

THE MAGAZINE OF
THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF TULSA

Volume 7, Issue 4

FALL 2010

gusher

www.jltulsa.org

7th
ANNUAL

★ American Girl

FASHION SHOW

October 8-10



PLUS:

Re-release of JLT Logo • JLT Community Projects • 2010-2011 Provisional Class

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*Women Building
a Better Tulsa*

Mission Statement

The Junior League of Tulsa, Inc.,
is an organization of women com-

mitted to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women and improving communities through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. Its purpose is exclusively educational and charitable. Junior League of Tulsa reaches out to women of all races, religions, & national origins who demonstrate an interest in and commitment to voluntarism.

Core Values

Community: It is the heart of all we do

Diversity: The synergy of different perspectives

Voluntarism: An essential component of our society

Mentoring: Essential growth for future generations

Leadership: The development of individual potential

Respect: For our members' time, energy and skills

Collaboration: Forming partnerships and strategic alliances

Well-being: Physical, mental, emotional and social

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Community Council VP Kathleen Jones & Amy Greene

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Financial Council VP Leslie Frazier

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Strategic Planning Chair Kim Smith

For more information about the Association of Junior Leagues International Inc. or to find out more about how Junior Leagues build better communities, please contact:

The Association of Junior Leagues International Inc.

80 Maiden Lane, Suite 305

New York, NY 10038

Tel: 212.951.8300 • Fax: 212.481.7196

E-mail: info@ajli.org

www.ajli.org

On the cover: Addie Weintraub, daughter of BJ Weintraub (A), and Lucy Little, daughter of Lysa Little (A). Photograph by Leslie Hoyt, www.lesliehoyt.com.

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gusher is a quarterly publication of The Junior League of Tulsa, Inc., 3633 South Yale Ave., Tulsa, OK 74135; devoted to informing the membership and the community of current League projects, events and issues. For more information on advertising, please visit www.jltulsa.org and click on *Gusher* or e-mail gusher@jltulsa.org.

Publications Committee 2010-2011

Lysa Little, Editor

Natalie Allen

Lauren Davis

Cherie Kail

Tai Allen - Advertising

Kara Howard - Advertising

Thank you to our Guest Contributors

Ashleigh Boedeker

Joy Hulver

Mary Anne Thoman

Letter from the president

Dear Actives, Sustainers, Provisionals and members of the community. I am privileged to have this opportunity to highlight for you both what has been happening in the League and what lies ahead for us. Our theme this year is "Our Future is Bright" and while recognizing our proud history, we plan to take a careful look ahead for ways to improve Junior League's presence and impact in our community. We are confident these endeavors will lead us to a very bright future.

Since before the 2010-2011 Board of Directors were officially installed on June 1, we have been busy developing our annual plan, goals and expectations for both ourselves and our committees, and contemplating what this League should look like in 3 to 5 years. Our planning is a critical component to making us a relevant and successful organization, but we could not do it without turning to our experienced and esteemed members for advice and guidance. This led to the idea of what we called "Sustainer Speak Out."

Hosted by our Board of Directors and spearheaded by our Strategic Planning Chair Kim Smith, we held this event at Tulsa's historic Harwelden Mansion August 18. It was a wonderful opportunity to both share with our Sustaining members what we are "up to," while engaging in a formal conversation with our sustaining members about identifying the critical and emerging needs in our community as well as seeking their advice on how to internally improve our League. The feedback we received was resoundingly supportive of exploring the notion of a new focus area, progressing our League into the bright future that undoubtedly lies ahead.

I am also proud to report that we have successfully recruited and placed nearly 60 new members to our organization. Joy Hulver, our Provisional Chair, and her committee have worked tirelessly to develop a phenomenal curriculum and training program. Personally I am so proud of the ladies who have our future membership in their hands. To steal a suitable quote from Dr. Seuss; "Congratulations! Today is your day. You're off to Great Places! You're off and away!"

Finally, part of our examination of the relevance of Junior League in our Tulsa community included our public image. After careful consideration the Board overwhelmingly agreed and we have moved forward to both launching a new and public friendly website as well as re-releasing the Junior League of Tulsa logo we all know and love. I am so grateful that the many hours of labor associated with re-drafting and reproducing this high quality logo was generously donated by our very own and very talented, Abigail Prescott. You will notice throughout the publication the "throwback" logo with a fresh look. As I stated before, I think that planning for the future cannot go without respect and pride for our distinguished and exceptional past; how better to acknowledge this than to re-release our original logo with the prominent "T" which represents the community in which we are so proud to have a rich history. As ever, we will continue to Build a Better Tulsa.

Fondly,

Cassie Barkett
2010-2011 President



Authorization of Re-Release of The Junior League of Tulsa, Inc. Logo

Whereas, the Junior League of Tulsa, Inc. was founded in 1923 and has primarily used three (3) logos in the last 87 years, two of which were unique to the Tulsa League and one being the logo of The Association of Junior Leagues International (hereinafter "AJLI"), and

Whereas, the 2003-2004 Board of Directors resolved to adopt the logo of AJLI, upon belief that aligning the Tulsa League with the AJLI logo would bring about more identification and recognition of the "Junior League" brand, and

Whereas, the current Board of Directors has been charged to improve community awareness, connect with our sustaining membership, and further the mission of the Tulsa League, and

Whereas, the retired logo of The Junior League of Tulsa was unique to the Tulsa League, and

Whereas, multiple past community partners display plaques and markers containing the original "JLT" logo and, unlike the AJLI logo, identification within the community, nonmembers, Sustainers and former members of The Junior League of Tulsa has been closely tied to the unique logo which prominently exhibits the "J" "L" and "T", and

Whereas, solicited feedback has warranted that the now retired logo be re-released as the official logo of The Junior League of Tulsa, Inc. and

Whereas, the Board of Directors of the Junior League of Tulsa wishes to exhibit profound gratitude for the voluntarism of its members of the past, engage its membership of present, and inspire its volunteers of the future;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Junior League of Tulsa, Inc. will officially re-release the original "JLT" logo and use it exclusively to further the mission of the organization.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Junior League of Tulsa, Inc. do hereby individually and collectively endorse the re-release of said logo.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the re-release and exclusive use of the JLT logo in no way relinquishes its loyalty and membership to AJLI and will display the AJLI logo on its website and materials when appropriate.

Junior League of Tulsa 2010-2011 Board of Directors

Cassie Barkett – President	Sarah Dougherty – President Elect
Mary Ann Thoman	Liz Brolick
Heather Duncan	Neil Dieterle
Leslie Frazier	Kathleen Jones
Ronda Lau	Kim Smith
Jennie Wolek	Meg Watkins

**Adopted by Unanimous Consent and signed
this 4th day of August, in the year Two Thousand and Ten by:**

Cassie Barkett
President
Board of Directors
Junior League of Tulsa, Inc.

Heather Duncan
Communication Council Vice President
Junior League of Tulsa, Inc.



October

**8-10 American Girl
Fashion Show**

13 General Meeting

November

1 Provisional Meeting

4-7 Holiday Market

**17 General Meeting:
Speak Outs**

December

8 General Meeting

**15 JLT Scholarship
Application Deadline**

16 Sustainer Holiday Party

SAVE THE DATE!



Headquarters RENTAL INFORMATION

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**Wedding Receptions
Board Meetings
Corporate Retreats
Parties
Lectures**

Transitions

Small Miracles

Maxwell James Edward Gerkin
Son of Caren (A) and Ben
Born April 30, 2010



Leo James Endicott
Son of Betsy (A) and Tim
Born August 19, 2010



Nealy Brooke Groves
Daughter of Noel (S) & John
Born December 10, 2009



Wren Nichol Weaver
Daughter of Brooke (A) and Adam
Born August 5, 2010



Gentry Abigayle Baker
Daughter of Carey (S) & Brett
Born August 25, 2010

Let us share the times that are taking place in your life. You are encouraged to share the following announcements: births, engagements, weddings, condolences, community and business recognitions, new jobs, and/or new job promotions. Please send all details to Ronda Lau, ronda_lau@hotmail.com

Condolences

To **Jennifer Roberson (A)** on the death of her grandmother.

To **Christy Gilliam (S)** on the death of her mother.

To **Sally Thompson (S)** on the death of her father.

To **Mary Nichols Culver (S)** on the death of her father.

Engagements

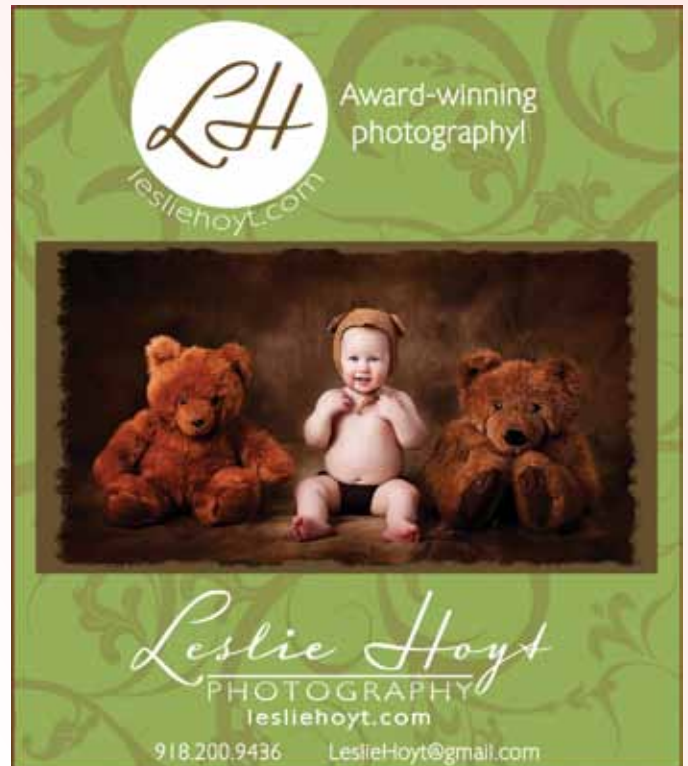
Kalan Chapman (A)
to Grant Lloyd



Tracy Watler (A)
to Chris Guara

Weddings

Shannon Martin (A)
to Allen Wright
on June 12, 2010



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Holiday Market



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SATURDAY
9 AM - 6 PM

SUNDAY
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- Wine Pull & Wreath Auction
- Complimentary Gift Wrap
- General Admission Ticket to Holiday Market — shop all weekend long!
- Preview Partini Swag bag loaded with goodies
- Music by Dave Richardson of *Dave and the Wavetones*

To purchase tickets:

JLTULSA.ORG
(918)663-6100

Hello, Sustainers!



Sue Curry
Sustaining President

**2010-2011
Sustaining Board**

- Mary Alice Ahlgren
- Laurie Brumbaugh
- Robyn Cannon
- Sue Curry
- Ann Foster
- Dru Johnson
- Deborah Kurin
- Denise Piland
- Pam Rosser

Steaming and sweltering hot days did not keep JLT Sustainer's from meeting throughout the summer. In addition to Book Club, Lunch Club and Restaurant clubs meeting, the Sustaining Board met in July and August at JLT headquarters to plan another year of three parties for the fall, holiday and spring events. Also, in August the new 2010-11 JLT Board with President Cassie Barkett hosted a Sustainer speak-out at Harwelden to gather information from Sustainers to include in their planning of league events, a new JLT logo and JLT focus area. And who thought summer was just a time to relax!

Book Club continued great discussion and reads in June with the current thriller *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* by Stieg Larsson at the home of Earlene Gathright. Earlene as always was the consummate hostess and discussion was led by Sue Curry. July was most entertaining in discussion led by Lynette Bennett of the book *My First Five Husbands and the Ones Who Got Away* by Rue McClanahan. A personal glimpse of Rue was shared by Lynette who knew Rue while she attended the University of Tulsa and dated her brother Bill Bennett, possibly one of the one's who got away?! The meeting was held at the lovely home of Terry Waller. In August the book *The Son of Hamas* provided a personal look into the Middle East conflict and religious group Hamas as told by the author Mosab Hassan Yousef, the son of a well-know Hamas leader. Mosab has elected to share his story to educate the world about the situation at the expense of leaving his family, country and religion. Discussion was led by Terry Waller at the home of Sue Curry who provided Mediterranean inspired foods to share along with the book. The fall slate of books was discussed and begins in September at Deidre Kiertley's home with *The Known World* by Edward P. Jones.

Lunch Club and Restaurant Club continued to enjoy some of Tulsa's finer culinary delights. Lunch Club met at McGills at 61st and Yale in June, an old favorite, P.J.'s, in July and Tei Kei's in August. Restaurant Club enjoyed delicious dinners at Redrock Canyon Grill in June and the new Piatto Cucina Italiana in August. The club did not meet in July. Lunch Club and Restaurant Club dining experiences are always fun and great conversation always takes place.

The Sustaining Board met twice this summer and planned three parties beginning with the fall event at the new Sage Culinary Studio at 103rd and South Memorial. Sage instructors taught how to make a variety of gourmet pizzas and gave an opportunity to shop the kitchenware section of the studio. A holiday party at the home of Pam Rosser is set for the evening of December 16 and a spring party at the home of Sharon Voskuhl set for mid-April will complete the trio of parties for 2010-2011. All three events are outlined in the Fall Letter sent to Sustainers in September.

The Sustainer Speak-out hosted by JLT Board and President Cassie Barkett on August 18 at Harwelden was a fun and intergenerational evening of discussion on several topics. New JLT Board members served as facilitators of questions to groups of Sustainers. The new JLT Logo, a return to a logo used in the past, was presented to the Sustainers and welcomed back. Thank you President Cassie Barkett and JLT Board members for asking for our opinions and ideas and getting to know us!

So long to the hot days of summer and welcome to a new and exciting year in JLT Sustainer activities. To visit a club contact Annabel Jones, Book Club Coordinator, at 629-5553 or AJONES@samson.com; Robyn Cannon, Lunch Club Coordinator, 298-7753 or Robyn.Cannon@DTAG.com and/or Ann Foster, Restaurant Club Coordinator at 694-6118 or Ann.Foster@hilti.com. As always, please feel free to contact me at my email address: brent-curry@cox.net or my home phone 918.298.4651.

Sincerely,
Sue Curry



Sustaining Board

**Dru Johnson,
Pam Rosser,
Mary Alice Ahlgren,
Denise Piland**

**Ann Foster,
Robyn Cannon,
Sue Curry,
Laurie Brumbaugh,
Deborah Kurin**

**Not Pictured: Amy James
and Annabel Jones**



August Book Club

Standing: Mary Alice Ahlgren,
Sitting: Rachael Hunsucker



Teresa Flusché, Laurie Brumbaugh and Nancy Daniel



Connie Doverspike, Cassie Barkett, Sue Curry, Annabel Jones



Sustainer Speak Out

Ellen Fuller,
Teresa Flusché



Jane Walter,
Ann LaGere

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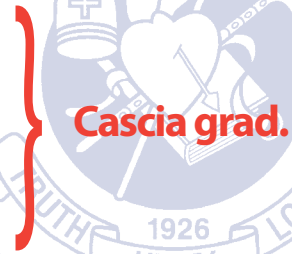
Annual Open House
Sunday, October 17, 2010
1:30 - 3:30 pm, Cascia PAC

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Campaign Manager

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American Girl

FASHION SHOW

American Girl, LLC has again chosen The Junior League of Tulsa, Inc. (JLT) to present its annual fashion show fundraiser. JLT will present six fashion shows during the weekend of October 8-10 at JLT Headquarters, located at 3633 South Yale Avenue in Tulsa. Proceeds from this fundraiser will benefit JLT and its community projects.

“This is our seventh season to be privileged to present this entertaining and educational show that gives an opportunity for young girls to learn how American girls just like them have used fashion throughout history to express their unique style and personality,” says JLT President, Cassie Barkett. Tulsa-area celebrities will emcee each of the six fashion shows, and high school girls will narrate.

“The American Girl dolls, books and magazine create an impact on girls to become individuals that are confident, educated and wholesome. With over 14 million dolls and 123 million books sold since 1986, American Girl presents fashion shows to help spread these ideals to girls across our community,” says BJ Weintraub, Chair of the American Girl Fashion Show.

Be a Guest Model!

Your American girl can join the fun onstage during intermission as a guest model. For additional \$20 donation to the Junior League of Tulsa, Inc. she and her doll can walk the runway wearing a special Fashion Show t-shirt, which is hers to keep.

October 8-10

The Doll Hair Salon is Back this Year!

We’ve added the glam to our fashion show again this year! At the salon, your doll will receive a new and glamorous hairstyle. It is a unique experience that’s sure to delight your American girl.

Catalogue Orders Offer An Extra Chance To Contribute!

Your catalogue order will benefit Junior League of Tulsa, Inc. as American Girl Programs, Inc. will donate 5% of the total of all orders placed in conjunction with this event. Orders must be placed between September 24 and October 24, 2010. During that time, please call 1-800-920-0867 to place your order using a special key code **167606**.



Enjoy a fun-filled event for girls with their families, friends and favorite dolls.

FASHION SHOW DATES AND TIMES:

Friday Night Patron Party tickets: \$50

Saturday or Sunday tickets: General Assigned Seating \$30
Premium Assigned Seating: \$35

Friday, October 8, 2010

7:00pm Patron Party – Includes Dinner & Silent Auction

Saturday, October 9, 2010

10:00am • 1:00pm • 4:00pm

Sunday, October 10, 2010

1:00pm • 4:00pm

We will also have:

- ★ Door Prizes
- ★ Tea Party Style Refreshments
- ★ Doll Hair Salon
- ★ Souvenir Sales
- ★ Catalogue Sales

Win Great Prizes While Helping Others In Your Community!

Buy a raffle ticket and you could win one of the great prizes listed below. Winners will be drawn at the conclusion of the event. You need not be present to win. Raffle tickets: \$2 each or 6 for \$10

- **My American Girl Doll:** Doll, Pet Show outfit set, Pepper, Sparkly Hair Pick, Doll Stand
- **My American Girl Doll:** Doll, Fancy Riding outfit, Doll Brush, Doll Stand
- **Rebecca:** Rebecca Doll & Meet Rebecca Paperback Book, Rebecca Bed and Bedding, Rebecca Doll Pajamas, Doll Stand, Sparkly Hair Pick
- **Bitty Twins:** Bitty Twin Doll Set, Pajamas, Trundle Bed and Bedding, Hair Care Kit
- **Bitty Baby:** Bitty Baby Doll, Stroller, Baby Ballerina outfit for doll

For tickets and information:

Call (918) 663-6100 • Visit: www.jltulsa.org • Email: americangirlfashionshow@jltulsa.org

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entertainment for everyone



Services

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Body

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look and feel your best



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to shop for their food, family,
pets, home, garden and more

TulsaPeople.com

Not just a list, but the A-LIST.

2011

Provisional Re

Our Future Is Certainly Bright!

The annual provisional retreat was held at headquarters on Saturday, August 14. With a class of nearly 60 provisionals, the day was jam-packed with activities. The incoming class attended breakout sessions to learn about the different committees on which they will place, followed by the famous bus tour of past and present community projects. The provisionals had the pleasure of being hosted by Cassie Barkett, President, and Sarah Dougherty, President-Elect, who served as guides for the bus tour.

The highlight of the afternoon was listening to guest speaker, Barbara Findeiss, Executive Director of Child Abuse Network (CAN) talk about "The Power of Volunteerism." Included in her speech was a heart-felt video that explained what CAN does for the community of Tulsa and children affected by child abuse.

The day culminated with the placement scramble led by Jenger Baker, Placement Chair.

Special thanks to the entire provisional committee for organizing a tremendous retreat that lived up to our theme for the year: Our Future Is Bright!





From Our Provisional Chair...

Dear Provisional Class of 2010-2011,

I am thrilled you chose to become a member of The Junior League of Tulsa.

I sincerely hope you left the retreat with a better understanding of the power of volunteering and how that relates directly to your Junior League experience. There is so much power in an individual giving of her time in service to others.

Volunteering through the Junior League of Tulsa (JLT) will allow you to meet people you would have otherwise never met. The women in this provisional class have diverse interests and backgrounds, but what ties you together is the fact that you are choosing to volunteer by becoming a member of JLT. Your time, energy and enthusiasm are all greatly appreciated.

During your provisional year, I encourage you to explore the variety of volunteer and leadership opportunities available. Get to know the women in your provisional class and provisional small group as well as the members within your committee placement. These women have the potential to become your life-long friends.

When you volunteer with JLT, you know you did something: something to change a life, something to change a community. This change brings out the best in people. I think you'll agree the commitment you make to this organization will be small in comparison to the rewards you reap.

Every one of our members could find other ways to spend her time and yet each has made serving others a priority. What makes our organization unique is the characteristic we all share: a willingness to devote our time, talents and enthusiasm to building a better community. I encourage you to follow in the footsteps of thousands of JLT members and make your service a priority. It may not always be easy, but it's always worth it.

Thank you for joining a unique and fabulous group of women who make time, care about Tulsa and give something back. Thank you for stepping outside yourself and thinking about what you can do to help women and children in transition across our great community.

The Junior League of Tulsa is a group of ordinary women taking extraordinary action. I hope you find the League to be a fun, inspiring, worthwhile organization. I look forward to a wonderful year ahead filled with opportunities and challenges.

On behalf of the entire Provisional Committee, welcome to JLT!

Sincerely,
Joy Hulver

Provisional Class

as of 8/20/10

- Allison Scharnell
- Alexandra Holder
- Amanda Brumby
- Amanda Stephens
- Annie Tran
- Ashley Epperly
- Ashley Trombley
- Bailey Austin
- Betsy Hendershot
- Bridget Davidson
- Brittany Hulsizer
- Brooke Sturdivant
- Chanda Humphrey
- Chasity Butler
- Chelsy Wilson
- Christina Callas
- Christina Cohlma
- Courtney Bailless
- Danielle White
- Donna Cushing
- Elizabeth Richardson
- Ellen Dollarhide
- Emily Williams
- Erica Greenfield
- Erin Stump
- Gina Hasty
- Gretchen Weakley
- Heidi Hughes
- Holly Tripp
- Jenna Maloney
- Jennifer Saunders
- Juell Homco
- Katherine Fondren
- Kathy Shaffer
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- Lauren Bradley
- Lauren Waits
- Leah Ammons
- Leah Ashlock
- Maria Gaw
- Maria Norvell
- Margaret Rosene Robinson
- Marti Levinson
- Mary Dana Laird
- Melissa Snyder
- Meredith Steinmeyer
- Meryl Crimmins
- Mindee Ferland
- Ruth Addison
- Sandy Martinez
- Sasha Malchi
- Shannon Thomas
- Stacey Sutherland
- Stacy Tomberlin
- Stephanie Putzke
- Susan McWatters
- Tara Proctor
- Victoria O'Hanlon



Meet your Junior League of Tulsa Board Members:

Ronda Lau

Corresponding Secretary

Place of Birth: Greeley, CO

Provisional year: 2001

Education: B.A. Business Management

Family: Husband Mike, Ella, Avery and Eden

Employment: CEO and CFO for the Lau Household

Hobbies / interests: running, tennis, cooking, hanging out with friends and family, playing cards, traveling, reading

Favorite Sport: tennis

Favorite Childhood Memory: The 4th of July was my favorite holiday. My grandma lived one block from the parade and all of our family would gather at this one spot. The fighter planes would fly from the Air Force which is two hours from my hometown and that would start the parade. The planes flew so low you could feel them in the air. I loved waving at everyone I knew from town. The fire trucks would squirt us down and we loved when they would throw candy. One year I even got to be on the float.

Ronda & Mike Lau with Ella, Avery and Eden



Goal yet to achieve: by the grace of God will I be able to achieve this - to raise confident, caring women who use their talents to make a difference in their community

Greatest achievement so far: running a marathon

If you could travel back in time: I would want to travel with Jesus

If time and money were no object: Have a home by all of our family members

Favorite JLI placement/why? Blooming Success for Life. I loved my whole committee that year. The day was a huge success because we gave many of the women one or more suits to interview in and also most of them had a resume in their hand when they left.

Favorite food or restaurant: Any thing from Curt and Kathleen Jones' Kitchen

Favorite place you have traveled: Ronda, Spain It is the town I was named after and where I got my wedding dress

Benefits of membership in JLI: For me it makes me feel connected to Tulsa. I was raised in Colorado and by being in the league I am part of the Tulsa community both past and present.

Advice to provisionals: Stick with it . Go for the Silver (tray) that is and commit to 10 years. It will make you a better you I promise.

Leslie Frazier

Financial Council VP

Place of Birth: Tulsa, OK

Provisional year: 1995

Education: BS in Secondary Social Studies, Oklahoma State University; MS in Education, NSU

Family: Husband Bryan; two children: Vanessa is a Speech Language Pathologist in Dallas; Luke is a Yearling (sophomore) at West Point

Employment: Principal, Coweta Intermediate High School

Hobbies / interests: avid reader, sewing, pool time, spending time with family, traveling

Favorite Sport: Baseball (Go Cardinals!)

Favorite Childhood Memory: spending time each summer in Tennessee with my grandfather and relatives

Goal yet to achieve: I'm thinking about getting my Doctorate

Greatest achievement so far: Without a doubt my children; they are successful, kind and well rounded young adults. And of course being happily married for 28 years!

Have you learned any skill in League that you have applied to other aspects of your life? Chairing committees has taught me to run efficient meetings, to delegate, and has given me more confidence in my professional career. Also, organizational skills which help me balance family, work and league responsibilities.

If you could travel back in time: One of my favorite units when I was teaching was the Renaissance, so I would love to live during that time period.

If time and money were no object: I would volunteer full time and travel.

Favorite JLI placement/why? BloomingDeals! I served on the committee for 3 years in different capacities and loved the service that event gave to the community.

My favorite volunteer activity: I've served on every council within League and have really treasured every one. When you see firsthand the appreciation from someone we are serving, there is no better feeling. It was special when I was able to take my children to work on projects and show them hands on what mom was always doing with the Junior League!

Favorite place you have traveled: We took our first Cruise this summer and we're hooked!

Benefits of membership in JLI: I hope my years of service have taught my children that it is important to give back to your community. I have made such wonderful friends while in JLI and can't imagine not having these wonderful women in my life.

Advice to provisionals: Try a variety of committees and volunteer with an open mind and heart. Form friendships that will last a lifetime.

The changes we have made in the community are endless and you are now a part of building a better Tulsa!



Leslie and Bryan with Luke and Vanessa

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In 2007, the Junior League of Tulsa donated \$25,000 to establish the Family Resource Library at the Children's Hospital at Saint Francis. Since that time JLT volunteers have staffed the Family Resource Library to assist families in obtaining information about their child's medical condition and help them become informed participants in the health care process. The library also stocks books, DVDs and video games for the children's enjoyment. With community service at the heart of the Junior League of Tulsa, the Family Resource Library is full of opportunities for our members to improve the hospital experience for its small patients and their families.

If you have ever spent any time in a hospital, you realize the importance of the Family Resource Library. The library provides resource books for parents when they are in one of the worst moments of their lives, trying to figure out what is wrong with their child. Two computers with internet access allow family members to communicate with jobs, other family members or even school. The most popular service is providing an outlet, an opportunity for a distraction from the reason patrons are at the hospital, checking out XBOX 360 video games and DVD movies.

Chair Ashleigh Boedeker personally experienced a long stay at Saint Francis with her own father. Fourteen years ago he received a heart transplant. "It was one of the most terrifying times in all of our lives. Our family lived in a private waiting room for over a month- a month filled with prayer, tense moments, many tears, much boredom, extreme sadness and extreme gratitude. It may seem inconsequential that we, the Junior League, are at the hospital checking out movies and games, but I can't tell you what a welcome break that would have been to my family during those long days. I know we are needed at the Family Resource Library.

"I will be forever grateful to the staff at Saint Francis for giving me the gift of allowing my father to meet his grandchildren. I am now grateful to the Junior League of Tulsa for allowing me the opportunity to give back to Saint Francis and its patients!"

The patients and staff at Saint Francis rely on the Junior League members to staff the Resource Library. "If we are not there, the library is not open. When you see a child, barely able to walk, dragging their IV pole while trying to hold their hospital gown together light up when they see our door open you understand how necessary we are. Parents sit in the library and voice their concerns while we help them search for more information on an injury or illness. Our time is well spent."

A Volunteers perspective

JLT Volunteer Stephanie Milburn has a busy life like all of us and some days it seems like a monumental task getting to Children's Hospital to open the library. "But then, the first wagon pulling a tiny patient comes through. Suddenly a sick, poked and prodded little kid gets to do something as normal as pick out a movie or their favorite Hannah Montana episode to watch." Being there to open the library becomes a task of monumental importance.

Junior League is committed to providing this invaluable service to the hospital community. We are always in need of anyone who can help substitute in the library, even if it's only one two-hour shift per month. The library must be staffed daily with day and evening shifts available. If you think you could be just what the doctor ordered, please contact our current chair, Ashleigh Boedeker at ashleigh_boedeker@yahoo.com or 794-6524. Together we DO make a difference!

By Ashleigh Boedeker
and Mary Anne Thoman

"We have parents who are stressed and tired of being at a hospital with so little control over what's happening to their child as well as other siblings to look after. Coming to the Family Resource Library lets them talk to someone who's not a doctor or medical person - even for just a little while - even if it's just about the weather. It lets them check their e-mail or maybe check out one of the library's resource books to become a little more familiar with what's happening to their family. The Children's Hospital does a good job of making their patients more comfortable; the Family Resource Library provides a place for the whole family to find some normalcy."

Two of Stephanie's regular patrons this summer have been brothers. "They are here with their newest brother who is in ICU. They have spent a lot of time at the hospital with their parents, waiting for the new baby to be able to come home. They were incredibly bored and restless before finding the library. They are so thrilled to come in and pick out a video game to play."

Through generous donations the library has plenty of books, free for the taking. Many of the families at the Children's Hospital are not from the Tulsa area. When you are not near home you don't have access to the little comforts. What a gift it is for a parent to simply be able to read to their sick child as they would at home.

The Resource Library provides an important community service. I implore all Junior League members to consider being a substitute volunteer for the committee. – Ashleigh Boedeker, Chair

For many of the patrons, just having a destination and something to do while they wile away the hours at the hospital makes the Resource Library priceless.

JLT Sustainers make a difference

Last summer JLT Sustainer Connie Doverspike heard the call for volunteers and signed up. She wasn't exactly sure what to expect and enjoyed the tour of the Children's Hospital at Saint Francis during orientation. What she enjoys more is making a difference in the lives of the patrons at the library. "I often talk to parents - most are so positive and full of hope and thankful for the library. I have listened to scared new mothers who came in with sick infants from western Oklahoma. Others want to talk about their journey or use our two computers to get on Facebook and connect with supportive family and friends."

Connie has had the opportunity to make word search copies for grandmas to take back to patients and copied coloring book pictures for young siblings. She has placed Xbox 360 games in the lap of a teen boy who is a frequent returner for treatments and another in his extended wheelchair with two IV poles pushed along with him. At the library she has the opportunity to serve patients, parents, grandparents, siblings, friends and relatives.

It's the personal side of volunteering in the library that Connie enjoys the most. "There is a sweet young girl on feeding tube, a bright child who was abandoned and has been in the hospital for a year. Her caretakers have "adopted" her and brought her toys and things. An RN often carries her downstairs to pick out movies together - such empathy and devotion fills your soul when you see how much love she receives from these angels of mercy. I have been moved many times by stories that go on in the rooms upstairs and in our library. The Children's Hospital at Saint Francis is a healing place, a spiritual place, a place of hope and JLT volunteers make the time better for those that live there temporarily.

I like that I can volunteer and make a difference by showing a soothing compassion, lending my ear, or helping someone find the closest store to buy some extra clothes or necessities while their loved one is in the hospital.

"I had a pre-teen boy, a cancer patient, give me a list of Xbox 360 games that we should aspire to get for the hospital. He knew them all and talked about rankings, etc. A self proclaimed 'true game nerd' that needed an outlet for his serious illness. His father left him with me for awhile to just talk - a nice break for them both."

The Volunteer Becomes the Patron

JLT member Brandi Thomas never thought that she would actually be a patron at the library but on an icy day in January her five year old son, Jack was unexpectedly admitted to the Children's Hospital at Saint Francis. "A few days after his surgery we were ready to venture out of our room. Adorned with tubes, stitches and bandages, I lifted my frail little patient into a wheel chair and headed out to the library. We took a quick ride in the elevator, and then rolled past the floor to ceiling windows of the hospital atrium. I could see Jack's reflection gaze longingly outside to the snow-covered streets. The atrium of the Children's Hospital was truly a feast for the eyes. Brightly colored bugs and whimsical vines

climbed the walls. Toys lay carelessly on the benches and tables inviting the curious to come over and explore. For Jack it was a welcomed distraction. Then around the corner, past the gift shop, there is a small welcoming space designated as the Family Resource Library. Rows of shelves housed books, movies, games and magazines, and a friendly Junior League Volunteer was stationed at the desk eager to assist. Jack was elated with the opportunity to scan the numerous titles made available to him. I was just happy to see my son smile again.

"It is such a simple idea, to include a library for those who must spend time in the hospital. But a few books, and a couple of your favorite movies can turn an otherwise unpleasant experience into one filled with hope and a bit of joy. Fortunately, my son was able to leave the hospital with full recovery in a matter of days. For some, that journey is uncertain and unyielding. It is truly the most agonizing test that a parent must endure. It is the simple things that help to keep us focused in life: dinner with friends, a cup of coffee shared with your husband, a long Sunday drive. For Jack and me, on a cold day last winter, it just happened to be a stroll to the library."



Community Corner

Harvest Market/Kids in the Kitchen

Junior League of Tulsa works with Global Gardens teaching cooking classes at the Harvest Market. JLT volunteers teach families in nearby communities with primary focus on providing affordable nutritious meal options, education on preparing and cooking, and will promote mealtime as a family affair. JLT and Kids in the Kitchen program, a national initiative designed to promote healthy eating and lifestyles among children, discourages childhood obesity, empowering individuals to live healthier lives and become agents of change in their community.

JLT's Harvest Market/Kids in the Kitchen Cooking Classes are October 2, November 6, December 4, January 8 & February 5.



Scholarship

The Junior League of Tulsa, Inc. will award two \$1,500 Founders' Scholarships which may be used for any accredited college, university or technical trade school. Applicants should be a female high school senior who attends high school in the Tulsa area and has exhibited a commitment to voluntarism.

JLT will also award two \$1,500 Mrs. W. Albert Cook Scholarships to women interested in furthering her education as a "non-traditional student" at an accredited college, university or technical trade school. The recipient will be selected based upon her commitment to her education and demonstrated financial need.

If you are interested in applying for these scholarships or know of any ladies who would be candidates, please visit our website at www.jltulsa.org. You may also contact Ashwini Vaidya, Scholarship chair at scholarshipjlt@yahoo.com. Deadline for both applications is December 15, 2010.

Global Gardens

JLT works with Community Schools to provide financial assistance and volunteers for the Global Gardens after-school program to establish garden spaces for high-risk students and their families at Rosa Parks Elementary School.



This past year JLT assisted the students in purchasing a tent and establishing a booth at the Cherry Street Farmer's Market in addition to purchasing a shed and tools for gardening equipment.

Global Gardens is having a "Come and See" open house Saturday, October 16 from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. at Eugene Field. Questions contact Ashley Farthing at afarthing@tulsazoo.org.

Coming Events

- JLT committee members volunteering weekly at Rosa Parks Elementary starting September 6
- Cindi Hemm, Eugene Field Principal, will speak about Global Gardens at the October 13 JLT general meeting
- Global Garden's five year celebration event at JLT headquarters Spring 2011.

Impact

JLT provides short-term volunteer assistance for Tulsa area 501(c)(3) organizations. The organizations apply for assistance and "done in a day" projects are chosen, planned and implemented by the committee.

This committee also oversees the Resonance Career Services Program and provides financial assistance and volunteers to support the Career Services Program at Resonance Center for Women, Inc. The Career Services Program currently provides job readiness and life skills training for women re-entering the community from the state and federal criminal justice system.

Coming Events

- Youth at Heart bowling event – September
- Crosstown Learning Center - October

Laura Dester Impact

JLT provides financial and volunteer assistance to the Laura Dester Children's Shelter. A variety of "done in a day" projects for the children at the shelter are chosen, planned and implemented by the committee with the direction from shelter staff.

2010-2011 Community Projects

Each year the Junior League of Tulsa (JLT) conducts in-depth research to identify critical emerging needs within our community and respond by developing projects to address those needs. Through collaboration with sponsoring agencies, intensive training of our membership, and direct service through volunteer hours and fund development, JLT strives to establish each community project as self-supporting before it is returned to its sponsoring agency for long-term implementation, usually within three years. This unique leadership model has allowed JLT to serve a vital role in the success of Tulsa's most prominent community agencies, such as Ronald McDonald House, Youth Services of Tulsa, Mayfest and the Francis Willard Home for Girls, while providing essential training for Tulsa's next generation of community volunteers. Current community projects of the Junior League of Tulsa include:

Mary Anne Thoman

Community Program Vice President

Kathleen Jones

June - September

Amy Greene

October - May

Community Council Vice President

Ashly Hensley

Community Council Assistant

Ashleigh Boedeker

Saint Francis Chair

Ashley Farthing

Global Gardens Chair

Stephanie Currington

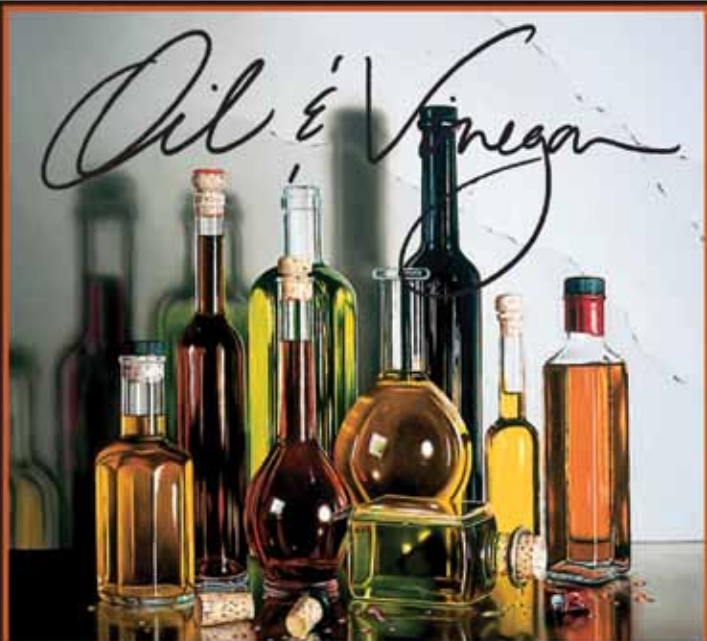
Laura Dester Impact

Sutton Murray

Impact Chair

Ashwini Vaidya

Scholarship Chair



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2011 Decadence DIAMONDS and DENIM

Webster's Dictionary defines a diamond as "the hardest known mineral"... "precious"... "something of...brilliance, value, or fine quality". The members of the Junior League of Tulsa have much in common with diamonds. Every member brings to the League their own fine quality and brilliance, and we're all tough as the hardest known mineral.

From the Child Abuse Network, to the Family Resource Library at the Children's Hospital at St. Francis; from Global Gardens to Resonance, the Junior League of Tulsa is known for rolling up their sleeves and delving in to support the community of Tulsa, whether they do it in denim or diamonds. The members of this year's Decadence committee are committed to continuing that support for the community.

Decadence 2011 will highlight the various community projects the Junior League of Tulsa has been committed to over the years.

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