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Logs

SUMMER 2023





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From the Editor



It's hard to believe that summer is already winding down and school is back in session! Before we know it, it will be time for all the fun fall festivities. I can't wait! It's also the start of a new League year. As we move into the new season, we are excited to continue to learn and grow alongside each other, while also living out the mission of the Junior League – promoting volunteerism, developing the potential of women, and improving the community through effective action and leadership of trained volunteers.

In this issue of League Logs, we showcase everything that has gone on in JLM this spring and summer. We feature three of our placements for 2022-2023: Medical Advocacy & Outreach, Women in Training, and The Arc – Autauga & Western Elmore. You'll also see a recap of the fantastic Women's Leadership Summit as well as a highlight of our New Member Open House events. While we're talking about events – mark your calendars for two of our long-standing signature events that you won't want to miss. The 39th Annual College & Career Fair will be happening on September 18, and the 35th Annual Holiday Market will be taking place October 18-21. Be sure to follow our social media pages for updates and visit our website for more information.

Our Education & Training committee planned lots of educational opportunities for our JLM members – read on to learn about all the fun events that went on this year. In other exciting news, Market 1926, JLM's boutique gift shop, is now located in Amy's Antique Mall. Be sure to stop by to shop – proceeds from this shop benefit the League's efforts in the community. You can also continue to shop online at jlmmarket1926.square.site. Last, but not least, enjoy two feature articles recapping the Annual Volunteer of the Year Awards as well as a recap of the AJLI Conference.

It was an eventful spring and summer, and I know this next league year will be incredible as well. I'm looking forward to the new season with JLM and know we will be in great hands under Quenita's leadership! I hope this issue of League Logs leaves you feeling inspired to make a difference. Your commitment to improving the lives of those in our communities is truly inspiring and makes a significant impact. Thank you for being such an integral part of the Junior League, and for all that you continue to do to make a positive impact in our communities.

Sincerely,

Sara Beth Beals

2022-2023 League Logs Editor

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2023-2024 Junior League of Montgomery's Grant Recipients

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Impact Alabama

Metropolitan United Methodist Church

Montgomery Area Council on Aging (MACOA)

Montgomery Christian School

The Junior Miss Foundation of Alabama

THIS IS THE JUNIOR LEAGUE

League *Logs*

A community publication of the Junior League of Montgomery

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Co-Editor: Teryn Bostick

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THIS IS THE JUNIOR LEAGUE

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Contributors



Sara Beth Beals • Editor

Sara Beth Beals currently serves as the editor of League Logs. She is originally from Dothan but has called the River Region home for over ten years. She is the Digital Content Creator for Alfa Insurance and has been with the company since 2012. Sara Beth is a 2010 graduate of The University of Alabama with a bachelor's degree in communication. She joined the Junior League of Montgomery in 2017 and has previously served as League Logs Co-Chair, Member Records Coordinator, Co-Chair for Dream Court community placement and member of That's My Child community placement.

Sara Beth is a member of the Public Relations Council of Alabama (PRCA) and is currently serving on the Board of Directors as the VP of Publicity. She served on the Junior Executive Board for Child Protect Children's Advocacy Center for the past six years and continues to support the organization. She also enjoys volunteering with Alfa's Meals on Wheels corporate delivery route and is a member of the Alfa Relay for Life team.

Sara Beth is married to Michael, and they welcomed their first baby, Brody, in October! They live in Wetumpka with their dog, Tucker. They are members of First United Methodist Church in Montgomery.



Teryn Bostick – Co-Editor

Teryn Bostick is a Forensic Scientist with over 15 years of experience in the field of Forensic Biology for the state of Alabama. With a passion for science and promoting learning, this Minnesota transplant has found a home in teaching the next generation all things STEM.

After retiring from a Division 1 basketball career as an undergraduate, Teryn completed her Masters of Science at Pace University in NYC. During her four years as a member of JLM, serving as Chair and Co-Chair for the Service Dogs of Alabama Placement was a perfect fit as Teryn is a true animal lover at heart.

Teryn and her husband Chris have twin daughters who attend Pike Road School, and the family enjoys soccer games, fostering for PAWS of Alabama and road tripping cross country.



Melanie Beasley • Staff Writer

Melanie Beasley is a life-long resident of Montgomery. She is currently retired, but stays busy volunteering in the community. In addition to her involvement with Junior League of Montgomery, she volunteers with the Alabama Council Against Rape, Family Sunshine Center, Hospice of Montgomery, Victims of Crime and Leniency, and others. She's active in Frazer Church through the Sowers Sunday School Class, Missions Women's Circle, and Bible Belles Bible Study. She also enjoys classes at AUM's OLLI program.

An AUM graduate, she retired from the Alabama Department of Mental Health as Director of Public Information and Community Relations and the Family Sunshine Center as Public Affairs Director. She and her husband David have been married 49 years.



Susie Paul • Staff Writer

Susie Paul is retired from Auburn University at Montgomery where she taught writing and literature for over 20 years. Since retiring, she has served as president of her South Hull neighborhood association, and as a member of the boards for the Alabama Writers' Forum and NORA--a women in theater project; her latest volunteer venture is Junior League of Montgomery. Susie Paul has two children: Amelia Johnson, married to Tony Diliberto, is the college counselor for Indian Springs School. Joseph Johnson is a musician and cooks now at La Fete. Both live in Birmingham. In 2021 she published her first collection of poetry, THE WHITED AIR: MARY PAUL in WINTER with Finishing Line Press. For the past two years she has served on the CRC for JLM and has volunteered to work with League Logs.



Amerika Blair • Staff Writer

Amerika Blair, a native of Montgomery, Alabama, understands the importance of collaborative impact. She prides herself on being an outspoken advocate, public servant, organizer, communicator, creator, and life-long learner. Amerika's first-hand experiences with hardship and inequities inspired her to dedicate her life to creating robust change to bring equity to marginalized and underserved communities. In addition to serving in the United States Air Force Reserves, Amerika serves as a nonprofit leader for Fair and Just Prosecution and various community organizations.

Amerika has served in several capacities in the Junior League of Montgomery since 2015. Before serving as the Communications Vice President, she served as the Community Council VP, Member at Large for the Board of Directors, and various community placements. In 2021, Amerika co-led the College & Career Fair placement, contributing to the Junior League of Montgomery's first Association of Junior League International Award for Innovation. She was also named Junior League of Montgomery's Volunteer of the Year in 2019.

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.

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

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From the President



Membership in the Junior League of Montgomery offers many benefits. In my opinion, one of the greatest benefits is relationships. These relationships that are built on a belief that we are a community of women who have come together with common goals that include: raising money to benefit other nonprofits, providing educational opportunities to others in the community, and promoting positive change within the community we serve. Relationships with community partners who support the mission of the League by donating their funds and services in furtherance of our mission. Relationships with other nonprofit agencies who see the potential when agencies act in concert with one another for a common purpose or goal. In closing out this great year in the League, I am encouraged by the relationships built by our members amongst themselves and within the community.

This year the Junior League of Montgomery hosted community-wide events that included College and Career Night, Holiday Market, and the Women's Leadership Summit. The league also hosted events offering our members an opportunity to directly serve in the community that included packing "Baskets of Love" at Christmas to benefit HandsOn River Region, and working in the Master's Garden with Community Ministries in the Chisholm community. In addition to these events, members also served directly with nonprofit agencies that were recipients of league grants. At every event, relationships were fostered, and connections were made.

I am personally grateful for the relationships I built this year with my Board of Directors, other league leaders, league staff, and league members. Thank you all for your efforts in making this year a success. As I have said in the past, a leader is only as good as her team, and I was blessed with a great team. A team who was always ready, willing, and able to help when needed, and who truly embraced the mission of the league.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as the President of the Junior League of Montgomery again. I look forward to seeing the great things the Junior League of Montgomery will accomplish next year and in the years to come!

Warmly,
Ashley Killian White
2022-2023 President, Junior League of Montgomery

2023-24 Board of Directors



Quenita Mitchell - President

Quenita Mitchell is the 2023-2024 President of the Junior League of Montgomery. She has been a member of JLM for ten years, serving on the board of directors for the last four. She has held a variety of positions throughout the League, her favorites including Common Ground Chair, the Magic Moments Committee, and Provisional Chair. As president, Quenita has designated the theme for this year as "serving with a Servant's heart while making and intentional impact on our community," #WeAreJLM.

She is the wife of Roderick Mitchell and the mother of two wonderful children, Quinlyn (8) and Grayson (1). She is a member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., Alpha Rho Zeta Chapter, Montgomery, AL. She is also a member of New Home Missionary Baptist Church (Mt. Meigs).

When she is not filling her time with JLM, you can find her baking in her kitchen as the owner of "Sweet Ella's Sweets" home bakery, named after her late grandmother, Mary "Ella" Roper. She also enjoys working at the family restaurant, Mary Ruth's, in Georgiana, AL. Quenita is currently employed with State of Alabama, Alabama Law Enforcement Agency in their Motor Carrier Safety Unit.

When asked why she joined the Junior League of Montgomery, Quenita replied that she seeks to make a difference in her community and to make lasting friendships.



Courtney Curenton-Baker - President-Elect

A lifelong Montgomery resident, Courtney Lee Curenton-Baker has been a member of the Junior League of Montgomery since 2017 and is serving as the 2023-2024 President-Elect. Prior to joining the League's Board of Directors, she served on the Holiday Market Committee. She is the Operations and Outreach Manager for the Alabama Association of Conservation Districts, where she has worked since 2017, and also runs the Alabama Envirothon program. A graduate of Huntingdon College, Courtney holds bachelor's degrees in accounting and political science and was awarded her Masters of Public Administration by Auburn University at Montgomery in 2022. Courtney and her husband, Brett, live in Cloverdale with their three dogs and four cats.



Amerika Blair - Communications Council VP

Amerika Blair, a native of Montgomery, Alabama, understands the importance of collaborative impact. She prides herself on being an outspoken advocate, public servant, organizer, communicator, creator, and life-long learner. Amerika's first-hand experiences with hardship and inequities inspired her to dedicate her life to creating robust change to bring equity to marginalized and underserved communities. In addition to serving in the United States Air Force Reserves, Amerika serves as a nonprofit leader for Fair and Just Prosecution and various community organizations.

Amerika has served in several capacities in the Junior League of Montgomery since 2015. Before serving as the Communications Vice President, she served as the Community Council VP, Member at Large for the Board of Directors, and various community placements. In 2021, Amerika co-led the College & Career Fair placement, contributing to the Junior League of Montgomery's first Association of Junior League International Award for Innovation. She was also named Junior League of Montgomery's Volunteer of the Year in 2019.

2023-24 Board of Directors



Ashley Farr - Fundraising VP

Ashley Penhale Farr is a native of Alabaster, Alabama. After graduating from Troy University, she attended Thomas Goode Jones School of Law and earned her Juris Doctorate in 2010. Ashley is currently Chief Legal Counsel for the Alabama Department of Senior Services.

She is a former President of the Montgomery County Bar Association, a graduate of the Alabama State Bar Leadership Forum, and served as Law Day Chair for two years, coordinating and implementing Law Day programs at various public schools in Montgomery County.

As a member of the Junior League since 2013, Ashley's League experience includes community placements with Magic Moments, Boys and Girls Club, Brantwood Children's Home, and Aid to Inmate Mothers. Ashley also served as Chair of College and Career Night and has previously served on the Board of Directors as Advisory Strategic Planning Chair and Governance Chair.

Ashley's favorite League experience was serving as Chair of the Aid to Inmate Mothers placement and having the opportunity to see incarcerated women maintain and strengthen relationships by spending time with their children each month.

Outside of the League, Ashley is an advisor for the Huntingdon College Chi Omega Chapter, serves as President of the Montgomery County Volunteer Lawyers Program and serves on the Aid to Inmate Mothers Board of Directors.



Bernadette Hollinger - Nominating Chair

A native of Birmingham, Alabama, Bernadette Hollinger has a great passion for community service and volunteerism. She firmly believes in "paying it forward" by passing onto others the lessons and opportunities she has received from others. Her focus is on inspiring, building up, coaching and mentoring young girls and women in assisting them to get a "seat at the table".

As trailblazer and a woman, making history as a Senior Leader in the Alabama Air National Guard, Bernadette is acutely aware of the lack of female representation in the military and boardrooms. Her 33 years as a member of the National Guard has enabled her to be hands-on in preparing women for leadership roles on both the local and national levels. In her civilian position, Bernadette serves as an Acquisition Program Manager for the United States Air Force.

Bernadette has been a member of the Junior League of Montgomery since 2005. Earlier in her membership, she was selected as a "Women to Watch". During her JLM membership, Bernadette has served in several leadership positions, to include: Nominating Vice President, Advisory Strategic Planning Chair, College & Career Fair Chair (twice), League Lines Editor, Rummage Sale Chair, and many other positions.



Chantinell Trimble - Governance Chair

Chantinell Cooper-Trimble joined Junior League Montgomery (JLM) chapter in 2017. Since that time, she has served on both outward and inward facing League opportunities. Her favorite, to date, has been the Community Placement Committee.

Chantinell works for Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA) on Gunter Annex. She is a wife of 24 years and mother of two daughters. Her love language is acts of service, which is why she enjoys working with the volunteers of JLM and meeting the needs of the community.

She loves dogs, and her hobbies include cooking, singing, and spending quality time with her family. Ms. Cooper-Trimble holds both a Bachelor's and a Master's degree in Information Systems from Auburn University at Montgomery. Her motto to live by is "No one rises to low expectations." - Les Brown

2023-24 Board of Directors



Kalandra Haynes - Advisory Strategic Planning Chair

Kalandra Haynes, from Enterprise, Alabama, is a 2006 graduate of Auburn University Montgomery with a degree in Justice and Public Safety. She has worked in the federal government for over 17 years and currently works for Middle District of Alabama Federal Defenders Program, Inc. as a Paralegal.

Kalandra has been a member of the Junior League of Montgomery and has served on many committees, including Hope Inspired Ministries, Provisional, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Community Research, and Women's Leadership Summit. Kalandra also served as Chair for League Relations, Common Ground Community Placement and That's My Child Community Placement while also serving as the Member Records Coordinator. Kalandra received the 2022-2023 Community Placement Volunteer of the Year.

In addition to her work with the Junior League, Kalandra is actively involved with several community organizations in Montgomery.

As a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated® - Omega Chi Omega Chapter, Kalandra serves as a Chapter Officer in the position of Assistant Corresponding Secretary.

During her spare time, she likes to shop, travel and partake in DIY projects!



Kathleen Penney Childree - Membership Council VP

Kathleen Penney Childree, originally from Madison, AL has lived in Montgomery since 2015. She is Assistant Dean of Students for Residential Communities and Community Standards at Huntingdon College where she also serves as a Title IX investigator. She holds bachelors and master's degrees from Huntingdon College and Auburn University Montgomery respectively, and a doctorate in higher education administration from the University of Alabama.

She has been a member of the League since 2018 and currently serves as Membership Council Vice President. She has previously served as Communication Council Vice President, Social Media Chair, the co-chair of the Rummage Sale, and as a member of the Arrangements Committee. In 2021 Kathleen was recognized as one of the League's "Women to Watch." Encouraging positive change in our membership and community is a goal she hopes to emphasize in her work during the current year.

Kathleen also serves as the state director-elect for the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators. In her free time, she enjoys reading, hiking, working on home renovations with her husband, Graham, and playing with her 4-year-old Labrador/hound mix.



Melissa Moore - Operations Council VP

Melissa Moore is a native of Montgomery, Alabama. She is married to Gene A. Moore, and they have two beautiful daughters Me'lyssa (23), and Gaia (19). She is a proud to be the mother of these two amazing young women.

Melissa has been able to serve in the Junior League for more than 9 years. Clef Works Placement is one of the most memorable moments since being in the Junior League.

Melissa is committed to the service of the community and others. She has enjoyed being able to work to ensure that the mission for Junior League of Montgomery (JLM) is met. Volunteerism is impactful, rewarding, and helps with the overall welfare of the community. This offers an amazing reward for Melissa, because she believes that she is helping to improve the environment, others, as well as self.

One of the scriptures that she keeps in remembrance of is "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others". Melissa understands that serving others is valuable, needed and self-less. JLM embodies this core value of service and Melissa is thankful and grateful for this organization giving space for her passion, with the opportunity to intentionally serve and give back.

2023-24 Board of Directors



Mitzi Cole - Sustaining Advisor

Mitzi Cole, originally from Madison, Wisconsin, relocated to Montgomery in 1999. She received her Master's Degree in Human Resource Management from Troy State and her Bachelor's Degree in Communication Arts from the University of Wisconsin – Madison.

A member of the Junior League Montgomery (JLM) since 2009, Mitzi will serve as the Sustaining Advisor for the 2023 – 2024 league year. Her experience within JLM and the Association of Junior Leagues International (AJLI) is varied. Within JLM she has served as President, Chair of the Lillie Lee Minier Society, Membership Council VP, Operations Council VP and in leadership roles for several placements, and was selected as one of JLM's Women to Watch in 2014.

Outside of the League, Mitzi is an active member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated®. In 2022, she celebrated her 25th anniversary and achievement of silver and life membership status. She has also served on the River Region United Way board of directors from 2014 – 2016, and is a graduate of Leadership Selma (2006) and Leadership Montgomery (2013).

Mitzi is married to Lawrence Cole, and they have a son, Lawrence Timothy 'Clay' Cole.



Sherry White - Finance Council VP

Sherry White is originally from Oxford, Alabama, and moved to Montgomery with her previous employer in 1996. She is the co-owner of Answered Prayer Home Care, LLC, The Belmont Assisted Living and Memory Care Facility and IGH, focusing on private in-home care, healthcare management for nursing homes and assisted living facilities within the state of Alabama. She is a healthcare professional with an extensive background of experience and accomplishments.

Sherry has served in the Junior League of Montgomery since 2011 in a variety of positions, most recently as Assistant Treasurer. She has served on the Community Research Committee two different years, allowing her the opportunity to really learn about all the great agencies in our community striving to make Montgomery a better place. Sherry loves working with fellow League members as together they strive to help those in need in the surrounding community.



Sidney Carol Barnhardt - Member-At-Large

Sidney Carol Barnhardt has been an active member of Junior League of Montgomery for two years. She has served on the E&T and the College and Career Night committees, assisted with social media for 2022-23, and will be serving next year as the Market 1926 PR Chair, League Lines Co-Editor, and Member at Large for the 2023-24 JLM Board.

Sidney Carol's provisional year was 2020 during which class members got to know each other via Zoom due to Covid. Still, the experience connected her to like-minded women wanting to serve the community, a continuing goal for her.

She works as Marketing Associate at the Shoppes of EastChase. In her free time, she loves to read, take walks with her husband and fur baby, and listen to Taylor Swift.

2023-24 Board of Directors



Susan Reed - Community Council VP

Susan Reed, originally from Bay Minette, AL, has lived in Montgomery for over 20 years. Susan holds both a bachelor's and master's degree in business administration from Troy University; she is a Certified Public Accountant. She serves as Vice President of Oncology Services and Administrator of Montgomery Cancer Center, Baptist Health. She previously worked for Pricewaterhouse Coopers as Assurance Manager.

Susan joined the JLM in 2012 and she is currently Community Council Vice President and joins the Board after her work with the Nominating and Community Research Committees. She served as chair of Shop, Save, Serve and Rummage Sale fundraisers. Susan was awarded the In-League Volunteer of the Year in 2018 after being named a "Woman to Watch." She chaired the 2016 Community Placement of the Year, Dream Court, and worked with Habitat for Humanity and St. Jude Community placements.

Susan, a cancer survivor, advocates for colon cancer screening and early detection in honor of her late husband, Darren Reed. She is a graduate of Leadership Montgomery XXXI and a member of First United Methodist Church. She enjoys traveling and time with her family and her two retired racing greyhounds Ruby and Birdie Reed.



Theresa Patterson - Board Relations VP Liaison

Theresa Patterson is an only child and mother of an only, Andrew Douglass Patterson.

She has been a member of the Junior League of Montgomery for over 15 years. She has served on various committees, including the Boys and Girls Club (chair), College and Career Night (chair and committee), Bridge Builders, League Logs, Taste of River Region (chair), Girls Scouts of America (chair), Arrangements, Women's Leadership Summit, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee and this year chair of The Junior Miss foundation.

In her spare time, Theresa enjoys traveling, reading educational journals, and working with her non-profit, Educational Oasis, bringing smiles to pre-school children in local elementary schools.

In the fall, you can hear about her adventures attending Auburn, UAB and the Titans football games and working the ESPN sponsored events like the Red Tails Classic and Camellia Bowl games. As a former classroom teacher, Theresa enjoys working at the Alabama Department of Education to provide further assistance to Alabama's students in child nutrition and the Farm to School program. Theresa is looking forward to serving in her role as Board Liaison.



Victoria Belton - Recording Secretary

Victoria L. Belton hails from Montgomery and is a 2004 graduate of the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa where she received her degree in Marketing and Advertising. Currently, she is the Director of Marketing and Public Relations for Trenholm State Community College where she is responsible for managing the college's marketing and communication efforts.

Victoria joined JLM in 2010 and has served in various roles, with her time as Valiant Cross Placement Chair during the Fall of 2019 to 2020 placement year being a standout due to COVID.

Victoria's "Why JLM?" is the legacy of service offered by serving the community with both volunteers and grant money as well as the women of the League. JLM is full of dynamic multifaceted women – and getting to work alongside them has been an honor.

Victoria is also involved with organizations like Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated® and is the current Communications Co-Chair for The University of Alabama Black Alumni Association.

In her spare time, she likes to shop, and hangout with her friends. An avid football fan – you can find her at Bryant Denny on Saturdays during football season – Roll Tide!

Community Placement Wrap-up MAO/WIT/ARC

By Amerika Blair

As we pivot out of an era of Covid, this year it was critical to re-engage our direct services to our community. We are reminded of the necessary work and impact of our organization when our members devote hours of volunteerism and commitment to our community. “The Junior League of Montgomery has been a pillar to the community for almost 100 years. As we get to the other side of Covid, we know that life as we once knew it has changed, but our impact will remain. By focusing on the unique challenges faced by our community, this year’s placements and the efforts from our members brought about more relevant and effective solutions. I’m honored to have served alongside so many intentional women this League year,” said Amerika Blair, Community Council Vice President.

We wrapped up our League year with three community placements, Medical Advocacy Outreach (MAO), Autauga/Western Elmore ARC, and Women In Training.

Expanding our commitment to strengthening health and wellness, the Medical Advocacy Outreach (now Five Horizons) community placement mission is to provide nutritious meals to HIV positive patients and support the agency’s programs and services. MAO’s focus is to end the HIV Epidemic. For those with HIV, good nutrition supports overall health and helps maintain the immune system. Good nutrition also helps those with HIV to maintain a healthy weight and absorb HIV medicines. Pamela Selmar, Chair, has served on the MAO community placement committee several times and was elated to see the placement offered once again. The committee provided over 200 boxed meals to the agency, including holiday meals.

This League year, the Junior League of Montgomery expanded our outreach to Autauga County with the Autauga/Western Elmore Arc community placement. Operating four centers in the river region, the Autauga/Western Elmore Arc is a membership organization open to all

who wish to advocate for and support persons with intellectual disabilities. Led by Acquanetta Pinkard and Stacey Pugh, the committee partnered with Lowe’s, G.M. Contracting, LLC, and Councilman Marcus Jackson to erect an outdoor seating area for members to convene to decompress.



Since its founding, the Junior League of Montgomery has supported Women in Training (W.I.T). This year, we were excited to award them \$20,000 in funding and generous volunteer support in coordination with “International Day of the Girl.” Committee members participated in shopping, packing, and distributing 500 WIT Kits of menstrual, dental, and hygiene supplies to middle school girls in Montgomery Public Schools. “The Junior League of Montgomery partnered with WIT to not only provide donations for menstrual hygiene, sanitary and dental items, but also a committee of volunteers assisted with shopping for hygiene items, packing, and distribution of the items. This is a vital resource for the young women in our community who are not fortunate to be able to afford these basic necessities’ ‘ said Takenya Rodgers, Chair of the Women in Training community placement.



JLM FEATURED COMMUNITY PLACEMENTS





**Auburn University at Montgomery
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upcoming events!**



Tuesday, September 19
Huntsville College Night
Tuesday, September 26
Alexander City College Night
Tuesday, October 24
Birmingham College Night

Thursday, October 26
Mobile College Night
Tuesday, November 7
Dothan College Night

Saturday, October 14th

Warhawk Welcome

Tour the beautiful AUM campus and updated residence halls, explore our academic offerings, learn about financial aid and scholarships, and even take advantage of our fast-track admissions! This half-day event takes place from 8:00 a.m. to Noon.

Friday, November 10th

A Day in the Life of a Warhawk

What is it really like to be a student at AUM? Find out by talking with current students and hearing from AUM faculty from your area of study. You'll also be able to tour our lovely campus and a residence hall. This event takes place from 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

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Commissioner Ronda Walker

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May 23, 2023

Junior League of Montgomery
3570 Carter Hill Road
Montgomery, AL 36111

Dear Junior League,

We deeply appreciate your contribution of \$5000.00 to the *Advancing Our Tradition of Achievement Campaign*.

We are grateful for your response to our campaign, and pleased that you not only recognize the quality of the scholarship program provided by the Distinguished Young Women of Alabama, but you are willing to make a personal commitment to providing educational scholarships to college-bound senior girls.

Please let me know if I can assist you in any way. Again, thank you for your commitment and support.

Sincerely,


Kimberly Romano Cyr
Fund Development

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www.macoa.org
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June 21, 2023

Junior League of Montgomery
3570 Carter Hill Rd
Montgomery, AL 36111-3414

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your gift to help support the senior citizens of our community.

We sincerely appreciate your \$10,982.00 Meals on Wheels donation.

Your generosity enables MACOA and our dedicated volunteers to continue to provide hope, care, sustenance, and opportunity to Montgomery area seniors. Meals On Wheels, senior center activities, frozen meals, referral services, and volunteer activities promote independent, dignified, and meaningful living. Because extraordinary people like you care and contribute, these older individuals will have more enjoyable, independent lives.

Again, thanks for responding to the needs of our community's seniors. They gave us birth, nurtured our lives, built our nation, fought our wars, and gave us the opportunities to be who we are today. You can be sure they are grateful for your help.

Sincerely,


Donna Marietta
Chief Executive Officer

*Our partnership means
so much to the Board of
Directors, Staff and volunteers!
Most of all, the clients benefit
from our kind and generous
donation! Donna*

MACOA (FEIN 63-0634950) is a nonprofit, charitable organization of the type described in sections 170(b)(1)(A)(vi) and 509(a)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code. The Internal Revenue Service has determined that we are exempt from Federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Donors may deduct contributions to MACOA as provided in section 170 of the Code. Bequests, legacies, devises, transfers, or gifts for our use are deductible under sections 2055, 2106, and 2522 of the Code. No goods or services were received in exchange for this donation.



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JLM Hosts Exceptional Women's Leadership Summit

By Melanie Beasley

On March 10, 2023, nearly 300 women gathered at Wynlakes Golf and Country Club for the Annual Women's Leadership Summit, an event through which Junior League of Montgomery (JLM) promotes confidence, self-advocacy, and leadership skills among River Region women, including members of the league. Money raised from the summit is applied to league-funded grants for community non-profit programs and EmpowHERment scholarships for women. This year's scholarships were awarded to Anassa Thomas and Kaiya Mims.

This year's theme, Embracing Ambition, was perfectly reinforced through the message of Keynote Speaker Kerry Schrader, the CEO/Co-Founder of Mixtroz. As one of the first African-American women to raise \$1 million in the tech industry pre-seeded, Kerry says her success is due to her passion, drive, and fearlessness. "I'm not afraid to fail," she says. Kerry gained the experience to start her business through her prior work as a senior human resource professional. According to Kerry, the skills she deployed in human resource development have served her well in her successful start-up businesses. Her vivacious personality kept summit-goers spellbound as she talked about keys to success in starting your own business—things such as being





JUNIOR LEAGUE COMMUNITY EVENTS

spiritually, morally, and ethically centered, as well as having faith in other people.

Also, there to inspire would-be leaders was Montgomery County Commissioner Ronda Walker. As the first female county commissioner in many years, Ronda's public service has not always been easy, especially times when she found herself the lone voice on a particular side of an issue. She has, however, held her ground, stuck by her convictions, and proven her strength as a woman and effectiveness as vice chairman of the county commission. Elected to the county commission in 2016 and currently serving her third term, Ronda graduated from Robert E. Lee High School in Montgomery, earned an undergraduate degree in History and Political Science from Troy University, and a master's degree in history from the University of Hawaii.

Ronda's story is one of courage and perseverance. In December 2014, she was diagnosed with Stage III breast cancer. Not to be deterred by her health challenges, Ronda never missed a county commission meeting over some grueling months of chemotherapy and radiation. Throughout that time she was serving as a highly sought-after speaker and advocate for women in leadership positions.

Her powerful presentation made an impact on everyone in the room, and I'm sure convinced some women to step out of their comfort zones and into positions where they could make a difference.





JUNIOR LEAGUE COMMUNITY EVENTS



Joining the voices of these two dynamic women was Montgomery media personality and powerhouse in her own right, Tonya Terry. Always uplifting, energetic, and to-the-point, Tonya talked about her career at WSFA-TV and its challenges, as well as her journey since she retired from WSFA as a long-time anchor woman, to fulfilling many of her own personal goals and dreams. Always straightforward, Tonya talked about the importance of being yourself and believing in yourself. She is thoroughly enjoying this stage of her life, and encouraged summit goers to dream big, always thinking positively and working steadily toward achieving their goals.

Summit attendees especially enjoyed downloading the Mixtroz app on their phones, which assigned them to different tables for roundtable discussions. According to one attendee, “this was one of the highlights of the day for me. I enjoyed networking with women I might not ordinarily have gotten to know and the tabletop discussions,” she said.

The sold-out room also enjoyed a panel discussion moderated by WSFA-TV’s Bethany Davis, which featured Auburn Realtor Amy Cotney; Cheryl Brown, CEO of ZealRiver Technologies; Maeci Walker, Vice President of Christie Strategy Group, and Tonya Terry.

This panel “dove into the topic, “Behind the Mask: Vulnerability in Leadership. We asked each of our panelists to give examples of the skills they most used, something they wish they had known early in their



JUNIOR LEAGUE COMMUNITY EVENTS

careers, incidents where things didn't go as planned, and how vulnerability in conversations led to relationships based on trust. Panelists gave insightful and sometimes very vulnerable glimpses into the life of a woman in a leadership role," said Summit Chairperson Adrienne Chastain.

Chastain summed up the day's event by saying, "I feel incredibly blessed to have had the opportunity to chair the 6th Annual Women's Leadership Summit. From my co-chair Lilly Nizam, our dedicated 2023 committee, to each of our speakers, I believe that we produced an event that left each attendee not only filled with laughs, but also feeling empowered to take on the challenges and setbacks that came their way."





JLM New Member Open House

By Teryn Bostick

The New Member Open House was a great success this year, with the in-person meeting in March garnering around 50 attendees and the Zoom option in April including an additional 10 attendees.

“We had a wonderful turnout for our New Member Open House! The league welcomed potential provisional members with spring themed decorations and refreshments at the league office. A presentation was given outlining the vision of the league and members shared their league journeys as well as what they love about being in the league. We enjoyed meeting and getting to know potential Provisionals!”

stated Provisional Co-Chair Sarah Beth Tribble regarding the opportunities and new connections for prospective new members.

The coming league year promises to be BOLD and provide opportunities for ladies of JLM to connect and create impact within our community!





JUNIOR LEAGUE COMMUNITY EVENTS





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Done in a Day - Chisolm Community Garden

By Susie Paul



The Chisholm Master's Community Garden was the site of a JLM "Done in a Day" project on April 15. Participating members received a full shift credit for their work, welcoming help from League friends, spouses, and children and working from 9-2.

The garden is located at 213 Broadway Street in the Chisholm neighborhood, once considered one of Montgomery's "food deserts." The garden's purpose is to grow fresh

food for the community, educate the residents and children about growing food and to promote social harmony while beautifying the neighborhood.

JLM members and "friends" brought gardening gloves and took on many tasks related to the upkeep of this large garden. They spread pine straw around the plants in the Peace Garden, assembled planting tables in the greenhouse, offered a "u-pick" of strawberries from the garden's 1,500 commercial plants, and provided

refreshments and berry baskets to the residents. Members also removed weeds from around the blueberry and blackberry plants.

The League also sought donations of shade cloth, planting tables, and plastic culture materials. The Chisholm Master's Community Garden welcomes such donations and is certainly happy to have volunteer help like those provided by JLM on this bright Saturday.



AROUND THE LEAGUE





Sustainers Luncheon

By Susie Paul

The Sustainers luncheon was held on April 5, 2023, at the Wynlakes Country Club, enjoying a luncheon of quiche, fresh fruit, and strawberry cake. Quenita Mitchell, Junior League of Montgomery's president for 2023-24, presided over the meeting following.

President Mitchell outlined plans for the League and fundraisers this year, encouraging Sustainers to reach out to their liaison to share ideas about what they would like to do. President Mitchell then announced a new fundraiser for 2024, Tulips and Juleps, to be held in May of 2024. Further, College and Career Night will have a different flair this year! Each participating school will have a dedicated timeframe to visit with colleges and potential employers. Those who can not attend during these scheduled times will have a second chance to do so across the course of the day.



The Holiday Market will go on! President Mitchell announced a "Winter Wonderland" theme for this year's event. President Mitchell expressed her enthusiasm towards working with Sustainers in this coming year.





AROUND THE LEAGUE





Wise Choice for Sustainer of the Year

By Melanie Beasley



Once a year the Junior League of Montgomery (JLM) chooses a sustainer of the year, someone who has been an active member of the league for at least ten years. To be chosen is quite an honor, and the honoree is selected from among former sustainers of the season winners.

This year's honoree is Justice Kelli Wise, a woman who reflects the JLM mission in everything she does. An active volunteer in the community, she is also a very busy professional, honorably upholding Alabama laws through her leadership in the judicial branch of government. She was elected to the Alabama Supreme Court in 2012, a position she continues to hold today. Prior to that she served as presiding judge on the Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals.

Justice Wise received her BA from Auburn University, her master's degree in public administration from Auburn University at Montgomery, and her Juris Doctorate from Jones School of Law in Montgomery.

New Transfer Spotlight

Jane Strader-Pridgan

Jane Strader-Pridgan recently moved to Montgomery from Huntsville, Alabama with her husband Chael Pridgan, 2 dogs and cat. Jane is an Admissions Counselor for Huntingdon College while her husband is the new Offensive Line coach at Huntingdon as well.

Jane enjoys reading, running, and pretty much any activity that can be done outside and of course football season.

Jane joined Junior League to meet other women who are active in the community and have an active interest in helping it grow. She states, "I have met some of my best friends from joining the League and cannot wait to see the growth the Montgomery League will have!!"



She has been a wonderful role model and mentor to so many, sharing her knowledge and experience with not only JLM members, but also with a wide range of non-profit organizations throughout the River Region. She has served with distinction as a board member and/or officer for the following organizations: Hands on River Region, Max Credit Union, Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts, Family Sunshine Center, and others.

Kelli is a member of St. James United Methodist Church where she has taught Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, Bible studies, and otherwise contributed her time and talents to her place of worship. She is married to Montgomery Attorney Arthur Ray, and they have one daughter, Hanah-Mathis, who recently graduated with honors from the University of Alabama.

"I can think of no other sustainer more deserving of this honor than Kelli," said Ashley White, the 2022-2023 JLM President. "Kelli has been a member of our league for decades and over those years has exhibited a distinct dedication to our mission through her service and exemplary leadership."

JLM is proud to select Justice Kelli Wise as the 2023 Sustainer of the Year, and offers profound thanks for her service, leadership, voice for the River Region's neediest citizens, and mentorship of up-and-coming JLM leaders.

Education and Training Highlights

By Sara Beth Beals

The Education and Training committee has done an outstanding job of providing a multitude of learning opportunities for our Junior League members this year. In addition to offering five amazing sessions in the fall, JLM members had even more training opportunities this spring. Here are some highlights of the training sessions that were held during the second part of the 2022-2023 League year.

New this year, “February Follies” offered JLM members a week full of fun and engaging social activities. First up was an Orange Theory Fitness class in Prattville. Members had a blast and worked up a sweat while earning “splat points”. Next up, members were treated to a “Galentine’s” night which featured Valentine’s-themed bingo – complete with lots of sweet treats and fellowship. Third, members enjoyed eating lunch together on a beautiful, warmer-than-average, February afternoon at the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts. Members could bring their own lunch or enjoy a lunch from Verde in the museum’s sculpture garden. We ended the week with the





AROUND THE LEAGUE



virtual Community Placement Fair. JLM members learned about the many amazing community placement opportunities that they could sign up for.

League members had tons of additional Education & Training events to choose to attend. One was a golf clinic held at Lagoon Golf Course in Montgomery. This Introduction to Golf class was taught by the course's professional golf instructors and helped both new golfers and those with prior experience take their game to the next level.

Another learning opportunity was a Mini Business Workshop & Business Expo. At this workshop, members gained business knowledge from three different speakers. League Member, Lovetta Churchill, Secretary of State Domestic Supervisor Administrative Support Assistant III, taught members how to legally create and amend a business, as well as how to legally register a business name. She



AROUND THE LEAGUE

also discussed the importance of legally dissolving a business that is no longer active. Pamela Rowe, a Revenue Officer from the City of Montgomery License and Revenue Division, discussed types of business models and the importance of getting professional certifications and licenses. She also guided members through the process of getting a business license. Christine Smith, Vice President of Cadence Bank, discussed the financial aspects of running a business. She covered financial services offered by banks, and also discussed financial management for businesses, including: bookkeeping, financial management software and financial statements.

League members got to learn all about child health and safety from Amy Morris, Nurse Consultant of Healthy Child Care Alabama, Alabama Department of Public Health. Ms. Morris covered topics such as development markers and delays in children, food allergies, safe sleep and administering medication. We are grateful to her for sharing her expertise in keeping our children safe.



Next up, JLM members enjoyed a library tour at Juliette Hampton Morgan Memorial Library in Montgomery, led by Head Librarian Sarah Foster. The tour included the free computer lab, meeting rooms that can be rented for free, and the children's sections that offer many high-tech activities for little ones. Members learned that library visitors can participate in or attend open mic for spoken word, poetry, and music.

Last, but certainly not least, JLM Past President, Marie Wise Styles, taught a membership refresher class for our League members on all things Junior League. She simplified the Junior League Journey and explained everything from Provisional to

Sustainer status. Marie explained in detail the requirements of each status, answered questions on who to contact for information and where to find information. She also explained the process of getting into leadership positions within JLM. Thanks, Marie, for sharing this information with us!

What a wonderful year of learning we have had! Thanks to our creative, innovative group of ladies on the Education and Training committee. Their contributions were valuable, and these training sessions could not have happened without them. We hope everyone enjoyed this League year's training offerings, workshops, and fellowship!



We're Growing!

Market 1926 is growing! In July, Market 1926 expanded and is now at Amy's Antiques!

Come by our booth at Amy's and grab some goodies!



Be sure you are following Market 1926 on Facebook and Instagram to stay up to date on sales and giveaways!

2023 Association of Junior Leagues International Annual Conference

By Quenita Mitchell

The Association of Junior Leagues International (AJLI) was founded in 1901 by New York social activist Mary Harriman. The Junior League has evolved into one the oldest, largest and most effective women's volunteer organizations in the world. The organization today is comprised of more than 125,000 women in 295 leagues throughout Canada, Mexico, the United Kingdom and the United States.

The mandate of AJLI has not wavered: to develop exceptionally qualified civic leaders who collaborate with community partners to identify a community's most urgent needs and address them with meaningful and relevant programs and initiatives that not only improve lives, but also change the way people think. This important work has won us dedicated community and corporate partners and loyal supporters for more than 120 years as well as an enduring legacy as the foremost provider of civic leadership training for women.

Ashley White, Quenita Mitchell, and Courtney Curenton Baker had the privilege of attending the 101st AJLI annual conference held on May 11-13, 2023, in Indianapolis, Indiana.

The theme of this year's conference was "Leading the Way to Change." This year's annual conference was a way to come together with the past few tumultuous years firmly in our rearview mirrors.

In an effort to further educate and empower leaders, conference organizers offered attendees numerous meetings, workshops, and panel presentations on topics ranging from engaging our sustainers and onboarding new members to developing your leadership pipeline and parliamentary procedure. The meetings and workshops offered were an opportunity to gain new skills and tools necessary to move our league

forward. In addition to learning new approaches to membership and community-based issues, attendees were also able to network with other leagues from across the country to learn how they operate effectively in their respective communities. Some of the workshops we attended included: Engaging Sustainers: From Culture to Collaboration; Everything, Everywhere All at Once: How We Reignite Member Engagement by Holding onto Our Core Values and Questioning Everything Else; Intentional Engagement, Start Everyday Like it's Your Birthday; and Public Relations.





The annual “Dinner with Mary” Awards Banquet was held Friday night where several of our sister leagues were recognized for their hard work and achievements throughout the year. Our sister in-state league, Junior League of Birmingham, was recognized with several awards. It



was a wonderful evening highlighted with outstanding accomplishments of leagues and individuals within those leagues. We finished the evening with sounds of a New Orleans Second Line band, as New Orleans is the destination for next year’s annual conference.

On behalf of Ashley White, Quenita Mitchell, and Courtney Curenton Baker, thank you for allowing us to represent the Junior League of Montgomery at the AJLI 101st Annual Conference. We are energized and enthusiastic about the future of our organization.



River Region Volunteers Honored

By Quenita Mitchell

On April 20, 2023, President-Elect Quenita Mitchell had the honor of representing the ladies of Junior League of Montgomery as hundreds gathered at Montgomery’s Riverwalk Stadium for the 2023 Volunteer of the Year Awards. Co-sponsored by the Junior League of Montgomery, HandsOn River Region initiated the ceremony 49 years ago as a way to publicly recognize the outstanding service provided by community volunteers and groups.



Adult – Elon Miree, who oversees monthly food drives, job readiness programs and healthcare assistance for the underserved.



Adult Group – Air Command and Staff College, who are not only dedicated to serving our country but also the community by combating hunger through their work with the Montgomery Area Food Bank

The joyous occasion was made possible thanks to event sponsors The Montgomery Biscuits, AARP Alabama, Goodwyn Building, Montgomery County Commission and Commissioner Ronda Walker.

“We are grateful for the opportunity to publicly thank and honor these civic-minded individuals,” said HandsOn Executive, Tasha Cooper. “The 2023 honorees are passionate about their cause, work tirelessly for the greater good and inspire others to become involved.”



Senior – Courtney Tarver, who stays busy working with Old Ship AME Zion Church, the Boy Scouts of America, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, AARP Alabama and MACOA’s Meals on Wheels program.



Youth – Emily Needham, who was instrumental in setting up the new Montgomery Warming Center; installing kitchen countertops, staining cabinets, organizing the clothing closet and coordinating a food donation drive.

HandsOn River Region mobilizes volunteers and connects people, information and services to meet local needs and build a strong, caring community. To learn more, visit

www.handsonriverregion.org or call 334-264-3335.

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-H. wise

The HAW5 Foundation was formed to keep alive the energetic fun-loving spirit of Henry A Wise V. Henry was a fine young man who was very genuine and had a great attitude towards life. He was always smiling and singing, in a great mood, and never wasted a minute of the day. Henry was known as someone who included everyone. He was a popular and talented athlete with a strong inner faith and connection to Christ which allowed him to live with such a free spirit. He once said while out fishing with friends on Mobile Bay that "We live a pretty Incredible life". This life included 16 years at Bayside Academy and attending camps like JH Ranch and Young Life - just a few of the important, impactful places that shaped Henry's spirit during his short life.

The HAW5 Foundation funds scholarships to all of the above organizations. 100% of the donations are gifted back to people in need. The HAW5 board consist of parents, siblings, friends, and a student who received the HAW5 scholarship. The scholarship allows that same student to match the contribution and make his or her own donation to a cause of their choice. The foundation will also always continue to support emergency and first response teams who in Henry's case went over and beyond expectations in their search. We will forever be grateful to those men and women. We promise as advocates for HAW5 to help others however we can to live an incredible life as Henry did.

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