

coastalcolumns

A PUBLICATION BY THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF SAVANNAH



fall 2015



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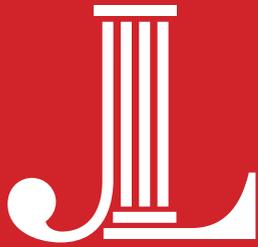


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info

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our mission

The Junior League of Savannah is an organization of women committed to promoting volunteerism, developing the potential of women and improving communities through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. *Its purpose is exclusively educational and charitable.*

90

ANNIVERSARY

1926 | 2016

JUNIOR LEAGUE OF SAVANNAH

Junior League of Savannah Celebrates 90 Years!

This year marks a very special year for the Junior League of Savannah. January 7, 2016 marks our 90th year of serving the Savannah community and we are celebrating all year long! From the September GMM to the Annual Meeting in May, we will be sharing 90 years of service with our members and the community through training opportunities, newsletters, events and more. In fact, go ahead and mark your calendars for Saturday, January 9, 2016! This day will serve as our largest celebratory event for the year and we want to celebrate with YOU!

Questions about the 90th celebration? Want to be involved?

Email our JLS 90th Chair, Jackie Schott, at Jaclyn@shopmysavannah.com!



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message from Shannon Buck

Editor

Welcome to the 2015-2016 League year! I am so excited to serve as your Newsletter Editor this year, especially since this is my first year as an active member. My family is relatively new to Savannah and the JLS has been a fantastic way for me to get involved in our community and to connect with like-minded women.

One major takeaway from my wonderful provisional experience is to put yourself out there when it comes to your activity within the League! Like your college advisor probably told you during orientation, you will take from your experience what you put into it. Why not try new things within your membership to develop your personal potential? Don't be afraid to step outside of your comfort zone and learn a new skill, dive into a new field, or get involved with a new project. With that in mind, I strongly encourage all of you – even provisionals! – to fill out your Skills Checklist within your online member profile, and to complete your Willingness to Serve forms. While you may not be interested in a leadership role yourself, you may see a strength or potential in another member that she may not recognize in herself.

Please review this edition's Upcoming Events to learn more about how to stay involved this Fall, and keep an eye on your weekly eBlasts. As we move toward a more modern approach to in-League communication, your eBlasts will become the touchstone for upcoming events, news and volunteer opportunities.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Newsletter Editor this year, and here's to an exciting 90th year!

Shannon Buck

mark your calendars

Upcoming Junior League Events

- Membership Meeting..... September 14, 2015 • 6pm (social), 6:30pm (meeting)
Memorial University Medical Center: Medical Educational Auditorium
- Membership Meeting: Masquerade September 25, 2015 • 6pm • Hilton De Soto
- Thrift Sale Preview Shopping October 2, 2015 • 5:30-7:30pm • Civic Center
- Thrift Sale October 3, 2015 • Civic Center
- General Membership Meeting November 2, 2015
10am: Ronald McDonald House Charities Board Room
6pm: Candler Hospital Marsh Auditorium
- Membership Meeting Holiday..... TBD
- General Membership Meeting January 4, 2016 • 6pm • Candler Hospital Marsh Auditorium
- Mid-Year Leadership Training/90th Celebration.... January 9, 2016 • TBD



message from Amy Riesinger

Outgoing President

The past year as President of Junior League of Savannah was one of the best times of my life, and I hope you've enjoyed it, too!

As I prepared for my term as President, I knew it would be one of the hardest, and, most rewarding volunteer roles I would ever accept. As I reflect back over all of our hard work during the 2014-2015 League year, I hope that you were ENGAGED, ENGOURAGED and ENERGIZED. Because of your dedication, commitment and support we were able to make strides in all areas of our beloved organization. I'd like to highlight a few of these wonderful accomplishments:

Junior League Savannah continued to broaden and refine our communication outlets to reach more members in more ways. To keep our communication timely, we implemented event-specific postcards and invitations. We also added an Instagram account, to reach an even wider social media audience and to complement our existing Facebook and Twitter accounts. Lastly, we redesigned our weekly e-blast, giving it a cleaner, more modern look.

We continued our strong community partnerships and outreach through projects such as: Ronald McDonald House Charities of the Coastal Empire Adopt a Meal and Family Room; Backpack Buddies with America's Second Harvest of Coastal Georgia and Garden City Elementary School; and FitKidsFest; and were active members of the Georgia State Public Affairs Committee.

Further, with the support of the Association of Junior Leagues International, we began the rollout of Community Impact Transformation, which will:

- Broaden JLS' capabilities to add advocacy, public education/awareness, and capacity to our direct service/hands on volunteer efforts
- Have a multi-tactic approach, making it more likely to realize sustainable results of our efforts and
- Offer our members a much richer "menu" of volunteer experiences that supports our community and civic leadership development

Throughout the year, we offered opportunities for members to network with one another, and build greater camaraderie. A few of the fun get-to-know-you activities included five minutes of fun at General Membership Meetings, speed networking and girls' night out events.

Our winter leadership training consisted of a panel of League Sustainers and Community Advisory Board members fielding questions and offering advice to Active League members. Many thanks to Swann Seiler, Patti Lyons, Helen Stone, Brynn Grant and Diana Morrison for their participation and support of the League. Members also learned business etiquette from JLS Past President and business etiquette consultant Lydia Ramsey.

We successfully transitioned our annual Thrift Sale to a one-day sale, while offering exciting new components, including women's clothing section, Silver Light Specials, and Masquerade Preview Party. Feedback from our members and guests was positive, and we gleaned ideas and advice to continue growing the events and revenue in the future. I'm excited to see how these changes continue to benefit the League and our community.

Last but not least, we saw the release of our much anticipated cookbook "On the Squares - Savannah Style." This cookbook not only offers over 120 triple-tested recipes, it also showcases the City of Savannah's rich history depicted through gorgeous photography with descriptions of each of her 24 squares. This third book will serve as a companion piece to our two legacy cookbooks, "On the Squares - Savannah Style" features delicious modern Southern cuisine accented with cooking tips, beverage and condiment accompaniments, as well as some of our own League history.

These are only a few of the accomplishments of our time together, and I hope you know that each of you, whether Active, Sustainer, Provisional, Community Partner, Community Advisory Board Member, family member or League supporter, contributes to the success and impact of the Junior League of Savannah is able to have in our community, and beyond.

I would like to offer a special thank you to the 2014-2015 Board of Directors for their encouragement, support and hard work during the year. Their leadership, vision and teamwork kept me inspired and motivated.

Thank you all for an amazing year!

Amy Riesinger



message from Jennifer Claiborne

Incoming President 2015-2016

I am so very honored to receive the gavel as President of the Junior League of Savannah. I want to thank Amy Riesinger for being an amazing teacher and leader. I want to thank the Board for their dedication and hard work over the past year. I also want to thank every member for all the hard work you do to make the League successful. I am honored to have served next to you amazing ladies.

I am excited that my husband, Will, and four children could be here tonight. I want to thank my mother-in-law for being here as well. She has always encouraged me to dream big and to be an advocate for those in need. Thank you to Jordan for being here and for being such a loving caretaker of my children. I wouldn't be here without their love and support.

I hope, through my example, my children understand the need in giving back. I bring my children to League events like Thrift Sale so they understand what Mommy is doing. They see that this event raises money to give back to the community but also gives people the opportunity to purchase necessities they wouldn't otherwise be able to own. I show them the Back Pack Buddy supplies at Headquarters that are for children who don't have food on the weekends. I take them to FitKidsFest so they see a fun event about combating childhood obesity but also giving at-risk children a fun day out. I want them to see what we do so they know I am not just going to another meeting. Although, I have seen them have pretend Junior League meetings in our home. It is usually Sterling in charge.

My first Junior League experience was attending the general membership meeting on purchasing Digital Cheetah. I was a guest of Jessica McClellan who was very insistent that I look at joining the League. When I left that Junior League meeting, I immediately called Will and said "I have found my kind of people!" These women were passionate about volunteering and this organization. And, it was OK to disagree. This is a place to have a voice and a place to make a difference. Through my years in the League, I have learned that every person, regardless of their situation or circumstance, has something to offer to humanity. Everyone has the capacity for caring. Everyone has the capacity to work together to alleviate human suffering and contribute to human dignity. And, you never know when you will be on the receiving end of the compassion and help from the League in a difficult time because in the end, we members are all women of this community.

I can say I have grown as a person by being a part of this organization. This is a place where it is encouraged to try something new and it is OK to not be perfect. A few years later during one of my lunches with Jessica, she asked me about what League placement I was thinking about for the following year. She encouraged me to go outside my comfort zone and try something new. She wanted me to look at Legislative Affairs. I thought she was crazy! I didn't know a thing about that! But, I did it and it was one of my favorite placements. I met state officials, local officials, and worked with 10 other Georgia Leagues to support legislative issues and get bills passed. It was empowering to speak for the 10,000 ladies in the Georgia Leagues. It is amazing to see our members work together for the betterment of our community.

I want you to know you have made a difference in our community. I want our community to know someone cares about them and doesn't mind rolling up their sleeves to help. I want you to be inspired and to be inspiring.

Thank you!

Jennifer Claiborne



2014-2015 MEMBERS of the year

Community Volunteer of the Year Award

Presented to a member who has done an exceptional job in a community placement to benefit our community partners.

This year's Community Volunteer of the Year has not only gone above and beyond in her placement, she jumped right on in when asked to chair a second committee! She has given 100% to the league since joining us in 2010 and has served as a Done in a Day volunteer, Legislative Affairs volunteer, and, most recently, Legislative Affairs Chair. Throughout the year has also continued to push forward in helping our Community Impact Rollout team progress and graciously accepted a position on the 2015-2016 Board of Directors as our Community Vice President.

Please join us in congratulating this year's Community Volunteer of the Year winner, Melissa Jackson!

The Lucy Barrow McIntire Provisional of the Year Award

Presented to a new member who has contributed time and effort above the normal requirements for the benefit of the league.

This year's Provisional of the Year has really taken leadership to a whole new level, especially for being a provisional. She always stayed on top of her obligations and tried to ensure other provisionals were meeting their requirements and assisting wherever she could. She immediately jumped at the chance to not only research and submit an idea for this year's provisional project, but didn't hesitate to step up and chair the project as well. She demonstrated excellent leadership skills throughout the project and lead the group in a collaborative and engaging way.

Please join us in congratulating this year's Provisional of the Year, Valerie Martinez.

In-League Member of the Year Award

Presented to a member who has done an exceptional job in an In-League placement to benefit the operation of our organization.

This year's In League Volunteer of the Year is no stranger to leadership within the Junior League of Savannah. She has served the League in various capacities, from Community to Communications to Finance Council and doing it all with a smile and one of the best attitudes! Most recently, this year's winner has worked tirelessly for two years to put together what turned out to be an incredible new cookbook for our league, all while pregnant with her first baby girl! Her peers stated she went above and beyond to not only be the leader of the project, but the photographer, editor, taste tester and event planner extraordinaire. She even brought her husband and new baby to Headquarters to assemble new shelving for the cookbook room so there's space for the beautiful new books!

Please join us in congratulating this year's In League Member of the League, Katie Joyner!

Sustainer of the Year Award

Presented to a Sustainer for outstanding service to the League.

This year's Sustainer of the Year award goes to not one, but two very special individuals. As sustainers, you've earned the right to sit back and relax - but that's not what these two ladies had in mind! These sustainers spent their year planning and organizing a variety of new and exciting events for our sustainers and came up with fun ways to engage our sustainer membership. Both of these women served in leadership roles during their time as active members, and then – as now, were energetic and brought a wonderful vitality to everything they did in the League. We look forward to their continued involvement as engaged sustainers.

Please join us in congratulating this year's Sustainer of the Year winners, Amy Massey and Tanya Glaize.

A huge “Thank you” to all of our Members of the Year!



(Kids Who Care Scholarship Recipients with 2014-2015 Community Outreach Chair Leslie Dunn)

kids who care *scholarship* RECIPIENTS

Of the 25 outstanding students who applied, five candidates clearly stood out as exemplary members of their communities. The Junior League of Savannah congratulates **Jonisha Williams, Sophie Usher, Nikki Hanebrink, Tyler Beauchamp & Michael Keene** on their achievements this year and wish them the very best as they begin college this fall.

jonisha williams

Scholarship Amount: \$1,125

A senior at Johnson High School, Jonisha has completed over 140 community service hours with various organizations in the Savannah area. She has worked with Memorial Health in the Pediatrics Unit, the Blackshear Basketball Association, Youth for a Cleaner Environment, Delta Academy and Upward Bound. Jonisha is described as prompt, reliable, trustworthy, dedicated, and performs with a spirit of willingness and always has a positive demeanor. Jonisha was also selected as a 2015 American Red Cross Youth Hero. In addition to maintaining her studies at JHS, Jonisha is also enrolled at Savannah Technical College, where she is taking nine college credit hours. Jonisha will attend Middle Georgia College, where she plans to major in nursing.

sophie usher

Scholarship Amount: \$1,125

Sophie is a senior at Effingham County High School. Sophie has completed over 100 hours of community service with various organizations, including Effingham County 4-H, the Lauren Hill Lutheran Youth Group, Effingham County High School National Honor Society and Student Council, and the Effingham County High School FFA. Sophie will attend the University of Georgia and would like to continue to veterinary school where she would like to focus on Avian Biology.

nikki hanebrink

Scholarship Amount: \$1,000

Nikki is a senior at Johnson High school. Nikki has completed over 150 hours of community service with organizations including Performance Initiatives, The Fellowship of Christian Athletes, United Way, and Savannah Christian Church. Nikki was nominated by her counselor, Ms. McGuire, at Johnson High School, who stated that Nikki doesn't complete community service just to log hours, but that she has a true desire to serve others. Nikki is currently ranked 2nd in her class of 155. Nikki will attend Georgia Southern University and plans to major in sports psychology or athletic training.

tyler beauchamp

Scholarship Amount: \$1,000

Tyler is a senior at Savannah Country Day School. Tyler has completed over 100 hours of community service with various organizations, including SCDS Tutoring Program and Student Volunteer Council, the Senior Mentoring Program at SCDS and also Faith in Practice. During his time with Faith in Practice, Tyler traveled to Guatemala to bring medical supplies and toys to children's hospitals and orphanages. His fondest memory is playing soccer with the children at the orphanages and realizing that while he has played soccer for a majority of his life, the children at the orphanage were better than him and had never played organized sports before. Tyler will attend the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

michael keene

Scholarship Amount: \$1,000

Michael is a senior at Savannah Country Day School. Michael has completed over 100 hours of community service with various organizations, such as Memorial Health in the Volunteer Program, the Teen Board of the Children's Hospital at Memorial Health, the Community Health Mission, Back Pack Buddies and Habitat for Humanity. He regards his time at Memorial as most rewarding, reflecting that playing with the children was his greatest joy because you don't often hear laughter at the hospital and just hearing that laughter for an hour was enough for him. Michael will attend the University of Georgia, Honors College.

2014-2015 contributions

Thank you for donating to our Annual and Endowment Fund

Annual Fund

Elaine Barrow
Elizabeth Bittson
Lynn Brennan
*In Honour of Amy Riesinger &
the Board of Directors*
Linda Bridgers
Suzanne Cansler
Katherine Chisolm
Jackie Christie
Denise Cooper
Judith Craig
Pamela Davis
Ruth Edwards
Jennifer Fanning
Ashley Faubion

Tanya Glaize
Lauren Graves
Lesley Green
Rhoda Haight
Sylvia Hanberry
In Memory of Cecelia Seiler
Andrea Helfrich Hammond
Julia Holliday
Mary Gail Kaess
Rebecca Keightley
Leslie Kreuzer
Brooke Lozier
Amy Massey
Pamela McCaslin

Jennifer McKenzie
Kathryn Moore
Malinda Mortin
Suzanne Moseley
Lucia Mueller
In Memory of Cheryl Echols
Lisa Muller
Jami Newland
Tracy O'Connell
Beverly Olliff
Jessica Oxnard
Melissa Peters
Penny Rafferty
Tammy Ray

Beth Respass
Ann Robinson
Coren Ross
In Honour of Coren Kittredge
Jaclyn Schott
Devon Smyth
Elizabeth Stout
Rebecca Strawn
Nova Summers
Willa Theiss
Donna Watson
Melissa Wedincamp
Patty Wetmore
Linda Zoller

Endowment Fund

Jane Abbott
Elaine Barrow
Suzanne Cansler
Rita Chabot
Katherine Chisholm
Denise Cooper
Suzy Cooper
Kerry Coursey
Electa Culver
Carol Cutler
Pamela Davis
Jane Espy
Jennifer Fanning
Cyndi Faudree
Catherine Gilpin
Tanya Glaize
Lauren Graves
Lesley Green
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Emily Harris
Nancy Hays
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Barbara Whitman

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A FACE YOU KNOW
A NAME YOU TRUST



If a new home is on
your horizon,
let my *experience*
and *exceptional service*
keep you headed in the
right direction.

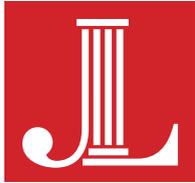


PENNY RAFFERTY

If you or anyone you know is considering a move,
please call me at 661.201.6551.

penny.rafferty@yahoo.com

2015-2016 Community PROJECTS



The Junior League of Savannah annually focuses its support on a variety of community projects, committing financial support and hundreds of volunteer hours in an effort to fulfill our mission of improving the community through effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. The League has approved the 2015-2016 Community Projects as listed below.



Backpack Buddies

Second Harvest
Community Food Bank

America's Second Harvest Food Bank: Back Pack Buddies

This is a program designed to provide low-income children and their siblings with nutritional one-step meals that they may otherwise not have on weekends away from school. This program has grown tremendously as the need becomes greater. JLS volunteers will purchase and pack 84 nutritional bags from Second Harvest Food Bank for distribution at Garden City Elementary School. This program creates immediate access to food and attempts to improve the overall health of our children so they may focus more on academic achievement. This is our fourth year with this placement.

Ronald McDonald House Charities of the Coastal Empire: Adopt-A-Meal and Family Room

Junior League funding will be used to purchase ingredients for the Adopt-A-Meal program to cook meals at Ronald McDonald House and to purchase supplies (snacks, laundry detergent, etc.) for the Family Room. JLS members will create menus, shop and cook for families staying at the RMH while their child receives treatment in the Children's Hospital at Memorial University Medical Center. The committee members will also be responsible for hours at the Family Room so families may use the room. Over 1,200 people per year are positively affected from these services. This is our third year for this placement.



RONALD McDONALD
HOUSE CHARITIES
OF THE COASTAL EMPIRE



FitKidsFest

This project was sparked by the increasing prevalence of childhood obesity. This is a one-day event held to encourage healthy lifestyles for children in our community. The committee works with the Savannah Sand Gnats and other local agencies to encourage healthy eating and exercise. Last year we welcomed over 500 attendees who learned how to live a more active, healthy lifestyle. This is our fourth year with this placement.

The League also supports projects through Done in a Day, Golden Isles, and South Carolina Low Country. Funds are also provided through Community Assistance Funds, Community Emergency Funds, and Kids Who Care Scholarships.



Junior League Board Member *Spotlights*



Jennifer Claiborne, President (claiborne_jennifer@yahoo.com)

Jennifer joined the League in 2007. She is a clinical pharmacist at Memorial University Medical Center, and is married to Will Claiborne, an attorney. Jennifer and Will met on the dance floor in Athens, and she later followed him to Savannah where she completed her clinical rotations. The two have four children: Thomas, Sterling, Buller and Helen.

Jennifer has served in many placements over her years in the JLS, including Done in a Day, Community Vice President and Provisional Advisor. All of these experiences have shaped her goals for the 2015-2016 League year. Jennifer notes that "With our 90th Anniversary this year, we will have the opportunity to show how we are inspirations to the women and children in the community through our actions as trained volunteers. This is also a great time to look towards the next 90 years and grow our endowment. By continuing to go through our Community Impact Transformation, we will focus our community efforts and be able to further our volunteer impact." Jennifer's also committed to supporting and encouraging League members in their own placements, and wants to remind everyone what a fun and exciting experience League membership is! Fun fact: Jennifer failed her driver's test the first time because she couldn't parallel park.



Lisa Muller, President-elect (lisaklmuller@gmail.com)

Lisa has been a member of the Junior League since 2002, and has lived in Savannah since completing graduate school. Lisa now teaches at Georgia Southern University after practicing law for several years. Lisa is married to John D.R. Muller, Jr., and the two have one son, Jadon. Lisa and John are also foster parents, giving Jadon the opportunity to be a "big brother" to foster brothers and sisters over the years.

Lisa has served in many placements within the JLS, including Finance Council, Thrift Sale and Auctions Solicitations Chair, and is very excited to serve on the Board of Directors during the JLS' 90th year. "As we celebrate the past and plan for our future, I hope to support our members and our President as we make important decisions that will impact our League's support of the communities we serve," said Lisa. She also works to encourage and remind League members that when we work together we can truly make a difference in the lives of others. Fun facts: Lisa has a 17-year-old rescued Maine Coon cat named "Bibi" and a 12 year-old Shih Tzu dog named "Butch."



Kathy Ledvina, Finance VP (KLinSAV@aol.com)

Kathy is a historic preservation consultant with a focus on rehabilitation construction and historic property management. She earned her master's degree from the Savannah College of Art and Design and has been a member of the JLS since 2004.

Kathy's past placements include Treasurer, Public Affairs Chair and Strategic Planning Chair. Her goals for this League year are to create, develop, and maintain funding in order to fulfill the JLS' mission of community impact and membership development, and to shape and sustain the Junior League of Savannah's financial future. Kathy also wants to "create new friendships, communicate more effectively, improve my leadership skills, be more empathetic and to try new things" this League year. Fun facts: Kathy enjoys sketching architectural features and jumps down from her stairs every morning.



Melissa Jackson, Community Council VP (*meorja2003@gmail.com*)

Melissa has been a member of the Junior League of Savannah since 2010. Melissa came to Savannah for a job promotion, and currently works at the University of Phoenix as the Campus Director of the Savannah location. Melissa and her husband, James Jackson IV, have two daughters, Alaina and Isabella.

In the past Melissa has served the League with placements in Done in a Day and Public Affairs. This League year Melissa hopes to engage members by showing all the different ways we impact our community. "I also want to determine the most pertinent issues affecting women and children in the Savannah area and develop a strategy for League involvement," said Melissa. Fun facts: Melissa is a HUGE Prince fan who has seen the artist in concert three times and can't wait to see him again. Once she also had over 20 snakes slithering over her body at one time. She still has chills thinking about it!



Drew Hunt, Membership VP (*dbunt@savannahchamber.com*)

Drew has been a member of the Junior League since 2011. Though not native to Savannah, Drew moved to the city after falling in love with its hospitable, coastal lifestyle. Drew works as the Community Relations Director for the Savannah Area Chamber of Commerce, and is married to CPA J.D. Hunt.

Drew's past placements include Thrift Sale, Governmental Affairs and Training and Education. Her goals for this League year include strengthening the level of communication between the Membership Council and our membership. "I would also like to encourage participation among all members in the 90th anniversary celebration of the League. The history of our organization and the women who founded it is so fascinating and something that can easily get lost over time. I would like the Membership role to help remind our members of all that has been accomplished over the last 90 years and how much we can contribute to our community in the next 90," said Drew. Fun facts: Drew enjoys the arts, volunteering, boating, tennis and golf.



Rebecca "Becca" Pierson, Communications VP (*beccapierson@gmail.com*)

Becca has been a JLS member since 2013, and served as the IT Chair in her first year as an active member. Becca moved to Savannah upon falling for the city after a few brief visits and has been here since she graduated from college.

Becca is the Director of the United Way Hands On Savannah, and though she's not married she does have a "studly" boyfriend. During this League year, Becca really wants to focus on opening the lines of communication between each member and each Council. Fun facts: When she's not busy working at a non-profit, volunteering or serving on several non-profit boards, Becca likes to go running, spend weekends at the beach and watch Kansas State University Football in the fall!



Denise Cooper, Strategic Planning Chair (*attydmcooper@gmail.com*)

Denise has been a member of the League since 2010 and is a native Savannah. Her past placements include Annual Fund, Back Pack Buddies and CAF Chair. Denise is an attorney at Cooper Law, and enjoys traveling and collecting books by African American authors in her free time.

This League year Denise plans to develop and implement the League's Strategic Plan and to revise the Policies and Procedures manual. "I also want to encourage the Board and League Members to implement the League's Strategic Plan and use it as a 'living,' 'breathing' document for future goals of the League," said Denise. Fun facts: Denise is an avid stamp collector.



Penny Rafferty, Sustainer Board Advisor (*penny.rafferty@yaboo.com*)

Penny has been a member of the Junior League since 1994, and has served as President, Treasurer, Finance Council Director and chaired various fundraisers, among other placements. Penny is a Broker-Associate with Synergy Homes and is married to Jim Rafferty, Sales Manager at Old Town Trolley. Penny and Jim have two children, Katie and Ryan.

This year Penny hopes to help the Board grow by focusing on the difference between understanding governance and maintenance, and look forward to enjoying another year in the League. Fun fact: Penny was the general contractor for the home she built in California.



Jan Johnson, Nominating Chair (*jlobojo@gmail.com*)

Jan has been a member of the Junior League since 1984, and has served in various placements including Sustainer Activities Chair, Annual Fund Committee and Strategic Planning Chair. Jan is an artist and a volunteer, and is married to Tom Waters, a retired professor. Jan has two children, Abby and Matthew, and enjoys volunteering, the arts and swimming.

This League year Jan plans on streamlining the processes and policies used within Nominating, and on selecting the best possible members for Leadership next year. Fun facts: Jan has a 54 year-old brother with Downs Syndrome who has won over 20 Special Olympic medals!

JENNIFER HEYD WHARTON

OIL & WATERCOLOR PORTRAITS

Whether painting a studio portrait or a plein air landscape, Wharton uses light, values, color & texture to make her subjects come alive.

PROUD MEMBER OF JUNIOR LEAGUE OF SAVANNAH

410.490.4024



JenniferHeydWhartonFineArt.com



Kristen Murphy, Parliamentarian (kristenbmurphy@yahoo.com)

Kristen has been a member of the Junior League since 2005, when she joined the Junior League of Northern Virginia. She's been a member of the JLS since 2009, when she moved to Savannah to start a new life with her husband. Kristen is married to John Murphy, who is a Corporal with the Savannah Chatham Metro Police Department. Kristen is a Financial Planner with SunTrust Private Wealth.

During her time in the JLS, Kristen has served on Done In a Day, Oatland Island, and as the Provisional Chair, among other placements. This League year she will focus on ensuring we honour our bylaws, update them as needed and educate our members about the laws and bylaws. On a personal note, Kristen will work to "do good for others, be kind and encouraging." Fun facts: Kristen has lived in five different states, and has played soccer year-round for most of her life!



Maria Davis, Treasurer (davis.maria.m@gmail.com)

Maria has been a member of the Junior League since 2013, and was born and raised in Savannah. Maria traveled to New York City for college, graduate school and the beginning of her career, but moved back to Savannah after nine years. Maria is the CFO of Wood Products International, Inc.

Maria has served as a Done in a Day committee member, and this year she wants to focus on identifying areas where the League can improve internal control policies. Maria also hopes to learn from other Board and Council members to develop her potential within the League. Maria notes, "As a newer member of the League, I want to fully immerse myself in the League this year." Fun fact: While living in New York, Maria missed the huge thunderstorms of the South. "I love thunderstorms," she said. "Especially the ones that make your windows shake!"

The Nominating Committee
would like you to...

HOP ON BOARD the Leadership Train

The Nominating Committee is excited about our new League year. We are seeking to identify ladies who are interested in leadership, developing their talents, and to make recommendations for others who would benefit from slated positions for our League. The Nominating Committee looks for members who are actively involved in our League and encourages them to continue their leadership and training. Any member or provisional may nominate themselves or another member for a leadership position. You may nominate more than one person for each office. Also, you may nominate one person for more than one office.

Our "Willingness to Serve" form will be available online and at our September 14 GMM. Our goal is to have 100% participation from our members to complete this form. The Nominating Committee will meet in November to begin discussion and recommendations for the slate that will be presented to members at the January meeting.

The Nominating Committee will be slating the following leadership positions:

- President-Elect
- Community Vice-President
- Membership Vice-President
- Communications Vice-President
- Auction Solicitations Chair-Elect
- Cookbook Chair-Elect
- Community Outreach Chair
- Public Affairs Chair
- Membership Engagement Chair
- Newsletter Editor
- Nominating Committee and Chair
- Provisional Committee and Chair-Elect
- Public Relations Chair
- Strategic Planning Chair-Elect
- Thrift Sale Chair-Elect
- Treasurer



Erica Herndon,
Agent

3228 Skidaway Road
Savannah, GA 31404-4961

912-354-6464

erica.herndon.tfpn@statefarm.com

Monday-Friday 9:00am-5:00pm
Saturday: By Appointments

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Please feel free to contact anyone on the Nominating Committee for questions about a particular position and the job descriptions and qualifications are available on the League website at www.jrleaguesav.org. If you have any questions about the nominating process, please contact Jan Johnson at jlohojo@gmail.com.

The 2015-2016 Nominating Committee:

- Chair, Jan Johnson
- Past President Advisor, Amy Riesinger
- Nominating Communications Council,
Suzanne Mosley
- Nominating Community Council, Theresa Adcock
- Nominating Finance Council, Ginny Tuten
- Nominating Membership Council, Jodi Hagan



2014-2015 Provisional Class Retreat

PROVISIONALS



2014-2015 provisionals Mary Catherine Finnerty and Valerie Martinez with Savannah Wine Cellar's Mike Jaeger.

Provisionals - Class of 2014-2015

The 2014-2015 Provisional Class had a wonderful year learning about the Junior League of Savannah. We kicked off the year with a Provisional Retreat, where we learned about JLS, had some fun getting to know each other, and took a trolley tour of many of the places around Savannah that the Junior League has volunteered with over the years. It was a great way to begin the year and get connected to the League and each other!

Throughout the year, we had monthly meetings to learn about each Council and the ongoing activities of the League. The Provisional Class also participated in their first Thrift Sale, sold Cookbooks at various events throughout the year and packed boxes of food for low-income seniors at America's Second Harvest. Their biggest achievement, however, has been their incredible Provisional Project with Memorial University Outpatient Clinic's Reach Out and Read program. They have collected hundreds of children's books for donation, volunteered at the clinic reading and interacting with children in the waiting room, and raised over \$600 through a fundraiser with Five Guys and the Savannah Wine Cellar to purchase new children's books and arts and craft supplies for donation to the clinic. The League is incredibly fortunate to have this fantastic group of 44 women as our newest Active members! - *Kristen Murphy, 2014-2015 Provisional Chair*

Provisionals - Class of 2015-2016

...And so it begins: forty-three new Junior League stories!

We all have one, a Junior League story, and soon, 43 phenomenal new women will have one to tell as well. Our stories often have a common theme; we joined the League looking to make new friends and to make a difference in the community. Somewhere along the way, we realized the difference the League had made in us.

On August 22, the provisional committee and executive board members gathered at Villa Marie Center on Isle of Hope for the Provisional Retreat to welcome and inspire new members. Website photos were taken, cookbooks handed out, Junior League history and tradition conveyed. New friendships were cultivated, but most importantly, civic-minded new leaders were inspired to become more passionate catalysts for lasting community change. This is just the beginning for these ladies! Among the group, 28 are single, 15 married and seven have children. Age ranges from 21-51 with an average of 28. The majority of our provisional class is not native to the Savannah area and are honing their talents in various professions including management, journalism, education, business and medicine, among others. It's a good thing these ladies are smart; we are not starting small nor are we taking it easy on them! Our next chapter: all things Thrift Sale! - *Carrie Jane Williamson, 2015-2016 Provisional Chair*



THRIFT SALE

Junior League of Savannah

Junior League of Savannah celebrates 90 years and encourages the members and community to “Find your diamond in the rough, and your gems among the stuff” at the JLS Thrift Sale. The sale this year allows us to celebrate 90 years of the League’s impact in Savannah, and also to continue to provide not only thrifty items but funding for incredible community projects. Every treasure that is purchased at the sale results in another gem being returned to the community. So, start cleaning out the garage, go through those closets, collect things from your neighbors and friends and let’s bring in some great donations.

- Alisha Goldbach, Thrift Sale Chair

The 68th Annual Junior League of Savannah Thrift Sale is Only Two Months Away!

Here are some things to look forward to:

Junior League of Savannah’s 2nd Annual Masquerade and Auction

Friday, September 25th

Purchase your Masquerade tickets at <https://www.bidr.co/events/jlsmasquerade>

We’ll kick things off with cocktails at 6:00pm, with dinner and the silent auction to follow from 7:00pm-9:00pm.

Junior League of Savannah’s Thrift Sale Preview Shopping

Friday, October 2nd

Tickets are \$20.00 per person | Doors open at 5:30pm – shopping until 7:30pm

This year the League is excited to present Preview Shopping and the Preview Party as separate events. Remember all shoppers will pay DOUBLE the price marked. Keep in mind the goal is to raise money for the Community. The Civic Center will be pre-selling the tickets to the Thrift Sale Preview Shopping. Tickets will also be available at the door for purchase. There are a limited number of tickets for sale so make sure you buy early! Come and get the first look at all the “Diamonds in the Rough.”

1-Day Sale!

Break out your GREEN marker! Please see the updated pricing guide for specific procedures.

Quota is \$300 before adding tax. Each member is required to donate a minimum of \$300.00. Quota for Provisionals is \$200

Early Bird Storage - want to off-load your quota now? The cost is \$35. Contact Alisha Goldbach at Alisha.suarez@yahoo.com for more information

Auction Items Count Too! Think about friends and family members with businesses who might donate to our auction or even a vacation home your family may be willing to donate time for us to auction off. All auction donations and gift certificates are subject to the approval of the Auction Solicitations Committee, but generally count for 50% toward your quota. Approval of items must occur before it can be counted towards quota.

The JL Boutique items are those that are higher quality and/or new with attached price tags and could sell for more money than if placed on the Thrift Sale Floor. Take items, with your name on them, directly to the JL Boutique to be priced. This approved price can be counted towards quota

We cannot accept certain items, particularly box TVs, VCRs, curtain rods, adult clothing (except as mentioned in the pricing guide), adult bathing suits, adult shoes, stuffed animals, knives, underwear, blinds, non-working appliances, mattresses, magazines, computers, or anything too large to hold on the floor of the Civic Center.

Member Shifts

Scheduling opens up on Wednesday, September 2 at 8 am and will close on Friday, September 18 at 11:59 pm. Shift positions will be filled on a first come, first-served basis, and all active and provisional members must go online to www.jr.leaguesav.org to sign up for Thrift Sale shifts. You will receive an email confirmation of your schedule.

lead ship

2015
2016

BOARD

President..... Jennifer Claiborne
President-Elect Lisa Muller
Finance VP Kathy Ledvina
Treasurer Maria Davis
Community VP Melissa Jackson
Membership VP Drew Hunt
Communications VP Rebecca Pierson
Strategic Planning Chair Denise Cooper
Sustainer Board Advisor Penny Rafferty
Parliamentarian..... Kristen Murphy
Nominating Chair Jan Johnson

NOMINATING

Past President Advisor..... Amy Riesinger

FINANCE COUNCIL

Auction Chair..... Jennifer Grafton
Auction Chair-Elect..... Jennifer Wise
Thrift Sale Chair Alisha Suarez
Thrift Sale Chair-Elect Abby Johnson
Cookbook Chair Jessica Thomas
Cookbook Chair-elect..... Jessica Oxnard
Cookbook Marketing Chair Hannah Villa
Annual & Endowment Chair... Rebecca Strawn
Nominating Member Ginni Tuten

COMMUNICATIONS COUNCIL

Newsletter Editor Shannon Buck
Public Relations Chair..... Amanda Love
Information Technology Chair Audra Taylor
Nominating Member..... Suzanne Moseley

MEMBERSHIP COUNCIL

Provisional Chair..... Carrie Jane Williamson
Provisional Chair-Elect..... Brooke Lozier
Provisional Member..... Ashley Faubion
Provisional Member..... Leslie Dunn
Provisional Member..... Arielle Davis
Provisional Member..... Kristen Peterson
Provisional Member..... Jennifer McKenzie
Provisional Member..... Melissa Peters
Membership Engagement Chair Margaret Walton
LES Chair Jennifer Fanning &
Skye Cossio
Sustainer Activities Chair Amy Massey &
Carey Fredrich
Training & Education Chair..... Angie Keel
Nominating Member..... Jodi Hagan

COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Legislative Affairs Chair Brittnay Alls
Community Outreach Chair.... Yuntalay Gadson
Ronald McDonald House Alison Mahoney
Back Pack Buddies Brittany Riddick
Fit Kids Fest..... Katie Kellogg
Done In A Day Chair..... Elizabeth Bittson
Golden Isles Chair Kathryn Downs &
Stephanie Jacobs
SCLC Chair Taylor Robinson
Nominating Member Theresa Adcock

STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

Strategic Planning Chair Elect Beth Longley

LEADERSHIP *update*

Communications Council: Becca Pierson

The Communications Council has been working diligently this summer to send out this Fall Newsletter/Annual Report. Shannon Buck, JLS Newsletter Editor, has been working extremely hard to make sure the newsletter is perfect! You will also be receiving multiple postcards throughout the year with up to date information of upcoming League events. As of last year we have expanded our social media presence by adding an Instagram account. If you haven't started following JLS on Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram, you should find us online! Amanda Love, PR Chair, is also looking to send out additional press releases on important League information; please let her know if you have anything to share. Also, if you haven't checked out the JLS website lately, you're in for a treat! The member side of the website has been revamped and there are still the same great features, with a few added bonuses. Audra Taylor, IT Chair has been great at keeping the website up to date.

Community Council: Melissa Jackson

Hello Junior League of Savannah! Welcome to the 2015-2016 league year. The Community Council has been hard at work this summer confirming contracts with our community partners and securing new projects for several of our committees. We are pleased to be able to work with Ronald McDonald House and Back Pack Buddies again this year. We look forward to sharing our experience in the community with you in upcoming membership meetings and keeping you abreast of all the exciting activities we have planned. Additionally, you will have an opportunity to hear from the issue-based community impact committee and learn more about the issues that are impacting Savannah and the surrounding communities. Community Council is off to a great start and we look forward to a productive, impactful year!

Membership Council: Drew Hunt

What a great year we have in store with so much to celebrate. We have 43 women that have joined us for the 2015-2016 Provisional Class! Please be sure to introduce yourself and help welcome them all to the Junior League of Savannah. The membership council has some exciting events planned for the year, great membership meetings and valuable training opportunities that are open to all members. We look forward to commemorating 90 years of our great legacy with such an outstanding group of women!

Finance Council: Kathy Ledvina

The creative and dedicated ladies who serve on the Junior League of Savannah's Finance Council have been planning incredible events for the 2015-2016 year. Their passion shines as highlighted in a few upcoming events, particularly the Masquerade and Silent Auction celebration on September 25th; Cookbook and Cookbook marketing to promote JLS' latest *"On the Squares – Savannah Style"* Cookbook along with our legacy cookbooks; and our 68th Annual Thrift Sale on October 3rd!

Thank you to all of our JLS members and supporters – your membership, volunteerism, donations, and event participation helps feed Garden City elementary school children, supports families staying at the Ronald McDonald House, provides Kids Who Care Scholarships, trains JLS volunteers, and supplies materials for over 20 community non-profit projects a year. Watch the funds we raise create lasting and tangible change in all communities the Junior League of Savannah touches.

2014-2015 FINANCIAL *report*

The Junior League of Savannah Board of Directors and Finance Council are tasked with managing the finances of the League and to support our mission of promoting volunteerism, developing the potential of women, and improving our communities.

Your annual JLS membership dues cover about 88% of our operational budget including Headquarters expenses professional fees, as well as AJLI membership dues. Your Membership Dues allow JLS fundraising proceeds to directly support the Junior League of Savannah's mission.

The Junior League of Savannah's annual fundraising efforts include the annual Thrift Sale; sales of the legacy and newly published "On The Squares- Savannah Style" cookbooks; corporate, meeting and event sponsorships; publication ads; and individual gifts and pledges through the JLS Annual & Endowment Funds.

The Junior League of Savannah members and the money they raised generated significant achievements: provided weekend food for over 84 elementary school children and their siblings for an entire academic year; prepared monthly meals for families in need; hosted JLS Fit Kids Fest; trained volunteers; completed over 17 Done-in-a Day and member projects improving Savannah, Hilton Head/Bluffton and the Golden Isles communities; rewarded five Kids Who Care Scholarships; funded emerging nonprofits programs; and advocated for women and children.

The Junior League of Savannah greatly appreciates the continued support of all of our valued members, donors, and sponsors. Our success could not have happened without you!

Junior League of Savannah

TRAINING & EDUCATION

As members of The Junior League of Savannah, we are inextricably linked to those around us and care deeply about the community.

The training we provide our members is what sets us apart from other volunteer organizations. We ensure that women will be ready and able to affect positive change in the community and workplace for years to come. The Junior League of Savannah is an organization of women committed to promoting volunteerism through our competence, eloquence and passion for improving communities through the action and leadership of trained volunteers.

Our training is timely, relevant, and engaging in order to enhance the professional and personal development of our members. In addition to the routine training received for each member in the various placements, we hope our members will also take advantage of additional training opportunities.

Two leadership training sessions are held each year. These trainings are open all members interested in developing their skills. These trainings will broaden the knowledge of the League and gain a deeper understanding of leadership.

In addition, small training overviews will be offered throughout the year at general membership meetings or a feature in the weekly eBlast. Watch the weekly eBlast for more information on Training and Education topics.

We look forward to an exciting year as we continue to deepen our understanding of The Junior League of Savannah and celebrate our 90th Anniversary!



**JUNIOR LEAGUE OF
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Masquerade
SILENT & LIVE AUCTION
a JUNIOR LEAGUE OF SAVANNAH event

September 25, 2015
6 O'Clock in the Evening
Hilton Savannah DeSoto
15 East Liberty Street

\$75 Per Person or \$125 Per Couple
Purchase Tickets at jrleaguesav.org

Live Music | Cash Bar | Heavy Hors D'Oeuvres
Black Tie Optional | Open to the Public

Sponsorship Opportunities Available
Email headquarters@jrleaguesav.org

Follow us on Social Media for Auction Sneak Peeks
#JLSavannah #JLSMasquerade