

# League Logs



*Junior League*  
OF MONTGOMERY



## JLM COMMUNITY PLACEMENTS

Dream Court

Brantwood Children's Home

Common Ground Montgomery

## JLM COMMUNITY EVENTS

College and Career Night

Montgomery Mayoral Forum

Women's Leadership Summit





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## From the President



The women of our League have been in action working with our community and helping to train the members of our League. This year we celebrate the 94th year of our League's service to Montgomery, our WOMEN OF ACTION. We have helped build and lay the foundation for many community nonprofits, sent leaders out to serve in our community and helped bring joy through our events and service.

The Junior League of Montgomery has not only a fruitful and flourishing membership but the women who are active members and the women sustaining our League have gone out into Montgomery to make a difference through their actions.

Throughout this new issue of League Logs you will see a difference not only in the layout but in the service and commitment to our city. We have started a new partnership with Alabama Coasting Publishing and we hope to highlight and promote the extraordinary service being done by our League. This new partnership will help the League highlight and promote our mission to our membership and the community.

Our League continues to serve our community this year with the 35th Anniversary of College and Career Night. This year we exceeded our goals for booths and brought in several thousand high school students and families. The greatest gift we could give our youth is the gift of an education. This event helps spark ideas and put students in touch with opportunities to further their lives. Families are able to hear about the college application process and see firsthand how to apply for aid. Students are often inspired by attending this event to work harder in school to be accepted to their choice school. Attendance is not just from Montgomery County but from 10 counties and over 50 schools...what a gift to our State!

Our Holiday Market and Community Placements continued to shine this year. The 31st Holiday Market had customers exceeding past numbers, taking pictures in front of our "Hallmark Movie" decorations and our Preview Party had a silent auction and live entertainment like no other! Seeing the Holiday Market Committee in action to raise the funds we need to provide for our mission is heartwarming. These women make our Market the greatest one in the state.

But our events would be in vain if we did not have our Community Placements in action for our community. Our members have helped bridge the gap with education, provided health foods and exercise for the elderly, helped children in foster care have the supplies they need for school, enabled children to play adaptive tennis, provided study rooms for at risk students, tax returns for low income families and offered social interaction with individuals with special needs. Our actions and mission to support Montgomery and the women of our League is strong.

Join us for our next two Spring General Meetings (April 14th and May 12th) and Shop, Save, Serve as we continue to develop women, promote volunteerism all of this through the effective ACTION of women. Our League is on the road to 100 and we invite you to join us as we celebrate and service our community.



# THIS IS THE JUNIOR LEAGUE



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# League Logs

A community publication of the Junior League of Montgomery

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## From the Editor



One of my favorites quotes is “The first step towards getting somewhere is to decide that you are not going to stay where you are” Unknown.

I wish I knew who penned those words that have given me the courage to step out of my comfort zone and take a chance so many times. I love how words can encourage, empower and renew and that is what the League Logs staff hopes you find in this edition. In this edition we cover several of our community projects including College and Career Night, Holiday Market, and the Mayoral Forum as well as our partnerships with Brantwood Children’s Home, Common Ground and Dream Court. We also look forward to welcoming new members into the Junior League of Montgomery at our New Members Open House and our Shop, Save, Serve fundraiser will be an event you will not want to miss. If you are looking for tips for Spring Break travel and Spring Cleaning be sure to read those articles and if you need a little encouragement the Empower Yourself article has so many wonderful tips.

So, are you going to stay where you are? Or are you going to take that first step? Whatever you decide I wish you all the best!

Yours Truly,  
Blake Ioimo



### 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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## Contributors

**Blake Ioimo**, currently serves as the editor of League Logs. She considers herself a Montgomery native, although she was born in Tulsa, Oklahoma and lived in Kingwood, Texas as a child. Blake is the Coordinator for the Marketing Resource Center for Alfa Insurance and has been with the company since 2006. She graduated from Judson College with a Bachelor of Arts degree in History and Political Science in 2005 and Auburn Montgomery with a Master of Public Administration in 2008. Blake has been a member of the Junior League of Montgomery since 2012 and since joining the league, she has served in many capacities including Ticket Chair for the Rummage Sale, Co-Chair for the Hope Inspired Ministries community placement, Fund Development Committee, Chair of the Brantwood community placement, Recording Secretary and League Logs Co-Editor and Editor. Blake is married to Jeffrey Ioimo and they have one daughter Amelia.

**Rebecca Holtsford** currently serves as the co-editor of League Logs. She is a native of Montgomery and received a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) at the University of Alabama. She currently works as a pediatric registered nurse for Children's of Alabama at its Montgomery office, Physicians To Children. Rebecca joined the Junior League of Montgomery in 2016. Her previous placements include Brantwood Children's Home and Montgomery Area Nontraditional Equestrian (MANE). She enjoys volunteering in the community, especially with children. Rebecca is currently the Chair of the River Region Junior Board for Magic Moments. She is also on the Junior Executive Board for the Montgomery Museum of Fine Art and serves as the secretary of the Montgomery Catholic Alumni Association. She is married to Trey Holtsford who is an attorney at Holtsford Gilliland Higgins Hitson & Howard P.C. In their spare time they enjoy being with friends, traveling, and hanging with their golden retriever, Cooper.

**Susan Hunt**, currently serves as the Business Manager for League Logs. She is a native of Birmingham, Alabama, and graduated from Auburn University in 1995 with a degree in Industrial Engineering. She moved to Montgomery 11 years ago and serves as the Director of Mission and Advocacy for the Alabama-West Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church. Susan joined the Junior League of Montgomery soon after she moved to Montgomery in order to meet new people and find opportunities to serve the community.

**Tasha Cooper**, a native of Gainesville, Florida, has spent the past 19 years volunteering for and serving in various capacities at nonprofit organizations including management, marketing & public relations, fundraising, and program development. She graduated with a B.A. in Communication & Public Relations in 2005 from the University of West Florida (UWF) in Pensacola, Florida and recently completed her Masters in Nonprofit Administration from Louisiana State University-Shreveport. Tasha has lived throughout the Southeast but moved to Montgomery from Baton Rouge, Louisiana in July 2017. She serves as the Executive Director of HandsOn River Region and resides in Montgomery with her husband, Brennan.

**Peyton Flowers** joined the Junior League of Montgomery in 2016 and has enjoyed serving placements with Brantwood Children's Home and League Logs. She is an eBusiness Analyst at Alfa Insurance and spends her days creating content for digital marketing efforts. Previously, she served as editor at RSVP Montgomery magazine. She is a 2012 graduate of Troy University with a bachelor's degree in broadcast journalism, a contract in public relations and a minor in leadership studies. A Selma native, Peyton lives in Cloverdale with her husband, Andy, their 2-year-old son, Rhettman, 5-month-old daughter, Camilla, and their two dogs, Fitz and Bailey. She is a member of Landmark Church.

**Leslie Stone** is a native of Montgomery. She is the owner of Lone Willow Masonry, Inc. (a woman owned masonry subcontractor). She joined the Junior League of Montgomery in 2017. She is married to Westley K.Stone and they have four children Khadidah (24), Keturah (20), Khelsea (14), and Carson (4).

**Alexsis Lunn** is a grant writer for a nonprofit focused on securing equal justice and equal opportunity for all people. Originally from Tuskegee, Alabama, she moved to Montgomery in 2015 and joined the Junior League the following year. Since that time, she has served on the Impact Alabama and Community Research committees. In her spare time, she enjoys spending time with her family, writing, volunteering, and going to the movies.

# Sustainer of the Season

*By Peyton Flowers, Staff Writer*



Sustainers are so important to the Junior League of Montgomery; and each fall and spring, nominations are submitted to honor one of these wonderful women. It is with great privilege to present Mrs. Judy Kyser as the fall Sustainer of the Season.

Mrs. Kyser has a servant's heart and a dedication to help others throughout the year. She gives her quiet strength to many organizations in our community, such as Mercy House, Trinity Presbyterian Church and more. She is also an active volunteer and Board Member at Montgomery Christian School where she co-chairs the annual Art Splash fundraiser with fellow sustainer, Beth Dubina.

Mrs. Kyser was instrumental in the development of HandsOn River Region, which was founded in 1974 by the Junior League of Montgomery and the River Region United Way as the Volunteer and Information Center. She continues to chair the annual Volunteer of the Year reception hosted by the Junior League of Montgomery and HandsOn River Region.

She continues to be active in the League, attending and supporting League events, while also lending advice and knowledge to current members. She is an interior designer by trade and spent extensive time over the summer helping the League update the office.

Mrs. Kyser has a heart for the League and lives our mission everyday by promoting volunteerism, developing the potential of women, and improving the community through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. She strives to give of her time and talents to all those she serves. If you have had the benefit of spending time with Mrs. Kyser, she will not only make you feel as though you have known each other forever, but she will also leave you with a sense of purpose to make Montgomery a better place for all residents.

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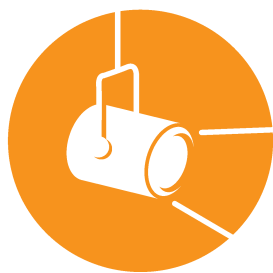
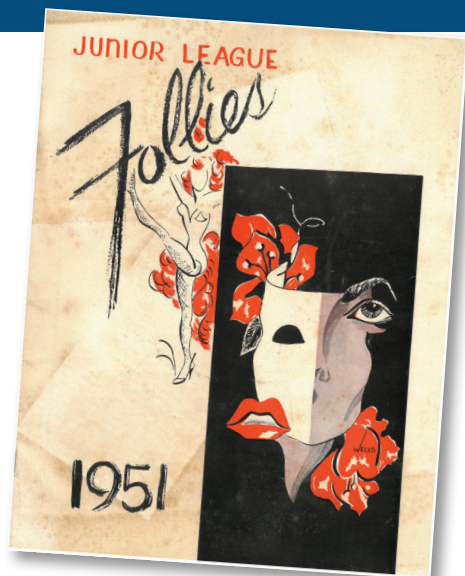
By Blake Ioimo, Editor

League Logs was first published 92 years ago in April of 1928. Thinking about the technology we have for publishing our current issues, I can only imagine what it was like to publish that very first issue of League Logs. The first issue was published by the editor and staff after hosting a candy and cake fundraising sale. Staying true to our history in 2020, we are still sharing our fundraising efforts, our sponsors and the work that our league members are doing throughout the community in each issue of League Logs. As we look toward the 100th year of the Junior League of Montgomery, I am honored to serve as Editor of League Logs this year and continue a tradition that was started so many years ago. Another interesting fact about the name of our publication was that the name League Logs came from a log cabin that was in Downtown Montgomery near the Montgomery Curb Market that served as one of the initial homes for the Junior League of Montgomery.

The Junior League of Montgomery has a long tradition of service to our community, and as we continue toward our 100th year, we will share more about our history and how many of our current events were started. Although much has changed since the early days of the Junior League of Montgomery, one thing that remains the same is the mission to be committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women and improving the community through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers.



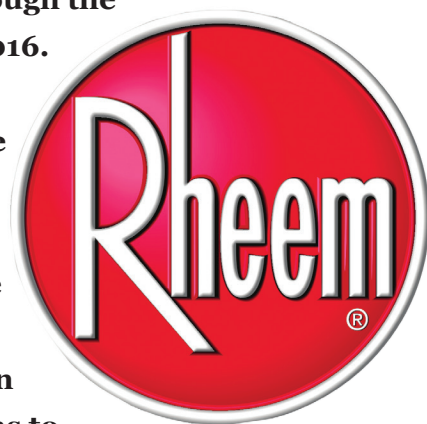




## SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT

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The Heart of Comfort program unifies all the company's charitable giving across North America and has an 88-year history of supporting organizations that have an important role in impacting people and communities in need. In the last year Rheem made donations to around 130 non-profit organizations and over a six-year span has donated over \$2 million dollars.



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# Dream Court





## Dream Court 2019-2020 (Fall Session)

Dream Court was founded by Jessica Weyreuter to assist mentally and physically challenged students play tennis. Jessica also took a group of athletes to the US Open this year and made a trip to China to promote her Dream Court project. The Junior League of Montgomery had the pleasure of assisting her for the fall session September 8th - October 27th. For eight Sundays, our committee met at Edward Thompson Park in Pike Road to help Jessica and her volunteers set-up and break down the tennis courts. We also helped with registration, picked up tennis balls, and participated with coaching the students when needed (my favorite part). What a learning experience for all of the Dream Court ladies!

I am so proud of the eight wonderful and committed women that went above and beyond their needed obligations to serve this wonderful group. I also want to extend a special thanks to co-chair Sara Beth Beals who very willingly stepped in and led the team when I had to step back from some of the physical activities due to the excessive hot summer days we experienced. Also, thank you to Julia Schneider for helping with the days Sara Beth could not be there.

We capped the session off with beautiful handmade goody bags assembled by Sara Beth and Julia, and we all helped with the closing session by handing out the medals to the athletes.

We are all looking forward to the Spring Session in 2020.

Jill Farris, Dream Court Placement Chair





# Brantwood Children's Home Placement

**T**he Brantwood Children's Home houses approximately 21 children aged 10 -21 years old.

All of the children at Brantwood have been placed there by the Department of Human Resources due to various issues that make their homes unsuitable and are beyond their control. The children come to Brantwood with very few belongings and usually do not know anyone at Brantwood. It's our goal throughout the year to show the Brantwood children that people care about them and help them forget about their worries and just enjoy being a kid. The children always show their appreciation for everything we do, as shown in the thank you notes we received (found on page 26).

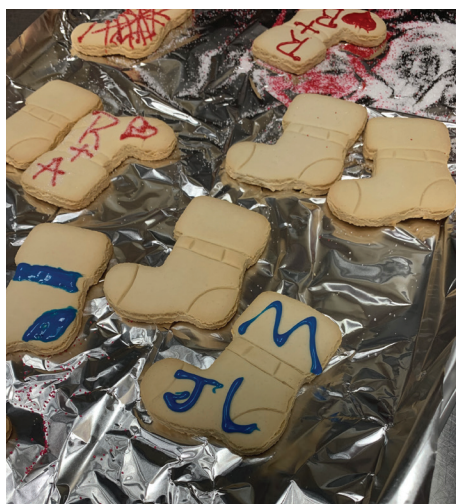
Our first event with Brantwood this year was back-to-school shopping. On July 28th, we helped eleven Brantwood girls find new school clothing at Walmart which took two and a half hours. On August 4th, we assisted nine Brantwood boys with their back-to-school shopping. The boys' trip was much quicker and lasted only one hour. Every child was able to find most, if not all, of the clothes they needed for the upcoming school year.

Following the shopping, we had a back-to-school party with pizza and games on August 22nd. We also helped the Brantwood kids celebrate Halloween on October 24 by painting pumpkins. The kids had so much fun painting their own pumpkin and enjoying all the candy we brought for them!

I've been fortunate to have 12 members in our placement this year. I know it's sometimes hard for our members to make our events, especially the ones held during the week, but I'm thankful to each member for doing her best to make the events for the kids. I also owe a special thank you to my co-chair Danielle Webster for handling everything while I was on maternity leave.

We had a Christmas cookie baking and decorating party at Brantwood on December 12 and enjoyed a wonderful end-of-the-year party!

Morgan Beckman,  
Chair of Brantwood Children's Home Placement 2019-2020







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**H**ave you seen the orange shipping containers on the premises of Common Ground Montgomery (CGM) in the Washington Park area? Something amazing is happening in our Montgomery community and Junior League of Montgomery (JLM) is proud to be a part of it. Our ladies were hard at work this summer building and assembling bunk beds from scratch using wood and plywood, screws and nails, paint and paint brushes, and the like.

On July 13, 2019, JLM volunteers kicked off the summer placement with Common Ground Montgomery! This summer, thirteen JLM women committed to spending their Saturday

mornings providing 20 hours of volunteer services to CGM. Those volunteer hours were spent building beautiful mission bunkhouses out of shipping containers that will house future volunteers and mission workers of all age groups. The bunkhouses will house approximately 70 volunteers and will have common spaces, a kitchen, bathrooms, and bunk rooms.

Common Ground Montgomery is a youth ministry program that focuses on youth development and leadership, after school programs and camps, mentoring, community initiatives, cross-cultural relationships and racial reconciliation, while also connecting resources and community mentors to help change the odds for at-risk youth in West Montgomery.

**“It was an amazing and fun-filled summer. Many of us joined the project with little to no construction experience, and yet, we learned so much in such a short amount of time. We bonded over conversations, spilled paint, and uncooperative nails and screws. All in all, we are truly excited about the impact that our commitment will have in our community for many years to come.”**

Daria C. Awusah, Chair, Common Ground Montgomery Placement







# COLLEGE AND CAREER NIGHT

*By Hollie Reed, College and Career Night Co-Chair*

On September 16, 2019 the 35th annual College and Career Night was held at the Montgomery Multiplex at Cramton Bowl. With increased college and student participation, the event is highly anticipated by the community. More than 3,000 attendees from 46 high schools and 10 counties attended the event. Over 115 colleges, including nearly all four-year Alabama colleges, and career recruiters participated in the event.

This year's event was held at a new location, the Montgomery Multiplex at Cramton Bowl, to accommodate the event's growing number of participants. Not only does the new event location provide more convenient parking, but also a large indoor space that can accommodate the thousands of participants. Attendees appreciated the new location and indicated they planned to participate next year.

During the event, attendees were able to enter into two scholarship drawings. The drawings were through Potential magazine and the Junior



League of Montgomery. The Junior League of Montgomery's \$500 scholarship winner was Kelci Osborne, a twelfth-grade student at Brewbaker Technology Magnet High School.

Expansion of this event is important as it exposes local students to various careers and schools around the country. The event allows students to learn about colleges and careers by meeting with recruiters from various places in one location. Many, if not all, of the student participants would be unable to meet the vast variety of colleges and employers without this event. This year's committee focused

on increasing the number of careers and technical schools represented at College and Career Night. Chairperson Ashley Penhale stated, "A four-year college experience isn't for everyone. There are a lot of great careers that don't require a traditional college degree. For that reason, we set out to increase the number of career oriented opportunities this year. We added several two year and technical schools as well as a number of potential employers. We were able to add almost 30 new exhibitors this year!"





Educating attendees on available scholarships is an important aspect of the event. Each attendee was provided a comprehensive scholarship financial booklet, "A Guide To Grants, Scholarships and Loans," published by the Junior League of Montgomery that detailed available scholarships from southeastern colleges. Additionally, Auburn University at Montgomery, the event's premier sponsor, presented scholarship and financial aid workshops during the event for the attendees.

A new exciting event feature was the addition of a cell phone application that allowed students, colleges, and employers to exchange contact information electronically without filling out individual contact cards. This feature allowed students to make connections with more colleges and employers in a shorter period of time.

Through the leadership of its chairperson Ashley Penhale, committee members achieved their goals and grew the event to its



largest school participation to date. Committee members contacted schools to encourage participation, distributed posters, updated the scholarship book, procured sponsorships and donations, and provided support during the event. With the committee's diligence and dedication, the event was a great success.





# Junior League of Montgomery

By Rebecca Holtsford, Co-Editor

On October 1, 2019, the Junior League of Montgomery had the pleasure of co-hosting a Mayoral Forum with the League of Women Voters featuring the candidates, Judge Steven Reed and David Woods prior to the mayoral election on October 8th. The Junior League of Montgomery chose to host this forum to promote voting, civic engagement and participation in the local government. Part of Junior League's mission is to improve communities through effective action and leadership.

The forum was held at the Multiplex at Cramton Bowl and was open to the public. The forum began at 6pm and lasted roughly one hour. Melissa Warnke served as moderator during the forum. Over the course of the hour, the candidates addressed many issues important to the Montgomery community including education, crime, and economic development.





# Hosts Mayoral Forum







# The Power of Women

On Friday, March 6, the Junior League of Montgomery celebrated “The Power of Women” in its 3rd annual Leadership Summit. The day included inspirational keynote speakers, encouraging panelists sharing their goals, purpose, and passion on their success journey, and motivational speakers to empower women to be catalysts of progress in their personal and professional lives and in the community. We’ll have a full report in the Summer issue of League Logs, but we wanted to give special recognition to our event sponsors for their support of the Women’s Leadership Summit.

## Our Key Note Speaker Lilly Ledbetter



**NEVER**

Born in a house with no running water or electricity in the small town of Possum Trot, Alabama. Hired as one of the first women of management level at the local Goodyear factory in 1979, while also managing the jobs of being a wife and mother of two small children.

**GIVE**

After finding out she made thousands less than her male counterparts, she pursued a case to close the gap between women's and men's wages for 10 years. Sparring with the Supreme court, lobbying against Capitol Hill in this historic discrimination case.

**UP**

Her fight did not go unnoticed, as she became the namesake for President Obama's first official piece of legislation as president: the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act.



## **Tarah Keech, Opening Keynote Speaker,**

is a consultant to Fortune 500 organizations and Founder of Burnout Survival, a program specializing in team workshops that help business owners and leaders prevent and protect against the very real and costly risks of burnout. Ms. Keech also led a breakout session titled Applying Thought Curation & Thriving After Burnout in Your Real Life.



## **Dr. Nichole Thompson,**

a featured panelist in the Summit's Fireside Chat Breakout session, has served in key roles within her community and abroad. She is the founder of She Wins Global, a nonprofit organization that works to advance women and girls in marginalized and vulnerable communities across the globe. Additionally, Dr. Thompson is the founder and co-owner of AdaChic Designs, a socially conscious handbag company that supports entrepreneurs in West Africa. In her role as CEO & consultant of Gaitway Solutions LLC, Dr. Thompson works with organizations seeking to advance their institution utilizing a fresh perspective. She a visionary leader, with a "do it scared," take the risk mentality.

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# JUNIOR LEAGUE COMMUNITY EVENTS



By Rebecca Holtsford, Co-Editor

**J**unior League of Montgomery's 4th annual Shop, Save, Serve charity shopping event is quickly approaching! For only \$30, shoppers can purchase a shopping pass and receive 20% off at over 100+ participating retailers around the River Region between March 26-April 5, 2020. That is nearly two weeks of savings at various restaurants, businesses, and retail shops in the area!

Shopping passes can be purchased online at [jlmontgomery.org](http://jlmontgomery.org) or at the following store locations: Barb's on Mulberry, The Name Dropper, The Shoppes at Eastchase Guest Services, My Kids Attic, Splurge, and Welle Studio.

All proceeds raised through this event go back into the community by aiding the local non-profit agencies annually supported by the Junior League of Montgomery through community grants.

"This fundraiser is so great in that it's different than the others—it covers a longer period of time and provides an amazing value for pass holders at a variety of merchants around the River Region. It generates revenue from pass sales and merchant sponsors to continue JLM's service in our community," said Jessica James, this year's chair of Shop, Save, Serve.

Jessica moved to Montgomery from Mobile in 2018. She brings years of experience to the committee, and the Junior League of Montgomery is honored to have her in this leadership role. Between the two cities, she has

served on the committee for six years and was also the chair of the Junior League of Mobile's BluePass in 2017.

The Shop, Save, Serve Committee has been working hard to make this year's fundraiser the best yet! "This year we added a \$50 merchant sponsorship opportunity and at least one more kickoff to start the 10-day event," said Jessica James.

Come help the Junior League of Montgomery kickoff this charity event on Thursday, March 26th from 5-7pm at Firebirds Wood Fired Grill in Eastchase, Friday, March 27th from 4-7pm at Pine Bar in Old Cloverdale, and on Saturday, March 28th from 11am-1pm at Splurge in Peppertree Plaza. There will be food, music, giveaways, and good times that you will not want to miss!



# PARTICIPATING MERCHANTS

- 1818 Farms
- Aesthetica Montgomery Medspa
- Alabama Shakespeare Festival
- Alabama Surgical Arts
- Al's Flowers
- APROPOS
- Barb's on Mulberry
- Baumhowers Victory Grille
- BELLA
- Buckelew's
- Buffalo Wild Wings
- Burn Boot Camp
- Capital City Club Montgomery
- Capitol City Comics
- Capitol's Rosemont Gardens
- Chicken Salad Chick
- Chris' Hot Dogs
- Club Pilates
- Craft Closet
- Crowned Boutique
- Cushion Source
- Dancewear, Etc.
- Dillard's
- Doug's 2 Salon-Spa, Inc.
- Dylan Rings
- Eight28 Boutique
- Embellish
- Emma Jane Designs
- Euphoria Seafood & BBQ
- ExVoto Vintage Jewelry
- Favorite Laundry Children's Clothing
- Folcarellis Pizza
- Frutta Bowls Montgomery
- Furlong's Engraving
- Golden Lily
- Gracie Roze
- Great American Cookies
- Greg's Breakfast Bar and Lunch
- Gypsy Girl Tween
- Hazel Lane Boutique
- Heather Pierce Designs
- Henig Furs
- Hole In the Wall Coffee Shop
- HoneyPop Poppin Gourmet Popcorn
- House of Greek
- IHeart Media
- Infusion Wellness Center
- ISHI?
- Jasmine Hill
- Jaye Durkin -  
Independent Consultant for Rodan & Fields
- Jos. A. Bank
- Kenya : CO LLC
- Kimistry Hair Lab
- Kwick Kopyshop
- La Zona Rosa
- le LUSH
- Life Spring Fitness at The Waters
- Lizzie's Cheese Straws
- Mathnasium of East Montgomery
- Marquirette's
- Martin's Restaurant
- Men's Warehouse
- Midtown Pizza Kitchen
- Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts -  
Museum Store
- Mrs. Drea's Styling Salon
- Nails Paradise
- Naturally Rad
- North Lake Crafted
- Osaka Sushi Bar
- Pike Road Signs & Graphics
- Plastic Surgery Associates of Montgomery
- Play House Spices
- Queen Allur • Sacred Soul Wellness LLC
- Quite the Pair
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- Sew Bernina
- Smoothie King
- Southern Homes & Gardens
- Spa Elia
- Splurge
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- Stonehenge Framing
- Susanne Elizabeth Jewelry
- Sweetcreek Farm Market
- Talbots
- Taste
- That's My Dog
- The Cheesecake Emporium LLC
- The Locker Room
- The Name Dropper/Storkland
- The Scott & Zelda Fitzgerald Museum
- The Vineyard -  
Inside the Church of the Ascension
- The Yellow Daffodil Boutique, LLC
- Tipico de Mexico
- Tomatinos Pizza & Cafe Louisa
- Total Image
- Tucker Pecan Company
- Vintage Cafe
- Vintage Press
- Webb of Treasures
- Welle Studio
- White House Black Market
- Wild Birds Unlimited
- Wine and Design of Montgomery
- Wishbone Cafe
- You and Me Boutique



# COMMUNITY Thank Yous



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Keith A. Thompson, MD  
Robert A. Avery, MD  
Nareh Bellam, MD  
Sushmita Nimmagadda, MD

September 16, 2019

Dear President Rogers and Junior League of Montgomery Membership,

I want to sincerely thank you for your kind donations of snacks for use by the patients at Montgomery Cancer Center. Donations like these provide an opportunity for a volunteer to interact and offer comfort and encouragement to a patient undergoing treatment and their caregivers. Thank you for your faithfulness.

It is donations like yours that help Montgomery Cancer Center and our volunteers to continue our mission of supporting cancer patients in Central Alabama. Your generosity is so important to a patient's treatment and time here at the Montgomery Cancer Center.

On behalf of our patients and staff, thank you again for remembering us and choosing to find joy in fulfilling the needs of others. We appreciate Junior League of Montgomery's commitment to and impact in our community. Best wishes for a wonderful league year.

Sincerely,

*Susan Reed*

Susan Reed  
Vice President of Oncology Services &  
Administrator of Montgomery Cancer Center

MAIN CAMPUS  
4145 Carmichael Road  
Montgomery, AL 36106  
phone 334 273 7000  
fax 334 260 2010

PATRITVILLE OFFICE  
645 McQueen Smith Road  
Suite 207  
Prattville, AL 36066  
phone 334 351 1000  
fax 334 358 1207



Dear Dr. Keage of Montgomery,  
Thank you for being awesome and taking us  
school shopping. I had so much fun with y'all.  
Everyone was so nice and helped and  
made me so happy.

7/29/19  
I would like to take time out  
today to say thank you so much for  
getting us what we need. I'm so  
grateful for everything. Love you guys.

Thank you all for taking the time out  
of your day to take us shopping for  
school clothes. I also thank you for  
helping me find my pant sizes and for  
helping me pick out what shirt was  
the best!

Thanks you for all the stuff you  
brought for us. I really do appreciate it.  
Thanks for taking you time out on  
us to have a good day. U

July 29, 2019

Thank you for helping us  
get our school uniforms yesterday  
and underclothes. We really enjoyed  
you guys help.

Thank you for using your time to take  
me school shopping. I know it wasn't for you  
I wouldn't have school clothes. You guys were  
really nice and wonderful to be around. Thank  
you Junior League!





# Baskets of Love

*By Blake Ioimo, Editor*

Each December, the Junior League of Montgomery partners with the Christmas Clearinghouse, a program of HandsOn River Region, for Baskets of Love. Members come together to assemble laundry baskets filled with gifts for the mind, body, soul, home and family. Each basket includes items such as books, candles, lotion, shampoo, toothbrushes, tea, cider, blankets, laundry detergent, dish soap, baking activities and games. The assembled baskets are taken to HandsOn River Region and matched with a family in need. The baskets provide each family with items that help the parents care for their children and free up much needed resources in the family budget.

HandsOn Christmas Clearinghouse is the River Region's largest Christmas charitable giving program. They partner with over 40 social service and faith-based organizations to ensure the area's most needy families are screened for eligibility, checked for duplication and registered for assistance. Then the fun part begins - families in need are matched with families and groups that want to help. It's that simple. Cultural and economic lines are crossed to spread JOY, HOPE, and PEACE for donors and recipients alike.

Approximately 10,000 individuals in the River Region - including more than 8,000 children - are registered annually with the Christmas Clearinghouse. The Christmas Clearinghouse keeps families from being overlooked and makes sure that all donated resources are used wisely.





# Sustainer Holiday Wine & Cheese Event

*By Penni McClammy, a host of the Sustainer event*

Oh, the weather outside was frightful, but that wasn't enough to keep Sustainers away from the Holiday Wine and Cheese event that was held on Thursday Dec. 12 at the beautiful home of Past President Kelli Wise.

In the midst of beautiful holiday decorations, Sustainers had the opportunity to mix, mingle, enjoy the company of each other and dine on delightfully delicious hors d'oeuvres, catered by Passion for Parties (Ann Peagler Ross). We are so thankful to Kelli for her willingness to open her home to us for this annual event! Chairs for the evening were Penni McClammy and Laura Saucer.

The Sustainer Wine and Cheese event was the culmination of the efforts of a Village. Many thanks to Heather Baker, Mitzi Cole, Judy Kyser, Kathy Mahaney, Millie Rocheleau, Jennifer Rogers, Laura Saucer and Elizabeth Mahaney Walden (and any one I may have missed!) for all of their individual efforts that came together to create this fantastic event.





# NEW MEMBER OPEN HOUSE

April 8, 2020 at 12:00 PM

or

April 16th, 2020 at 6:00 PM

3570 Carter Hill Road  
Montgomery, Alabama 36111

**H**ave you thought about joining the Junior League of Montgomery? Want to learn a little more about being a member?

Attend one of our upcoming New Member Open House to learn about the Junior League of Montgomery and how to join.

The Junior League of Montgomery is composed of over 700 women volunteers. Our membership includes executives, community leaders, entrepreneurs, mothers, and a host of professional women from diverse backgrounds. Join us in fulfilling our mission of promoting volunteerism, developing the potential of women, and creating community impact through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers.



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# Holiday Market Preview Party

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas! We kicked off Montgomery's favorite shopping week with Prancer's Preview Party and Silent Auction on October 9. Guests enjoyed an open bar, delicious food, and entertainment from local Montgomery band, The Kept. Shopping was in full force as our party goers got a sneak peek of our fabulous merchants and bid on unique treasures at the auction. Furniture, jewelry, vacation packages, spa services, gourmet food and wine, fine furs, and original artwork were some of the items featured. This year, we held a wine raffle. For just ten dollars, shoppers received a mystery bag of wine ranging in \$20-\$80 in value. One lucky participant won a beautiful rare bottle of champagne!





The focal point of the night was a stunning 22 ft. tall tree decorated by Mr. Jerry Thrash of Rosemont Gardens. The multiplex sparkled in gold and silver with accents of festive red and green. Christmas trees, wrapped gifts, and the aroma of live evergreens transported guests to a winter wonderland.

Girls' Night Out was Friday, October 11th from 6pm-9pm with all-day shopping starting at 9am. Shopping bags embellished with the Holiday Market logo were given to the first 300 shoppers. Guests danced to upbeat music provided by DJ Dr. Sam, enjoyed a cash bar, and shopped till they dropped with special promotions and deals from the merchants. We continued the wine raffle and gave away door prizes, gift cards, and gift baskets from local businesses. We had a blast!

Holiday Market is the Junior League of Montgomery's largest fundraiser. With over 7,000 attendees this year, we were able to spread our message of leadership, community engagement, and benevolence to Montgomery and the surrounding River Region.

Kate Bartlett,  
Preview Party and  
Girls' Night Out Chair





# JLM Serves 2020



The Junior League of Montgomery partners with local nonprofits to provide volunteers for projects that can be completed in one day. Our goal is to offer hands-on volunteer opportunities to our members while providing nonprofit agencies with trained, enthusiastic volunteers

## This year, JLM Serves will be held on April 18, 2020

### IDEAL PROJECTS:

- Just need “hands for a day”
- Are 4-6 hours long
- Require a minimum of 10 volunteers

Submit an online application for volunteers for your Done In A Day project on our website

[https://members.jlmmontgomery.org/?nd=vms\\_public\\_form&form\\_id=98](https://members.jlmmontgomery.org/?nd=vms_public_form&form_id=98)

We will review all requests and arrange volunteer commitments with nonprofit organizations where we feel we can best be of service. Projects impacting women and children in the River Region will be given preference, but others are not excluded.





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# SPRING VACATION

*By Tasha Cooper, Staff Writer*

This spring, break the monotony of your usual vacation spot and create new, lasting memories a few hours from home.

The slight chill of winter may be in the air as you recover from the food and festivities of the holiday season, yet the bright colors of spring and warmer temperatures will be here before you know it.

While you are recovering from pumpkin everything and hiding the elf until next December, now is the time to start planning your spring vacation. Break free from vacation destinations filled with rowdy college students and take a drive over to the peach state.

## FAMILY FRIENDLY

Jekyll Island was once a winter vacation getaway for the wealthy; now you can bring your significant other, your girlfriends, or the entire family and find something that suits your fancy without breaking the bank.

If you've ever envisioned yourself riding horseback on a beach, Golden Isles Carriage and Trails at Three Oaks Farm will fulfill your vacation dreams. Horseback rides are an hour and a half long and the minimum age is three years to ride. Golden Isles Carriage and Trails also offers guided tours of Jekyll Island's historic district. Be the belle of the ball in a horse-drawn

Cinderella Carriage or opt for a regular horse-drawn carriage to chauffeur you around the island.

If you have reptile fans in your vacation crew, take a trip over to the Georgia Sea Turtle Center, where you can take a tour through the sea turtle education and rehabilitation facility.

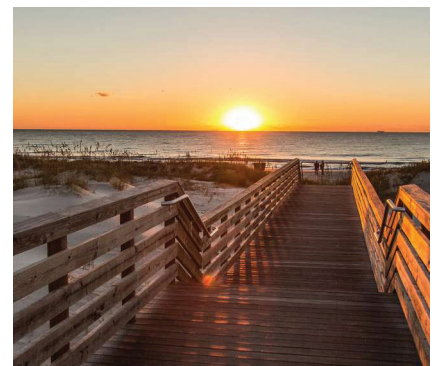
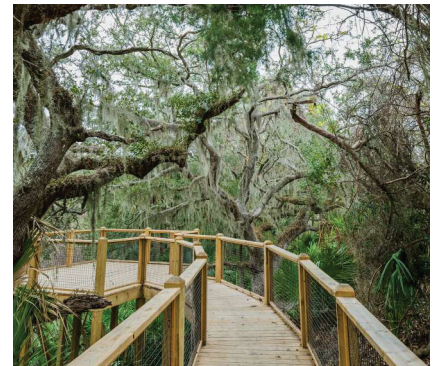
Let's not forget that Jekyll Island is an island, so if you need to feel sand between your toes and bask in the sun, you can do so at Driftwood or Great Dunes Beach.

Outdoor lovers can enjoy beachside camping at the 18-acre, pet-friendly, Jekyll Island Campground. The campground has a pickleball court, basketball court, bird sanctuary, and bike rentals.

## RELAX IN LUXURY

A short three-hour ride to Braselton will take you away to a foodie paradise at Chateau Elan. Chateau Elan was established in 1981 and produces Chardonnay, Merlot, Cabernet and Riesling grapes on an expansive 3,500-acre estate which boasts championship golf, world-class dining, tennis, and a European health spa.

You can enjoy the estate's varietals in the wine tasting room or hone your



culinary skills with a weekly cooking class. You can always relax and leave the cooking to the chefs at one of six on-site restaurants.

Guests can stay at the Inn at Chateau Elan or find comfort at the Hampton Inn and Suites located on the estate.



# SPRING BREAK TRAVEL TIPS

By Blake Ioimo, Editor

## START PLANNING EARLY

The most popular travel locations always book to capacity early, so it is never too early to start planning your trip. The earlier you book the more likely you are to get your first choice location and start planning your trip. Always consider the all-inclusive resorts for Spring Break travel to give yourself a break as well. Most all-inclusive resorts have things to do for all ages and take most of the worry out of having to plan daily activities. Consider planning the trip with your family to give them more of a say in the details of the trip. Whatever you decide, make sure to stay on your daily routine as much as possible to make the transition back to “reality” easier for you and your family upon return.

## TRAVEL PREPARATIONS

Being prepared is essential to ensuring you have a seamless travel experience. Be sure to take pictures of you and your family each day. That way if you are separated from each other, you will know what each other is wearing. Being prepared also includes any adapters, charging cables, alarm clocks, cell phones and all travel documentation needed. A travel insurance policy is also another way to be prepared in the event you must cancel your trip.

## PACKING 101

Be sure to pack enough clothes for each day. Packing extra storage bags will keep your clean clothes separate from the clothes that were worn. Pack the essentials first and if you question needing something, it is best to leave it at home. Always be sure to pack swimwear even if you are going to a location other than the beach or lake. Most hotels have pools, so packing swimwear will give pool time as an optional activity. Make sure you pack all necessary travel documents and your itinerary. Packing an extra empty bag will give you extra space if needed for souvenirs, dirty clothes and shoes.

## FLEXIBILITY IS ESSENTIAL

Being flexible will not only remove stress from your trip but will also allow you to make changes to your itinerary if needed. Having activities for each day planned is important, but the ability to be flexible with your plans is essential. Leave some room to add and remove activities if needed. You want to ensure that you and your family are entertained, but you never know when plans may need to change. Accounting for those changes in advance will keep everyone calm.



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# Empower Yourself!

**Set your goals high and take charge of your career with these upcoming professional development opportunities in the River Region**

*By Alexis Lunn, Staff Writer*

**W**hether you're an entry-level employee learning the ropes of a new job or a seasoned professional with years of experience, attending professional development classes should be a top priority as you move along in your career. As technology progresses and more productive ways to approach your work are developed, it is vitally important that you dedicate time to sharpen your skill set and stay up to date on changes in your industry.

Making the effort to attend a few classes each year will help you grow professionally -- giving you the knowledge to become a more efficient employee. As you progress through each class, you'll gain the confidence and credibility you'll need to make meaningful contributions to your team and become a leader in your field. Along the way, you'll have the chance to network with like minded professionals who can inspire you to achieve the impossible.

## FOR EDUCATORS

The 2020 Council for Leaders in Alabama Schools Annual Summer Convention will be held at the Renaissance Montgomery Hotel & Spa June 14-17. Get inspired by educational leaders from across the state of Alabama and return to work with fresh ideas to increase your school's performance.

[www.clasleaders.org/professional-development/clas-annual-convention](http://www.clasleaders.org/professional-development/clas-annual-convention)

## FOR BUSINESS PROFESSIONALS

The Chamber of Commerce of Alabama will hold its annual Professional Development Conference on April 15-16 at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel. Register at the link below to see a list of breakout sessions that will help you tackle the day-to-day challenges at work.

[alabamachambers.org/  
event/2020-professional-development-conference/](http://alabamachambers.org/event/2020-professional-development-conference/)

## FOR INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PROFESSIONALS

The Montgomery IT Summit, hosted by the Montgomery chapter of the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association, takes place May 18-20. Meet with industry leaders and learn about new developments in this field.

[www.afceamontgomery.org/MITS](http://www.afceamontgomery.org/MITS)

## FOR OTHER PROFESSIONALS

Gather with high achievers to grow your career or business at this year's Thrive Summit. It will be held at Wynlakes Golf and Country Club, July 31-August 1.

[www.facebook.com/events/2303516126565404/](https://www.facebook.com/events/2303516126565404/)

Thinking of starting a business? The Montgomery Chamber of Commerce holds Business 101 classes every 3rd Tuesday of each month.

[www.montgomerychamber.com/learn](http://www.montgomerychamber.com/learn)



# Spring Cleaning

by Leslie Stone, Staff Writer

## 1. Make a Schedule

Map out each room: What areas need the most work? Where do you skip during routine cleaning?

## 2. Declutter

Organize your closets

Dust and organize your office

Look through that dreaded junk drawer

You may be surprised how fresh you feel after you eliminate unnecessary stress from your life.

## 3. Always Work from Top to Bottom

When you think about how to spring clean your home, it's important to start with your ceilings and fans first.

Then dust your furniture and other items before vacuuming.

## 4. Use a HEPA Vacuum

IA high-quality HEPA vacuum catches particles you can't even see.

## 5. Walls and Windows

Not all dust settles on the floor and other surfaces. Just use a damp towel to wipe down walls and blinds.

Remove and wipe down the window screens outside.

A steam cleaner with a squeegee is a great way to clean windows.

## 6. Tackling the Kitchen and Bathroom

### Kitchens

Wipe down your cabinets.

Go through your pantry and refrigerator. Wipe down the shelves, and throw away any old items.

If you have stainless steel appliances, be sure to use gentle cleaners or a steam cleaner to avoid scratching or other issues.

### Bathrooms

Change your shower curtain.

Go through your cosmetics drawer or medicine cabinet and throw away any expired items.

## 7. Don't Forget About Your Air Filters

Replacing furnace and HVAC filters is one of the most important and overlooked parts of spring cleaning. Air conditioner ducts build up dust during winter, and upgraded filters catch unwanted particles so they don't enter your space. It's an inexpensive way to make sure you're breathing clean, healthy air.



## Let Spring Cleaning Set a New Tone

If your space feels dark and heavy, you can make small changes to help make it light and fresh for spring. Adding new colorful pillows or art are great ways to change up your space. Replacing items like bedding, towels, table linens, and even window treatments are other ways to transform your rooms for spring and warm weather ahead.

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# Easter Egg Hunts 2020

## Montgomery County Sheriff's Office Annual Easter Egg Hunt

Montgomery County youth between the ages of 1-11

Saturday, April 11 • 10:00 AM

Auburn Montgomery (near gymnasium)  
7300 University Drive  
Montgomery, Alabama 36117

For more information, please call Lisa Crenshaw  
or Christie Vasquez at 334.832.1339.

## Easter Eggstravaganza City of Montgomery

Saturday, April 4

Riverfront Park  
355 Commerce Street  
Montgomery, Alabama 36104

More information: [www.funinmontgomery.com](http://www.funinmontgomery.com)



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