



# coastal columns

A PUBLICATION BY THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF SAVANNAH



spring 2016



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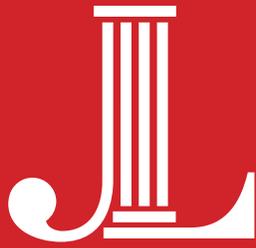
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# spring2016

## CONTENTS

Letter from the Editor: Shannon Buck	2
Letter from the President: Jennifer Claiborne	3
Letter from the President-Elect: Lisa Muller	4
Training & Leadership	5
Focusing on Our Endowment Fund	5
Provisionals: Class of 2015-2016	6
Celebrating 90 Years	7
History of the Junior League of Savannah	8
Sustainer's Corner	12
CAB Member Profiles	13
Masquerade Silent & Live Auction	16
Junior League of Savannah Thrift Sale	17
Finance Update	18
Fit Kids Fest	19

### 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.*



message from Shannon Buck

## Editor

**While I initially felt the urge to create wrap up letter here, the truth is that the summer break is a short one, and that the new League year will be here before we know it.**

By now you've all probably thought about what you're interested in focusing on next year and completed your placement surveys. As we close the book on this League year, I urge you to reflect on this year's experiences and to consider what you still want to accomplish within the JLS. What have you learned this year, and how can you apply it to enhancing your experience next year? What have you gained this year that will feed your 2016-2017 placement? We all have the opportunity to continue to develop our potential as women and community volunteers, and this is something I'll be ruminating on over the summer.

If you know someone who's interested in joining the Junior League of Savannah, encourage her to attend one of the informational meetings in May or June. These sessions provide prospective members with information on how the League contributes to our community and the different women who make up the JLS; vital information to any woman looking to develop her potential as a community volunteer.

Continue to check into [jrleaguesav.org](http://jrleaguesav.org) over the summer to stay up to date on League happenings and to gear up for next year. I look forward to an exciting 2016-17 and thank all of you for your contributions this year!

*Shannon Buck*



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message from Jennifer Claiborne

## President 2015-2016

**A**s we celebrate a milestone anniversary, we celebrate what we have accomplished as women working together. The Junior League woman is one of compassion, strength, and determination.

We have strengthened our community through our determination to embrace diverse perspectives, build partnerships and inspire shared solutions. We are a part of history; 90 years to be exact. And we have lived up to our vision of global women as catalysts for lasting community change.

The compassion we show to those in our community and to each other is what makes us strong. The League is a place where we work together for the betterment of our community, but it is also a place to learn and develop new skills. It is a place to take chances and try something new. No one says you have to be perfect. With the start of the new League year, I encourage you to step outside of your comfort zone. Take a placement in an unknown area or speak to someone new at a general membership meeting.

For 90 years, women have been able to grow into community leaders within this organization and then utilize those accomplishments to empower others. I have seen the wonderful compassion, strength and determination of women in this great organization. I am forever grateful to each of you.

*"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much." Helen Keller*

*Jennifer Claiborne*



message from Lisa Muller

## President-Elect 2016-2017

One day recently when my son was out of school, but I needed to be on campus at Georgia Southern University to meet with some of my students, he had a "go with mommy to work day." He has really learned to like these as I get to take him to fun places in Statesboro. This particular day we went to the Center for Wildlife Education on campus. We both learned about birds of prey and how amazing these creatures really are!

He was fascinated by some of these birds with incredible vision that can actually see for up to 5 miles. One type of hawk, however, impressed me with the way they hunt in groups in the hot sun of the desert. These birds are nicknamed "the wolves of the sky" because of their unique hunting pattern. When the first bird lands on a cactus, we were told, the next in the group will land on its back. The next bird in the group will do the same thing until the last bird is standing on top of the others in the "pack." This process allows the bird on the top to see in the bright sunny desert even farther to help all in the group find food faster. What a strategic, organized method: it reminded me of us!

Ok, so the JLS may not be hunting for food for our livelihood, but we are working strategically, in very organized groups, as a team seeking to achieve our mission. Ironically, part of our mission has lead us to feed children who need our help to succeed themselves.

So how did we get here, this working together to effect such change as a group? We are building on the work of all those leaders and members of the team who came before us - all the women over the last 90 years who have made JLS the strong visionary group that helps those in need in our community. It is by learning from their example, serving with the talents we possess, that we will lead the League into the next 90 years.

How will we help others see when they stand on our shoulders and peer into the unknown darkness of the future? We must light the way for them. So in the next year, I am honored, as I serve as President, to continue working with each of you as we "Learn, Serve, Light the Way..."

*Lisa Muller*

# Training & Leadership

Drew Hunt & Angie Keel

Throughout this year as JLS celebrates our 90th Anniversary of serving the community, each decade in our history is being highlighted and discussed to educate our members at general membership meetings.

In addition, as part of the Strategic Roadmap launched by AJLI, JLS is excited to move forward into our next 90 years by taking part in the Governance / Management Rollout. We will transition to a league operating within this new structure. The purpose is to strengthen the ability of our league to be a powerful force empowering the leadership of women for community impact. The new model separates governance from management by creating a governing board and a separate management team. Thus, this transition creates positions of leadership and affords members additional placements for leadership development. Therefore, training will continue and be enhanced as JLS will be better able to offer members the chance to develop skills enabling our league to maintain its proper place as an organization for community change and impact all while developing the potential of our league ladies!

focusing on our

## endowment FUND

Rebecca Strawn

A contribution to the League's Endowment Fund provides continued financial support to sustain the organization and its mission of volunteer community service for generations to come. Savannah and Coastal Empire residents and businesses as well as League members may now conveniently contribute to the Junior League of Savannah organization at any time during the year.

✂ Complete and return with payment to Junior League Headquarters: P.O. Box 23545, Savannah, Georgia 31403 OR make online contribution at [www.jrleaguesav.org](http://www.jrleaguesav.org)

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# PROVISIONALS

*Class of 2015-2016*

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## Carrie Jane Williamson

The 2015-2016 *Provisionals* have proven to be JLS Rockstars! They are well on their way to becoming the League's next group of motivated, determined leaders who will continue the work of so many before them in committing time to make our community a better place. The provisional project, *Solely Socks: Give Savannah's Women and Children the Gift of Happy Feet*, exceeded its original goal of collecting 2,000 socks to distribute to four designated organizations in Savannah in keeping with the JLS mission of serving women and children. Many thanks to the project's mastermind, provisional Vanessa Asterman, for submitting the project and working through the hierarchy and politics to bring the provisional class together for their very first group adventure and seeing the project come to fruition.

These ladies have gone above and beyond, not only meeting their requirements, but exceeding them by attending additional GMMs, provisional trainings and picking up extra *Thrift Sale* and *Fit Kids Fest* volunteer shifts. They have fundraised, donated, volunteered and socialized, but more importantly, they have found in the League the two things that attracted most of us: lasting friendships and the opportunity to make a difference with like-minded women.

It has been my pleasure to work with the 2015-2016 provisional advisors to train and nurture these ladies as our successors. I look forward to seeing what they have in store for the future of JLS. I hope that they are as proud of themselves as we are of them and are excited to be recognized as full active members at the April 2016 GMM. The League is lucky to have them!



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## CELEBRATING 90 Years

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**Jackie Schott, 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Chair; Melissa Jackson, Community Impact Chair; & Lisa Muller, President-Elect**

**N**inety years ago, on January 7, 1926, the Junior League of Savannah was admitted to membership in the Association of Junior League's International. Since that day, the Junior League of Savannah has helped countless organizations by donating approximately \$3 million in funds, providing millions of volunteer hours, and growing to include Hilton Head, Bluffton, Beaufort, and the Golden Isles.

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**Melissa Jackson:** Celebrating the Junior League of Savannah's 90th anniversary is extremely exciting. As we look back at our history we can see how the league has grown, evolved, and continuously been an important community partner and leader.

The League is continuing to change as we consider a new focus area for the league. For many years our focus has been women and children and we have supported organizations, events, projects, and advocated on behalf of women and children. Over the course of the 2015-2016 League year, members were presented with issues that directly impact the community and had an opportunity to voice their opinion regarding the issues that most resonated with them. Based on member feedback, it has been proposed that the League change our focus to education with an emphasis on K-12 student performance for the next four years starting in the 2016-2017 league year.

While we have accomplished many things in our 90 years, the 2016-2017 League year holds even more new and exciting projects and opportunities to serve our community. As our league continues to grow and change, we hope you'll continue to share in this journey with us. Thank you.

We wouldn't be here without the work and dedication of those that came before us. Below, we hope you'll enjoy a brief history of our league, accomplishments, and various projects.

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**Lisa Muller:** Serving on the 90th Celebration Committee was an enlightening experience. Learning about our league to help educate our members and the community about what we have accomplished was inspiring! Change can be overwhelming at times, but in looking at our league's history, it is obvious we are willing to adapt to continue to move forward in furthering our mission.

It isn't easy to achieve so much as a team! We are not afraid to ask the tough questions to develop the strategic plan for our league that will help us to identify those groups where partnerships and programs should continue or be created for beneficial relationships and furtherance of the mission. We also are willing to examine the way we accomplish these goals. Developing our fundraising tactics, growing our membership, reviewing our internal structure and improving our operating procedures all empowers us to continue with our strong story of achievement as we move now into the next ninety years of Junior League of Savannah success.

We are so proud of the accomplishments and work that has been done throughout these 90 years. We hope to continue to grow our league and serve our community.

# HISTORY OF THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF SAVANNAH

**In 1925** two circles of The King's Daughters, The Margaret Bottome Circle and The Elizabeth Butler Circle, amalgamated volunteer forces to become a Junior Service League. On January 7, 1926, this organization was admitted to membership in the Association of Junior Leagues of America, and thus the Junior League of Savannah began.

**Early Years** in the League saw community volunteer activities covering a wide variety of efforts with many organizations:

- ◆ Health Care Clinics at the Telfair Hospital
- ◆ Publishing a Guide Book
- ◆ The Children's Theatre
- ◆ The Community Chest
- ◆ All-Star Concert Series
- ◆ Telfair Academy
- ◆ The American Red Cross
- ◆ Bethesda Boys Home

The League's first fund-raiser was the Junior League edition of the Savannah Morning News. Members also raised money by holding teas, balls, a horse show and a golf tournament. The League held its first Follies in 1934.

**The 40's** gave the League the opportunity to rise to the challenge of a nation in war, and League members worked in a many different projects:

- ◆ Civilian Defense
- ◆ USO Travelers' Aid
- ◆ Civil Air Patrol
- ◆ Child Placement services
- ◆ Volunteers were placed at hospitals, Telfair Art Gallery, and the Red Cross Blood Bank

The Thrift Sale began during this time. The first Thrift Sale had a net profit of \$1,610  
Approximate Thrift Sale total for the decade - \$5,455

**The 50's** saw League attention focusing on cultural and human welfare concerns:

- ◆ Children's Services and the Foster Home Program
- ◆ Project SABRE (Savannah Area Better Recreational Enterprise)
- ◆ The Owens-Thomas House
- ◆ The Savannah Symphony
- ◆ The Historic Savannah Foundation
- ◆ Tuberculosis Sanitarium
- ◆ The Pre-School Vision Testing Program
- ◆ Savannah Speech and Hearing Program

The first League Headquarters was begun at the Owens-Thomas House.

Two Follies and two Thrift Sales were held to fund community projects.

◇ Approximate Thrift Sale total for the decade - \$50,049

◇ Approximate Follies decade total - \$37,381

**The 60's** continued funding and staffing a variety of projects:

- ◆ The Historic Savannah Foundation
- ◆ Savannah Speech and Hearing Center
- ◆ Telfair Academy
- ◆ Youth Museum
- ◆ Board of Education
- ◆ The book, *Historic Savannah*, was published and dedicated to the Junior League of Savannah

Thrift Sale and Follies continued as major fund-raising events;

◇ Approximate Thrift Sale total for the decade - \$83,224.76

◇ Approximate Follies decade total - \$53,582.60

**In the 70's** commitments to the community included even more projects and funding:

- ◆ Association for Children with Specific Learning Disabilities
- ◆ Chatham County Environmental Council
- ◆ Drug Educational Program
- ◆ Child Abuse and Neglect
- ◆ Savannah Science Museum
- ◆ Chatham-Savannah Voluntary Action Center
- ◆ Savannah Tour of Homes
- ◆ Georgia Day
- ◆ Night In Olde Savannah
- ◆ The Historic Savannah Foundation
- ◆ Georgia Conservancy
- ◆ Georgia Public Radio
- ◆ Child Advocacy

*Savannah Style* Cookbook was developed and tested during the last years of the '70's. Headquarters was moved to the Scarbrough House

◇ Approximate Thrift Sale total for the decade - \$125,529

◇ Approximate Follies decade total - \$109,686

**In the 80's** the League collaborated on projects with a number of organizations:

- ◆ SAFE (Savannah Area Family Emergency) Shelter
- ◆ Georgia Public Radio
- ◆ Commission on Children & Youth in Chatham County
- ◆ Georgia Conservancy
- ◆ Pregnancy Outreach Project
- ◆ Lincoln House Project
- ◆ Girl Scouting In the Inner City
- ◆ Project Read
- ◆ Youth Leadership Savannah Program
- ◆ Mothers Against Drunk Driving
- ◆ Pediatric Adopt-A-Unit
- ◆ Victim Witness Assistance Program
- ◆ Ronald McDonald House
- ◆ Kids Who Care Scholarship Program
- ◆ Grace House
- ◆ HMS Bounty Project
- ◆ Salvation Army

A new League Headquarters was established at the Girl Scout Carriage House.

◇ Approximate Thrift Sale total for the decade - \$250,170.75

◇ Approximate Follies decade total - \$285,000.00

**In the 90's** the League continued the tradition of community support and service.

- ◆ Grace House - Magdalene Project
- ◆ Kids Who Care Scholarships
- ◆ Discover Science
- ◆ Grow Green
- ◆ Light Up the Lucas
- ◆ CCAC (Coastal Children's Advocacy Center)
- ◆ Olympic Flag Arrival Festivities
- ◆ STAR (Sight Testing and Referral)
- ◆ Greenbriar Children's Center Done In A Day

The first Community Focus Area was parenting, "Parent Power." Total funding for Parenting Community Program Projects exceeded \$131,200.

- ◆ Fast Friends Project
- ◆ Generations Project
- ◆ Hands On Project
- ◆ Community Awareness Project
- ◆ Done In A Day Children's Literary Festival
- ◆ Done In-A Day Child & Infant CPR

The second Community Focus Area was the elderly "Juniors To Seniors." Total funding for "Juniors To Seniors" Community Program Projects exceeded \$600,000.

- ◆ Adopt-A-Senior
- ◆ Hands On Homes
- ◆ Hilton Head Projects
- ◆ League Theater Players
- ◆ Magic Me
- ◆ Meals On Wheels
- ◆ Second Harvest Food Bank
- ◆ Seniors In Force
- ◆ Senior Leaders
- ◆ Senior Connections
- ◆ Club 55 of Senior Citizens, Inc.

League Headquarters was relocated to the Village Square office on Victory Drive in 1995.

*Downtown Savannah Style* was introduced as new cookbook and source of revenue.

◇ Approximate Thrift Sale total for this decade - \$666,881

◇ Follies total - \$310,000

**2000 – 2010** Education became the Community Focus Area in 2002 with “In League with Success” working with various community partners:

- ◆ Coastal Children’s Advocacy Center
- ◆ Chatham County Health Department – Reach Out and Read
- ◆ Chatham County Board of Education – Oatland Island
- ◆ Frank Callen Boys and Girls Club
- ◆ Georgia Historical Society
- ◆ Habitat for Humanity
- ◆ Local Outreach Volunteer Educators (L.O.V.E.) Mentors
- ◆ Massie Heritage Center
- ◆ Savannah Speech and Hearing
- ◆ Savannah Technical College
- ◆ Senior Citizens, Inc.
- ◆ Union Mission

League Headquarters moved to the Senior Citizens, Inc. building on Bull Street in 2000. The Southern Living Idea House was added as an additional fundraiser, netting \$44,246. Women and Children’s Advocacy became the Community Focus Area in 2008 with “Impacting Our Communities for 82 Years” as our theme.

Social Media communication strategies were created as these new platforms were first used to communicate with our members and the community in 2008.

Christmas Made in South and Springtime Made in the South were added as two events where our members sell Cookbooks, netting \$15,000.

In 2005 Association of Junior Leagues International introduces “Kids in the Kitchen” and Savannah adopts the healthy kid initiative as a project area.

- ◇ Approximate Thrift Sale total for this decade - \$1,216,186
- ◇ In 2002, our final Follies raised more than \$100,000.

**2011 – Present** Through 2016 women and Children’s Advocacy continued to be the Community Focus Area for the Savannah, Golden Isles, and South Carolina Low Country Projects with our community partners including:

- ◆ America’s Second Harvest of Coastal Georgia Food Bank, Backpacks for Buddies
- ◆ St. Mary’s Community Center
- ◆ Memorial University Medical Center
- ◆ Urban Hope
- ◆ Park Place Outreach
- ◆ Friends of the Brunswick –Glynn County Library
- ◆ Ronald McDonald House

- ◆ The Savannah Black Heritage Festival
- ◆ West Broad YMCA
- ◆ Frank Callen Boys and Girls Club
- ◆ Rape Crisis Center of the Coastal Empire
- ◆ Georgia Historical Society
- ◆ Habitat for Humanity



*On the Squares - Savannah Style* launched as our newest cookbook in April 2015, offering over 140 triple-tested recipes and showcasing the city of Savannah's rich history depicted through gorgeous photography with historical descriptions of each of her 24 squares.

FitKidsFest began in 2013 as a community event where 100's of school-aged children completed healthy lifestyle stations, learned about healthy lifestyle choices, and won prizes.

League Headquarters moved to 28 East 41st Street, Savannah, GA in 2011.

Thrift Sale continues to serve as our largest fundraiser.

Our "Masquerade" Live and Silent Auction became a distinct event from Thrift Sale as a successful separate fundraiser in 2015.

Christmas Made in South continues as an event where our members sell Cookbooks, but additional community festivals and the First Saturday on the River celebrations in Savannah have been added as events where our members sell our three successful cookbooks.

Starting in the 2016-2017 League Year, "Education with Kindergarten – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Student Performance" will be the Community Focus Area for the Savannah, Golden Isles, and South Carolina Low Country Projects.

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## SUSTAINER'S *Corner*

**Melanie Finnegan**

Spring is a season of renewal and growth, and the Savannah Area Sustainers are following suit! We want to stay connected with our League friends through social events and remain engaged in the community with volunteer opportunities. We have a renewed focus on staying involved and need your support.

With this goal in mind, we are forming a committee to help organize events next year. We aim to include as many Sustainers as possible with family-friendly daytime events, girls' nights out and volunteer opportunities in conjunction with Active members. If you are interested in joining the committee or have ideas for events, please contact Melanie Finnegan ([melanietfinnegan@gmail.com](mailto:melanietfinnegan@gmail.com)).

The Annual Sustainer Luncheon will be scheduled for fall 2016, so watch the website and e-blasts for more information.

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# C·A·B

## Member Profiles

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**Tom Barton**

Editorial Page Editor, The Savannah Morning News

"The Junior League has a long history of contributing to the greater good in Savannah. But the more I learn about the group from my service on the advisory board, the more I learn that it's not your grandad's Oldsmobile any more, as league members look for new ways to address ongoing problems and improve lives. I'm happy to contribute what I can to this effort – and, when pressed, to try out proposed recipes for the cookbook."



**Julia Mikell**

Director of Quality Performance at St. Joseph's/Candler

"The Junior League was critical in my early formation as a Savannahian. I met so many talented individuals and important organizations who do such good work in the community. I was able to try out lots of volunteer experiences. I hope I can be helpful on the Advisory Council by demonstrating to women that combining family, career, and volunteerism is do-able and tremendously rewarding."



**Meg Heape**

Chatham County District Attorney

"I am excited to be a part of an organization that has such a positive effect on the community. The Junior League's commitment to creating opportunities for women and children is unparalleled. It is thrilling to assist another generation of women who take leadership roles in the service and advocacy of others."



**J. Reid Williamson, III, Esq.**

Partner, Hunter Maclean, Exley & Dunn, ex-officio JLS Attorney

"The League is the best local organization I know of that promotes positive, lifelong membership experiences for women and opportunities for their meaningful involvement in our community."



**Richard Coomer**

Managing Partner, Coomer and Coomer, ex-officio-JLS accountant

Richard serves as the certified public accountant for the JLS. He commented, "I am excited because I continue to see the Junior League growing in the right direction."



**Rabbi Arnold Mark Belzer DD**

Rabbi Emeritus of Congregation Mickve Israel, Savannah GA (est. 1733)

“What a pleasure to serve on the Advisory Board of the Junior League of Savannah which has contributed so much to the betterment of our community.

The impressive and accomplished women of the League are surely a blessing to those on whose behalf they labor.”



**Linda M. Bleicken, Ph.D.**

President, Armstrong State University

Dr. Linda M. Bleicken joined Armstrong State University on July 1, 2009, becoming the seventh Armstrong president and the first woman to lead the institution since the establishment of Armstrong Junior College in 1935.

President Bleicken holds Ph.D. and Master of Science degrees in management from Georgia State University. She earned her bachelor’s degree in marketing magna cum laude, also from Georgia State. She serves on the boards of the Ossabaw Island Foundation and the Union Mission and is a member of the Savannah Rotary Club.



**Joseph A. Buck, III, Ed.D.**

Managing Partner, JBK Associates, LLC

“I have been honored to be a part of the Junior League Advisory Council. The good that these young women do in our community has for many years been a model for community service. They are dedicated and stand for what is good in our society!”



**Kathy Horne**

Partner, Bouhan Falligant, LLP

“One of the things that impressed me the most when I was a member of the Junior League was the degree of organization, talent and energy exhibited by its members, and by the officers and committee chairs in particular. From my current vantage point, it appears that the Junior League is more successful now than ever before. It is an honor to serve on the Community Advisory Board for an organization so committed to our community and its citizens.”



**Michael F. Kemp**

Synovus Trust Company, N.A. Senior Vice President, Regional Trust Manager

In addition to his position as Senior Vice President with Synovus Trust Company, Mike Kemp is active in our community with positions on the Boards of Savannah Anti Poverty Initiative, Armstrong Atlantic State University Foundation, Coastal Georgia Indicators Coalition and MedBank. Mr. Kemp earned his J.D. from Mercer University School of Law and is a member of the Georgia Bar Association.

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design in a nutshell



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



The evening of September 25th was one of intrigue and excitement as The Junior League of Savannah hosted its Second Annual Masquerade Silent and Live Auction.

Guests filled the ballroom of the Hilton DeSoto Savannah to enjoy live music by Trade Winds Rhythm and Blues and feast on a delicious buffet fit for kings. Tuxedos, evening gowns and an array of masks adorned the party-goers as they browsed the many tables filled with graciously donated auction items received from members of our community. Couples shuffled on the dance floor to their favorite dance tunes, while old and new friends mingled about enjoying cocktails and desserts. The night was filled with joy and laughter as guests gave their assistance to furthering the activities of the League.

This year's Masquerade offered several new and exciting updates to its predecessor, Preview Party. This annual kick-off for Thrift Sale was held off site from its traditional location at the Savannah Civic Center. Auction Solicitation Committee members chose the Oglethorpe Ballroom of the Hilton Savannah DeSoto in historic downtown Savannah for evening's festivities. The new space created an elegant environment overall, and allowed all of the silent auction items to be grouped together on one floor. Masquerade was held one week prior to Thrift Sale, and served as an energetic kick-off to the coming week of diligent preparations for the League's largest fundraiser. An electronic bidding platform was incorporated into Masquerade, which allowed bidders to manage their bidding activity of multiple items by using their smart phone. Not only were guests notified if they were outbid, they were also able to complete the checkout process from their phone without ever having to leave the ballroom.

Funds raised at Masquerade were from event and raffle tickets, silent and live auction items, a text-to-donate campaign, and various sponsorship levels. League and community members contributed to help raise funds exceeding \$35,000 to be used to support the future projects of The Junior League of Savannah. To the dedicated women of the Auction Solicitations Committee: You volunteered your time, energy, resources and finances to Masquerade, the League and to all those in the community that we are here to serve. You all are a part of something much bigger than yourselves because you have chosen to make this sacrifice. For this, Ladies, I thank you!

*Jennifer Grafton*



# THRIFT SALE

*Junior League of Savannah*

## The 68<sup>th</sup> Annual Junior League of Savannah Thrift Sale

THRIFT SALE/MASQUERADE TOTAL GROSS \$99,423.21

**1,300**

The number of hours put in by the 20 members of the Thrift Sale Committee the week of the Sale.

**35**

The number of people that volunteered for more than the 2 shift obligation  
*(not including Committee)*

**\$51,000**

The total amount donated by 33 Prize Girls



### WE GOT STORAGE!!

Continued focus on Quality vs. Quantity

Incentives for volunteering a 2nd person for expanded Bod Squad shifts

Revisions to the pricing guide to encourage full cost purchasing

An upgrade to women's clothing department

***The committee will continue to meet on Monday's the week after the GMM Thrift Sale Committee Meetings on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month at 6:30pm at 711 Victory Drive (June 13, July 11, August 8)***

#### **EARLY BIRD STORAGE**

Bulk Pick-up / Pricing  
on the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the Month  
*(June 25, July 23, August 27)*



# FINANCE *Update*

The 2015-2016 Finance Council Chairs and Committees have performed at an incredible pace. The ladies who served on Finance Council have been innovative in their ideas and performance, and extremely dedicated. Throughout the year Finance Council members have participated in the Finance Council Challenge – a list made up of 10 challenges, one from each committee - to help complete its annual goals. Congratulations to Rebecca Strawn for completing 100% of the challenges and going way above and beyond in support of her fellow council members.

I would be remiss if I did not state that we cannot be successful without you, the Junior League of Savannah membership. Whether through Thrift Sale, Masquerade, Derby Party and other Annual Fund activities, annual dues, 90th Anniversary Endowment Fund contributions, Cookbook sales, and more than likely, a combination of several...As Team JLS, I am pleased to report that all League members have contributed to the continued financial success of our organization. We thank you!

JLS Fundraising highlights have been included throughout this publication. However, I would also like to commend our Cookbook Chair and marketing team. One year after launching our newest cookbook: On the Squares: Savannah Style, cookbook sales continue to be strong. We are always looking for new cookbook retail distributors and sale opportunities – please contact Jessica Oxnard, Cookbook Chair [jlstark@stetson.edu](mailto:jlstark@stetson.edu) with any recommendations.

Finance Council has been honored to collaborate with

JLS Councils on numerous projects including: Membership Council with membership engagement events; Strategic Planning on re-establishing a Fund Development Chair; Communications Council in the website reskinning campaign; and with the Budget Committee through the creation of a 100th Anniversary Fund. Together we have accomplished so much.

This year's successes will be built upon next year and reinvested into growing the potential of our League members and in the communities JLS serves. The pie charts (inset) represent JLS income and expenses finalized in the Annual 2014-2015 JLS Audit, completed in Aug. 2015. JLS net assets totaled \$637,845; to review the 2014-2015 JLS Audit Report, visit: <https://www.jr-leaguesav.org/?nd=financialstatements>. In addition, follow the same link to view the 2016-2017 budget approved by membership in April; these numbers reflect the goals and leadership visions for the coming JLS year.

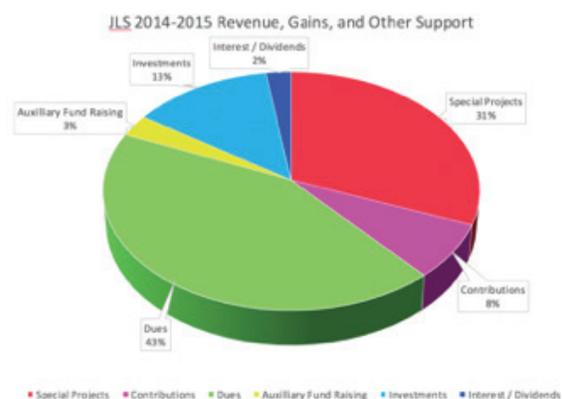
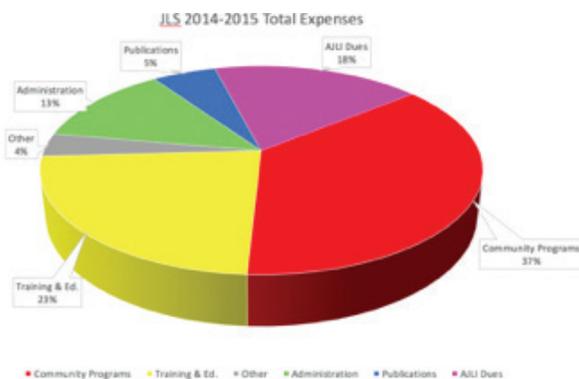
*Finally, I wouldn't be me unless I...*

- Encouraged all Actives and Sustainers to maintain your relationship with the League by submitting your 2016-2017 JLS membership dues
- Ask that you honor the JLS' 90th anniversary by making a contribution to the JLS Endowment Fund
- Offered a sincere "Thank You" for your continued support and dedication to the Junior League of Savannah

Sincerely,

*Kathy Ledwina*

2015-2016 VP Finance, Junior League of Savannah



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# Fit Kids Fest

PRESENTED BY THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF SAVANNAH

**Plan an event from the ground up.** That is what the JLS Fit Kids Fest committee was tasked with doing this League year, and not only did they achieve this goal, they exceeded even their own expectations. The committee, consisting of **Katie Kellogg (chair), Anna Bradley, Natalia Gusching, Candace Hayes, Amanda Jones, Brooke Lozier and Valerie Martinez** planned and put on the fourth annual Fit Kids Fest which was held on Saturday, February 20th from 11:00 to 2:00 at Memorial Stadium. In the past, the event was held later in the year and at a different location. Many factors went into the event becoming its own this year, but the same goal was sought after and achieved. More than 280 local children and their parents and caregivers attended the free event to learn about making healthy food choices and staying active, all while having fun with interactive and engaging activities provided by JLS, Childhood Obesity Prevention + Education (COPE), and over 25 exhibitors consisting of local organizations and businesses.

This year, the Junior League of Savannah focused its efforts on women and children's advocacy and believes that women and children deserve to be empowered through quality opportunities in order to thrive and to be contributing members of our community. The Junior League of Savannah annually focuses its support on a variety of community projects, committing financial support and thousands of volunteer hours in an effort to fulfill our mission of improving the community through effective action and leadership.

One of those community projects is Fit Kids Fest. The mission of Fit Kids Fest is to increase awareness and prevention of childhood obesity because one in three children in Chatham County is considered obese. Studies show that overweight kids are likely to become overweight and obese adults. If obesity among kids continues to increase at this rate, this current generation could become the first in history to live shorter and sicker lives than their parents. Sandy Baker, founder of COPE, reached out to JLS early on in the plan-

ning to join efforts to bring the community this exciting and informative event. COPE worked to bring in several exhibitors and demonstrations and played a major role in marketing the event to the target participants of Fit Kids Fest.

The JLS Fit Kids Fest committee worked many hours to plan the logistics of the event, to bring in sponsors and exhibitors of the event, to plan engaging activities for the participants, and to market the event to the community and to the area schools. More than 30 JLS provisionals, actives, and sustainers volunteered at Fit Kids Fest. The committee raised over \$3,000 in monetary sponsorships from **Cay Insurance Company, Howard Family Dental, Southland Pediatric Therapy (Tumble Tykes of Savannah), Be Pediatrics, The Claiborne Firm, P.C. Clinical Consulting Consortium, Coastal ENT (David Oliver, M.D.), Seacrest Partners, Brighter Day Natural Foods, ENT Associates, Reaching Milestones and Amerigroup** and well over \$2,000 worth of in-kind donations. Businesses and organizations that provided in-kind donations were the following: **Chatham County Parks and Recreation** donated the use of the stadium and countless resources to make the event a success; Adrienne Edge at **Tummy Time Foods** donated a cooking demonstration of healthy, kid-friendly snacks; **Whole Foods of Savannah** donated the ingredients for Adrienne's cooking demonstration; **Enmarket** donated 500 granola bars and bananas to provide to kids as a healthy snack to refuel during the event; **Banana Graphics** designed and printed the event and volunteer t-shirts at a reduced cost to the event; **The Kennickell Group** provided the sponsor recognition board for the event; **Jumping Jacks Family Fun Center** donated a gift basket to give away in the raffle; the **Savannah Bananas baseball team** donated two five-game passes to give away in the raffle; and **Curtis & Kidd, P.A.** donated five kids' bicycles to give away in the raffle.

Memorial Stadium was a perfect venue to host the Fit Kids Fest, as the exhibitors and the many activities filled

the field with the warm sun shining above. There was a steady stream of participants entering the event and staying for most of the time to revel in the day's activities. Toward the end of the event, a crowd gathered around the JLS "freebies station" for the highly anticipated raffle drawing. Some lucky winning-ticket-holders went home that day with great prizes. No one went home empty-handed, though; everyone who attended the event left that day at least with a greater knowledge of resources readily available to them to help with maintaining healthy lifestyles.

The Fit Kids Fest committee would like to thank COPE for their collaboration on this event, all of the sponsors, all of the exhibitors, and all of the JLS volunteers who helped to provide this free event to the community.



**2016 FIT KIDS FEST EXHIBITORS:**

- Junior League of Savannah
- Childhood Obesity Prevention + Education
- Chatham County Parks & Recreation
- Savannah-Chatham County Public Schools
- Department of Health and Physical Education
- Savannah Soccer Bubbles
- Tummy Time Foods
- Chatham County School Nutrition Program
- Amerihealth
- Chatham County Aquatic Center
- Justice for Children, Heads in Helmets  
*(presented by Spiva Law Group)*
- Alliance for a Healthier Generation
- Chatham County 4H
- Youth for a Cleaner Environment, Inc. (YFACE)
- Farm Truck 912
- Savannah Jr. DerbyTaunts
- Take Shape for Life presented by Katy Schubert
- Loop it Up Savannah
- Savannah Family Dentistry
- Healthy Savannah
- Reaching Milestones
- Park Place Outreach
- Girls on the Run of Coastal Georgia
- Memorial Health University
- Savannagrams
- Laughter Yoga
- Yoga Me Fit





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