee.

Whether or not you are a native Alabamian, you are bound to enjoy these books for an afternoon escape. So, brew some iced tea or hot tea and settle back into your favorite reading chair with one of the following books. Each of the book synopses were written in the authors' own words.



Our first author is **Daphne Simpkins** who, before becoming the creator of Mildred Budge, wrote for various publications, notably *The Chicago Tribune*. She has written over 300 essays and short stories, which have been published in the U.S. and Canada. Ms. Simpkins is an active member of the speakers' bureau for The Alabama Humanities Foundation and teaches English part-time for Auburn Montgomery. *Mosaic Magazine* recently named her as one of the top five most in-demand speakers in the state in its Spring 2013 issue.

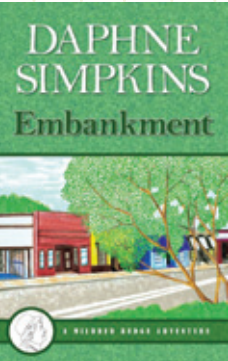
Cloverdale



The first novel in the Mildred Budge books

Mildred Budge learns of the sudden and mysterious death of her former love, triggering a series of events and discoveries that show what others call retirement are open-ended and rich with adventurous possibilities. *Cloverdale* investigates self-identity, developing deep friendships with others, and living out your faith with the very real hope that endings always lead to new beginnings.

Embankment



The sequel to *Cloverdale* (released Spring 2013)

Murder is afoot, and so is Mildred Budge in this newest adventure in The Mildred Budge series and follow-up to *Cloverdale*. In *Embankment*, Mildred Budge and the other members of the pulpit committee crash into the bottom of a ravine after a close encounter with a deer. With a looming storm that could bring a flash flood, a serial widow on the loose and infidelity in the air, the committee must work together to get home. Like *Cloverdale*, *Embankment* illuminates the quiet mysteries of church life while exploring the wonders of friendship and the individual yearning for the home life of Christ's love.



Miss Budge in Love

A collection of short stories featuring Mildred Budge and her friends

In *Miss Budge in Love*, Simpkins offers an entertaining collection of insightful and often humorous short stories that feature the endearing Miss Mildred Budge. A retired public school teacher,



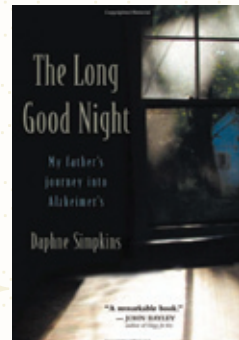
52

Miss Budge embarks on a series of slice-of-life adventures that take readers into the intriguing and authentic lives of Southern church women.

"What our readers love about Miss Budge is that they all know her personally. In fact, they all are her in one way or another. Simpkins' stories are instantly recognizable to those in a church community, and that's where the real humour and real pathos comes from. Daphne is a keen observer of the strange and wonderful subculture of 'the church lady.'" Brett Alan Dewing, *The Christian Courier* (Canada)

"Mildred Budge is a forthright, almost larger than life woman who challenges every reader's faith walk by being transparent about her own. She reminds us that Jesus loves us the way we are but He loves us too much to leave us as we are." Julie Innes Evangel

### *The Long Good Night*



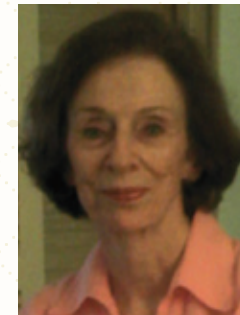
A memoir about caregiving

As Simpkins writes about what she calls her father's "disappearing act," she illuminates the tremendous toll that this disease takes. "Alzheimer's doesn't happen to one person," she explains. "It claims the community of people who love the person with the disease. The care is constant, the demands profound." But her book is far more than a recounting of the long journey into the deep night of the disease. It is a loving memoir of a good father and a good man. It is a powerful portrait of a close family whose bonds are strained but ultimately strengthened by the challenge of caring for him. And, perhaps most surprisingly, it is a remarkably uplifting account of that experience. The grief in the tale that Simpkins tells is balanced by love, faith, hope -- and humor. The humor arises naturally, almost miraculously, out of the stories Simpkins tells, a series of vignettes about her family's daily life. Alzheimer's is admittedly a dark subject, but Simpkins brings as much natural light and levity to it as circumstances allow. *The Long Good Night* is "a memoir about love rather than an elegy about a disease," Simpkins says. It will give caregivers cause for honest hope, and its many other readers a wonderfully nuanced story of love and laughter amid the ruins of illness—a story that both illuminates the tragedy of Alzheimer's and powerfully transcends it.

### *Nat King Cole: An Unforgettable Life of Music*

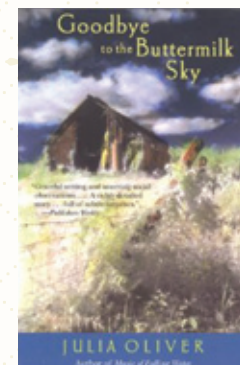


This biography for children tells the story of Nat King Cole's life. With an emphasis on building vocabulary in school children (fifth grade level), Ms. Simpkins highlights Cole's many contributions to popular music and American culture.



Our next Alabama author is former Junior League member **Julia Oliver** who grew up in Sylacauga, Alabama, and is a graduate of Juilliard School of Music and a columnist for the Montgomery Advertiser. She began writing when her youngest child was in college.

### *Goodbye to the Buttermilk Sky*



This book is set in Depression-era Central Alabama. It's a beautifully narrated novel about 20 year-old Callie Tatum who breaks society's rules about race and class as well as her marriage vows. The result is a chain of events that will lead to tragedy and one woman's stunning decisions about life. This novel was published by Black Belt Press in 1994. The next year it achieved national distribution in a Plume/Penguin edition, and also as a Book of the Month Club Quality Paperback Selection.

### *Seventeen Times as High as the Moon*

This collection of fifteen short stories, most of which had appeared in literary magazines, was published in 1992 by Black Belt Press. The book received a Fiction Citation from the Alabama Library Association. One of the stories, "The Ritual," received a first place award in the Deep South Writers Competition judged by Ernest Gaines.

### *Music of Falling Water*



This is a literary mystery about three sisters in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century who meet at the old homeplace to determine the identity of the human skeletal remains found in the millpond. Fifteen years ago, their sister vanished, never to be heard from again.



**Marlin Barton** lives in Montgomery, and grew up in the Black Belt region of West Alabama. His most recent book is a novel, *The Cross Garden* (Frederic C. Beil, 2011). Barton's collection of stories, *The Dry Well* (Beil, 2001), received the *Dictionary of Literary Biography Yearbook Award* for the best first volume of short stories published in the U.S. that year. Other books include a novel, *A Broken Thing* (Beil, 2003), and a second collection of stories, *Dancing by the River* (Beil, 2005). His stories have appeared in a variety of journals and anthologies, including *Shenandoah*, *The Southern Review*, *The Virginia Quarterly Review*, *The Sewanee Review*, *Prize Stories: The O. Henry Awards*, and *The Best American Short Stories*. He teaches in, and helps direct, the Writing Our Stories project, a program for juvenile offenders in Alabama. He also teaches in the low-residency MFA program at Converse College.

### *The Cross Garden*



In the opening of Barton's novel *The Cross Garden*, sixteen-year-old James, just released from an eight-month stay at Hargrove, Alabama's largest juvenile detention center, gazes upon the slow waters of the Black Fork River as if he already understands the history it holds for him. But only Nathan Rutledge, his mother's boyfriend and the closest thing James might ever have for a father, truly understands how bound together he

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and James are with the river, its darkly wooded banks, and with each other. What follows is a story of hidden shadows, revenge and redemption, and the confrontation of James's family, friends, and acquaintances, who in various ways try to ameliorate their own guilt as James struggles with discerning right from wrong. His earlier novel, *A Broken Thing*, is a family drama that takes place in the 1970s, and, like all of Barton's work, is set in rural West Alabama.



The last Alabama author to be included is also a former Montgomery Junior League member, **May Lamar**, who landed her first newspaper job in 1980, and spent the next five years working at various newspapers across the country, eventually landing back in her hometown with the *Montgomery Advertiser*. She left journalism for advertising copywriting soon after the birth of her first child and ran a small agency for 20 years.

### *Brother Sid: A Novel of Sidney Lanier*



Her latest book is *Brother Sid: A Novel of Sidney Lanier*. The story is a fictional account of how the hard luck, flute-playing ladies' man negotiates failed love, consumption, debt, regret and the Lost Cause with unshakable faith in the gifts God gave him. And, it's about a woman in her final days who sees Sidney Lanier as a man worth remembering not necessarily for his

work, or what they later named after him, but for his steadfast pursuit of long-held and improbable dreams, some of which came true.



# Photography by the Robertsons



*Lillie, Georgia, Charlee, and Neal McInnis*

Contact David Robertson  
2101 Eastern Blvd. 277-2228

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# Thank You JLM!



...but I hope  
you know  
I appreciate  
everything  
you've done.  
CECIL SHANNON  
CEO  
PAC LEADERS, INC  
+  
COACH SHANNON  
TUMBLERS

May 1, 2013

The Junior League of Montgomery, Inc.  
3570 Carter Hill Rd.  
Montgomery, AL 36111

Dear Members:

Thank you for recent and very generous gift of \$1,000.00 to Specialized Alternatives for Families and Youth (SAFY) for the upcoming 5K fun run fundraiser at our Montgomery division. Your support allows us to continue our strong tradition of providing a safe and loving environment for the children and families entrusted to our care.

For more than 28 years, children and families members who have experienced the worst in life have found respite and new hope for a better life through our programs and services. SAFY's services are specifically designed for children, youth and adults who are experiencing abuse and neglect, drug and/or alcohol dependency, behavioral and emotional problems, mental delays, physical challenges and special medical needs.

Each year, hundreds of thousands of children continue to experience family crisis so severe they must be removed from their families and homes. When a child is removed from their home, they are changed forever. Through the care and commitment of SAFY's staff and foster parents, the children who have experienced the worst in life have and continue to find respite and new hope for a better life through SAFY's services.

Again, thank you for your generosity. Your gift allows us to continue our mission to foster an environment that positively impacts the lives of youth and their families, whether they are with us for an hour or a lifetime.

For more information on our care programs and the services available, please visit us at [www.safy.org](http://www.safy.org) or call 800-532-7239.

Sincerely,  
*James N. Radtke*  
James N. Radtke  
Director of Development

Montgomery Public Schools  
Flowers Elementary School  
3540 Harrison Road  
Montgomery, AL 36109

May 28, 2013

Mrs. Suzanne Davidson  
Junior League of Montgomery  
3570 Carter Hill Road  
Montgomery, Alabama 36111

Dear Suzanne:

I want to thank the Junior League of Montgomery for providing the funding for the ClefWorks program. My students had many wonderful experiences with the different musical programs. They learned about the different genres of music. Hopefully, through their involvement with ClefWorks they will be inspired to pursue a musical career. I was thrilled that they were exposed to such wonderful music that would not have been possible without the involvement of the Junior League.

The Junior League is known for sponsoring excellent community projects. As a sustainer, I am thrilled that the League sponsors such rewarding projects that touch so many lives. The members who attended the programs were wonderful! I am so excited that my students benefited from your generous support of this project.

Thank you again for sponsoring ClefWorks. This marvelous project provided my students with many positive experiences they will always remember.

Sincerely,  
*Ethel "Tut" Barnes*  
Ethel "Tut" Barnes  
Principal

No goods or services were provided in exchange for your gift.  
Specialized Alternatives for Families and Youth is a qualified 501 (c)(3) organization.

**MACH**  
Mid-Alabama Coalition for the Homeless  
P.O. Box 242201 • Montgomery, AL 36124-2201  
(334) 261-6382 • (334) 265-3395 Fax  
Email: [mach@homeless.org](mailto:mach@homeless.org) • [www.mach-homeless.org](http://www.mach-homeless.org)

April 24, 2013

Mrs. Suzanne Davidson  
Junior League of Montgomery  
3570 Carter Hill Road  
Montgomery, AL 36111

Dear Suzanne,

Thank you for the Junior League's sponsorship and participation in MACH's River Region Connects homeless resource fair on Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup>. With the League's help, over 200 homeless men, women, and children accessed important community resources. We believe the event reached its goal of providing the services necessary for clients to begin to break the cycle of homelessness. Your support was vital and much needed in making the event a great success.

Junior League funds provided backpacks and water bottles for every attendee, as well as free state IDs and birth certificates for those eligible. These seemingly small items make a big difference to someone living in homelessness. The Junior League volunteers were the stars of the day. They are always willing to go above and beyond in their service at the event, and we so appreciate their giving of their time and talents in support of the homeless.

We look forward to working with you in the future to meet our goal of ending homelessness in the River Region. Thank you again for your participation and support.

Sincerely,  
*Molly M. Stone*  
Molly M. Stone  
Executive Director

**Mary Ellen's Hearth**  
at Nellie Burge Community Center  
...offering hope, help and healing to homeless women and children.

December 21, 2012

Junior League of Montgomery  
c/o Tamsela Sehnat  
Buffalo Rock Company -Montgomery Division  
1200 Emory Folsom Boulevard  
Montgomery, AL 36110

Dear Friends:

On behalf of Mary Ellen's Hearth at Nellie Burge, I would like to thank you for not only providing our residents with a Christmas party but also all of the things you have done for the residents. I, and the residents, am overwhelmed by your kindness. Because of your generosity, we are able to further our mission in providing hope, help and healing to you would be interested in hearing what one resident of our program had to say about Mary Ellen's Hearth:

*This organization has been both an angel and a blessing to me. Today I am everything I need for daily living. This organization has provided me with just about everything I need for daily living. They were also able to help me enroll my daughter in school immediately without any hassle, and even purchased school uniforms for her. I will be forever grateful for Mary Ellen's Hearth at Nellie Burge.*

Mary Ellen's Hearth is making a difference every day. We have a total of eight families living at Mary Ellen's Hearth, which includes ten children (and one on the way). The women are busy working, going to school or involved with the JOBS program at DHR.

Again, many thanks for your support. It means the world to us and all of the homeless women and their children who are able to live in Mary Ellen's Hearth! May you each be blessed as you have blessed the families at Mary Ellen's Hearth.

Respectfully,  
*Debbie Dobbins*  
Debbie Dobbins  
Executive Director

Nellie Burge Community Center, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, community service corporation, and your gift is tax deductible to the fullest extent permitted by law. No goods or services were provided in exchange for this contribution.

Nellie Burge Community Center | 1228 Clay Street | Montgomery, AL 36104 | (334) 264-4158  
[www.nellieburge.org](http://www.nellieburge.org) | [www.facebook.com/nellieburge](https://www.facebook.com/nellieburge)

# New Member Open House

By Joanna Kirkland



For the first time, I was privileged with the opportunity to sponsor a new member. As I waited for her in the front lobby, I had the chance to observe the excitement.

At first it was quiet. I arrived pretty early to be sure I was in place to meet my friend. Lisa Fiore, the 2013-2014 Provisional Chair, was moving about making sure everything was in place and ready for the meeting. The ladies began to arrive, and that's when the fun began!

Nervous smiles were coming through the door, greeted by current members and quickly introduced to the Junior League meeting process: come in, find your name and sign next to it, be sure to get your handouts, and find a seat – and be sure to help yourself to some refreshments. Watching these ladies made me think back to how I felt when I attended my first Junior League meeting – so nervous and excited, not really sure what this was all about but pretty sure I wanted to be there. Familiar faces, friends that I have made since that first meeting, were coming through the doors, too. Once again, I was reminded of how much my life has changed for the better since becoming a part of this wonderful organization.

The meeting opened with Lisa's welcome to the participants. Her enthusiasm for her role with this Provisional class was clearly visible and radiated throughout the room. When Lisa turned over the podium to Dawn, a very touching moment unfolded before the ladies. It happened that Sheri McKean, Sustainer and former President of the Junior League of Montgomery, was present. Not only was she President, but it was the year of Dawn's provisional class. Dawn shared her memories of that Provisional year, how she was struck by Sheri's example of leadership, and how much it meant for her to be standing there now, as League President, in front of the woman she admired so much.

Kimberly Baker, 2013-2014 Membership Council VP, followed Dawn at the podium. Kimberly also shared her story of how the Junior League of Montgomery became a part of her life. As a new resident of Montgomery and a woman who was changing her role from working full-time out of the home to working overtime in the home with a new baby, Kimberly found a place with the League. It was a place she could go, with children in tow, and meet new people, make friends, and make a difference in her community. Again, a true testimony to the exceptional organization and the exceptional women who make up the membership of the Junior League of Montgomery.

As I left the meeting that night, I realized I was just as excited as the night I left my first meeting. Excited about the great group of women coming into our membership, and equally excited thinking about all the spectacular women I have come to know over the last few years. I hope we can all remember that excitement and share it with these ladies, our 2013-2014 Provisional class, as we encounter them over this year.



# Thank You From Lee High School!

## EXPERIENCE OF A LIFETIME FOR STUDENTS AT ROBERT E. LEE HIGH SCHOOL



This past December, fifteen 9<sup>th</sup> grade students from Robert E. Lee High School experienced the trip of a lifetime when they visited our nation's capital for four days. The trip was made possible—and free of charge to the students—in large part due to the generosity of the Junior League of Montgomery.

The underlying purpose of the trip was to provide the students with a unique educational experience, in which they would not simply read about government in a textbook or take a history exam, but rather engage with it in a hands-on, personal manner.

Each part of the trip, starting with the plane ride, was memorable for the students. For most of the kids, it was their first time on an airplane. I felt like a proud father as I held their boarding passes, reminded them to remove their shoes at security, and distributed gum before takeoff.

We wasted no time while in Washington, maximizing the days to provide a meaningful experience for the kids. The first full day we toured the national monuments, which included standing in the very spot Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his

"I Have a Dream" speech from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial. As we stood on that hallowed ground, I reminded the kids how Dr. King had come from Montgomery. I told them that the presence of hundreds of thousands of people on the Mall that day in 1963 was evidence that anyone from Montgomery can make a difference in the world.

Some of the other highlights of the trip included visiting the Smithsonian museums, eating at the famous Ben's Chili Bowl, touring Howard University and the George Washington University. The students also heard from a variety of college students and professionals and had the opportunity to ask them questions and engage with accomplished young adults.

The pinnacle of the trip came on the last day when we went to the White House. We toured the East Wing and graced the



sacred walls of the State Dining Room and the East Room. While most people must stand behind the iron fences and peer across the South Lawn to see the White House from afar, our group from Montgomery had the privilege of walking through the gates on 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue and seeing the historic rooms of which most can only dream.

Touring the White House was a blessing in and of itself. But, when we didn't think the day could get any better, we had a surprise sighting of First Lady Michelle Obama. She waved to the kids and wished them "happy holidays."

I still get chills thinking that we went from the hallways of Robert E. Lee High School to the hallways of the White House and the presence of the First Lady.

Thank you, Junior League of Montgomery, for making this trip come true for the students of Lee!

*-Phillip Ensler is currently serving as a Teach for America corps member at Robert E. Lee High School, where he teaches 9<sup>th</sup> grade world history.*

## COLLEGE AND CAREER NIGHT

The Junior League of Montgomery invites you to attend the 29th Annual College and Career Night. The free event will be held **September 16** at the Renaissance Montgomery Hotel and Spa at the Convention Center from 6 -8 p.m. Representatives from various colleges, universities, technical institutions and armed services will be present to answer questions about their organizations.

In addition, a financial aid seminar will be presented at 6:30 p.m. to provide information on available financial aid and loan programs. We are excited about this opportunity to serve our community.

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Located across from the back entrance to the Mansion





# Provisional Class Update

By Nikki Bagley



This year's provisional class painted the town through volunteerism, commitment and a sincere passion for our hometown Junior League!

The 2012-2013 provisional year was nothing short of colorful, as food trays of all hues welcomed new members, including myself, at the 4th Annual Taste of the River Region in beautiful downtown Montgomery. The 24th Annual Holiday Market was no exception as shades of silvers, reds and pinks illuminated the Multiplex at Cramton Bowl, while various shades of green wrapped up a wonderful year of vibrant events and vibrant provisionals with the Capital City's very first Shamrock Shuffle 2K and 10K. Needless to say, this year's provisional class painted the town through volunteerism, commitment and a sincere passion for our hometown Junior League!

While the 2012-2013 provisional class had a year full of excitement and color, it was also a year full of "firsts." In addition to hosting Montgomery's first Shamrock Shuffle 2K and 10K in the Spring of 2013, provisional members also initiated the League's involvement with E.A.T. South, which is a trade name for the Hampstead Institute, a local nonprofit entity established to contribute to the improvement of the public realm through sustainable design and planning, the establishment of healthy and lasting communities and the concept of agro-urbanism. From getting our hands dirty on the farms to spreading awareness at this year's Alabama Book Festival, provisional members were able to grow both gardens and lasting relationships!

As if the year wasn't colorful enough, 2012-2013 provisional members also participated in the Junior League of Montgomery's 28th Annual College and Career Night, a night glowing with school colors from educational establishments nationwide. Dedicated to connecting parents, students and teachers with representatives from colleges, universities, vocational schools, organizations and the armed forces, the event provided invaluable networking and educational

information surrounding financial aid and parental involvement. While the experience was yet another "first" for many provisional members, it was also the first step for many local students and parents in their journey toward higher education.

While the past year has provided many extraordinary experiences for new members, perhaps one of the most rewarding "firsts" was the ability to give back to our community financially for the very first time in our Junior League careers. With a portion of the 2012 Taste of the River Region's fundraising proceeds, we were able to contribute to several deserving organizations within the community, including this year's provisional class grant recipients: Have a Heart Foundation, Specialized Alternatives for Families and Youth of Alabama, Reality and Truth Ministries, Montgomery Area Food Bank and Family Sunshine Center. It was an experience well worth the work and wait!

"This year's provisional class was a very special group of ladies," said Melissa Bowman, provisional chair. "They approached every project with such enthusiasm and were truly committed to the mission of the Junior League of Montgomery. We are fortunate to have these caring and dedicated women in our organization because their leadership will help us continue making a positive difference in our community."

Although our year of "firsts" has come to a close, the 2012-2013 provisional class is looking forward to continually learning as we begin our placements as active members. With such a dynamic group of uniquely skilled and talented women, the upcoming year is looking bright! Congratulations, ladies!





WELCOME TO THE LEAGUE!

# Provisional Class

2012-2013

Compiled by Cindy DeLongchamp



In each issue of League Logs we feature a group of our Provisional members so everyone can get to know our newest League ladies a little better! Please greet these new members when you see them at our next event!



Morgan Arrington, from Andalusia, enjoys scuba diving, reading and sewing. She enjoys commemorating special occasions by collecting folk art. Morgan is the Assistant Attorney General with the Alabama Medicaid Agency. She looks forward to meeting like-minded women and becoming more active in her community through League volunteer placement opportunities.



Angie Ashcraft, from San Antonio, TX, enjoys working out and participating in marathons. Her favorite race is the St. Jude Memphis Marathon charity run, held in December. She is a big fan of the musical *Wicked* and one of her favorite books is *Redeeming Love*, by Francine Rivers. Her favorite family tradition is the annual beach trip where the extended family rents a very large house and they all stay under one roof for a week!



Senna Cody Colson, from Birmingham, loves to travel, snow ski, challenge herself with CrossFit, and spend time with her dog, Beau. Her favorite movies are *Pride and Prejudice*, *Grease* and her favorite musical is *Wicked*. Cody loves tailgating at Auburn football games and looks forward to giving back to her community and meeting new people in the Junior League.



Calliope "Callie" Corley, from Montgomery, enjoys singing, crafting, writing and photography. Callie loves the *Harry Potter* movie series and her favorite book is *We Band of Angels*, by Elizabeth M. Norman. One of her favorite traditions at Christmas is reading *The Polar Express*. By joining the Junior League of Montgomery, Callie looks forward to an opportunity to fellowship with new friends and participate in volunteer opportunities.



Laura Eubank, from Hoover, is a proud new mom! She enjoys gardening, reading and fishing with her husband. Her favorite book is *The Great Gatsby* and she looks forward to sharing Christmas each year at her grandparents' home. Laura looks forward to becoming more involved in the community and developing friendships with some of the wonderful and talented women in Montgomery.



Marcy Gilbert, from Wichita Falls, Texas, is a Texas A&M fan [Go Johnny football!] and enjoys running, traveling and playing with her two dogs. Her favorite movie is *Elf*, starring Will Ferrell, and her favorite book is *The Lovely Bones*, by Alice Sebold. Marcy is a member of Frazer United Methodist Church and she hopes by joining the League, she can learn more about non-profit groups in the area, and how she can help make a positive difference through volunteering.



Nicole Johnson, born in Madrid, Spain, and raised in Millbrook, enjoys hunting, kayaking, camping and decoupage. *The Road Less Traveled* by M. Scott Peck is one of her favorite reads. One of her family's favorite traditions is to open their smallest gift from under the tree on Christmas Eve and listen to Kenny G. music, among other classics. Nicole was one of the three recipients of the Provisional of the Year Award and looks forward to working with strong, capable, and motivated women in the League in her future volunteer endeavors.



Keyosha Jones-Shuford, from Montgomery, likes Pinterest, scrapbooking, cooking, shopping and reading. Her book of choice is an oldie but goodie: the Bible. Keyosha enjoys the holidays when her family gathers to celebrate. She is active with Emerge Montgomery and hopes that her experience in the Junior League provides her with volunteer opportunities, making her community a better place for all to live.



Jan Lyn, from Birmingham, is the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs at AUM. Lyn enjoys reading, swimming, shopping, and spending time with her family. A few of her favorite reads include: *State of Wonder* by Ann Patchett, *The American Heiress* by Daisy Goodwin and *The Reflective Practitioner*, by Donald Schon. She is a big fan of the series *Downton Abbey*! Jan is already very active in our community and hopes to continue to impact the lives of women and the community through service and leadership in the Junior League.

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Cathy Martin, born in Detroit and raised in Dayton, Ohio, moved to Montgomery from Boston when her husband, Samuel, accepted the position as President / Publisher for the *Montgomery Advertiser*. Cathy notes that she was interested in joining the League in part because of all the wonderful things she read in the paper about the Junior League and its commitment to the community. She is proud of raising her daughters to give back to their communities and has truly enjoyed sharing her Provisional year with her daughter, Erinn. Look for a mother and daughter art show coming soon!



Erinn Martin, from Dayton, Ohio, enjoys drawing, traveling, having fun with friends and giving back to the community. Erinn is a big fan of mysteries, and loves Harlan Coben's books. She also enjoys spending quality time with her mom, dad, and sister when they can all get together, which is rare now because they live in different cities or states. She notes that the nice thing about the holidays is that it does bring everyone together. Erinn is active with Emerge Montgomery and hopes to form new friendships and explore community service opportunities by joining the League.



Rheana Scarborough, from Cullman, plays tennis and enjoys cooking, exercising and reading self-help books. One of her favorite family holidays is the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, which is also her grandfather's birthday, a WWII veteran. Rheana looks forward to learning more about the opportunities where she can serve the community and meet new people.



Sonya Thompson, from Montgomery, enjoys reading, bowling and relaxing by the pool...all day, if possible! Her favorite movie is *Legends of the Fall*, starring Brad Pitt. Some of her favorite family get-togethers are Thanksgiving, Christmas and backyard barbecues. Sonya volunteers as a member of the Administration Ministry at New Harvest Church of Christ. By joining the Junior League, she hopes to meet new people through the numerous community service projects and set an example of volunteerism for her eight-year-old.



Casey Thornton, originally from Lilburn, Ga., moved to Prattville when she was in high school. She enjoys arts and crafts including sewing, embroidery and applique. Casey also enjoys painting, decorating and learning how to do new things, including cake decorations! Her favorite musical is *Wicked*. She also is fond of *The Bourne Trilogy* and just about any sappy Christmas movie. Casey is a volunteer for Icing Smiles and has worked with Children's Harbor and the Friendship Mission.



Jameshia "Jeanette" Mimi Sibley, from Atmore, works with the Montgomery Water Works & Sanitary Sewer Board. Her favorite movie is *The Devil Wears Prada*! Through the Junior League, she hopes to help Montgomery County through service work and build long lasting friendships with a wonderful group of ladies.



Melinda Stallworth, from Beatrice, enjoys reading, cooking, card games and following politics, which makes sense because her favorite movie is *The American President*! One of her favorite holidays is Thanksgiving, when she and her family attend the Turkey Day Classic, enjoy dinner afterwards, then prepare for Black Friday shopping! Melinda has enjoyed giving back to her community for many years but looks forward to meeting new, service-oriented people through the League.



Ashley Tarrant, from Birmingham, enjoys watching the Tide win National Championships, and trying new recipes. Her favorite book is *House Rules*, by Jodi Picoult and her top movie is *Steel Magnolias*. Through the Junior League, Ashley hopes to become more involved and contribute to make a difference in Montgomery. She also looks forward to meeting new people and having fun with others who share her passion for service.



Christa Wren, from Montgomery, enjoys Alabama football, cooking, shopping and traveling. She is a big fan of southern flicks and notes that her favorite movies are *Steel Magnolias* and *To Kill A Mockingbird*. Christa's favorite tradition is spending time at Christmas with her family. She is an advisor for Chi Omega sorority at Huntingdon College. By joining the League, she hopes to be able to network in the community and build new friendships.



Araceli Wright, from Montgomery, enjoys tennis, swimming, water skiing and shopping! Her favorite musical is *Phantom of the Opera* and one of her favorite holiday traditions is cooking ribs and barbecuing on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July with her family. In addition to meeting new people, Araceli hopes to gain new experiences and help others and her community by joining the Junior League.



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