

THE MAGAZINE OF  
THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF TULSA

Volume 9, Issue 3  
SUMMER 2012

# gusher

[www.jltulsa.org](http://www.jltulsa.org)

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# from the editor...

"If your actions create a legacy that inspires other to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, then you are an excellent leader." – Dolly Parton

I never thought I'd find myself saying "Dolly Parton said it best!" but here I go. The above quote is exactly what this issue of *gusher* is all about – the legacy of the Junior League of Tulsa and its members.

Oftentimes in Junior League we talk about leadership; after all, this is a training organization that helps women do just that – become better leaders, but when we talk about leadership, we must also remember to talk about legacy. I strongly believe that being an excellent leader naturally allows you to leave a lasting legacy. That's why we have dedicated this issue to how the Junior League of Tulsa acts as a training organization for women, and ultimately, how that training has made and will make a lifelong impression on the Tulsa community.

In this issue, you will read about one such JLT member whose legacy has already spanned 50 years with many more to come. Katie Westby, along with the Junior League of Tulsa, founded the Arts and Humanities Council in 1961. Find how that organization is remembering Katie and the impact she made.

You'll also read several first-hand accounts from current JLT members about how their training in Junior League excelled other areas of their life. For example, Brandi Thomas landed a new job, Marnie Fernandez's personal skills grew and Ashleigh Boedecker shined on another community project – all, in part, because of the training they received at the Junior League of Tulsa.

As we approach our 90th year, we can't help but take a look at our rich past. Through the decades, the Junior League of Tulsa has established projects you may be surprised to hear such as Domestic Violence Intervention Services (DVIS), the Ronald McDonald House and the Child Abuse Network (CAN), just to name a few. If you want more information on the Junior League of Tulsa, check out our website at [jltulsa.org](http://jltulsa.org). There's a very cool historical timeline that lists all of our community projects through the years.

With that said, it's now time for me to leave my legacy and say goodbye to you as this year's editor of *gusher*. It has been quite a training experience for me as I never thought I could be the editor of a magazine! But more importantly, it has been a true honor showcasing the Junior League of Tulsa – an organization that will forever leave a lasting impression upon my heart.

Sincerely,



Tracy Guara  
Editor 2011-2012

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Carissa Cooper

Marnie Fernandez

Christina Fravel, Photographer

Brett Weston Jacobs

Brandi Thomas

Bridget Treadwell

BJ Weintraub



# Letter from the President

It has been an honor and a blessing to serve as your Junior League President this year. It has been my all-time favorite JLT placement. Thank you for allowing me this opportunity. I want to offer my sincere thanks to each of you for your commitment to the League and for what we have accomplished this year.

As I reflect on our year of Love, Serve, Lead, I have pondered the question "How have we advanced the mission this year?" I have watched our members grow as community leaders, stretch themselves to try new things, reach out a helping hand to a fellow member and encourage her along in her journey. Your love for our organization, our community and our mission has been evident in everything you have done. You have inspired me countless times.

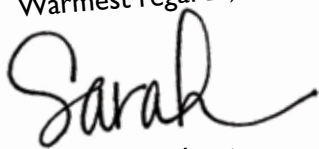
Vicki Clark told us last summer "our work is the woman." That is the perfect description for the focus of the Board of Directors this past year. I want to thank the Board for embracing my vision and passion to focus on our membership. We have spent 18 months working together and have exceeded anything I could have ever dreamed. It has been a humbling experience to work with such dynamic, passionate women.

I loved having the opportunity to work with president-elect Heather Duncan this year and our League has already benefited so much from her leadership. I am confident she will lead our organization to new heights in the coming year.

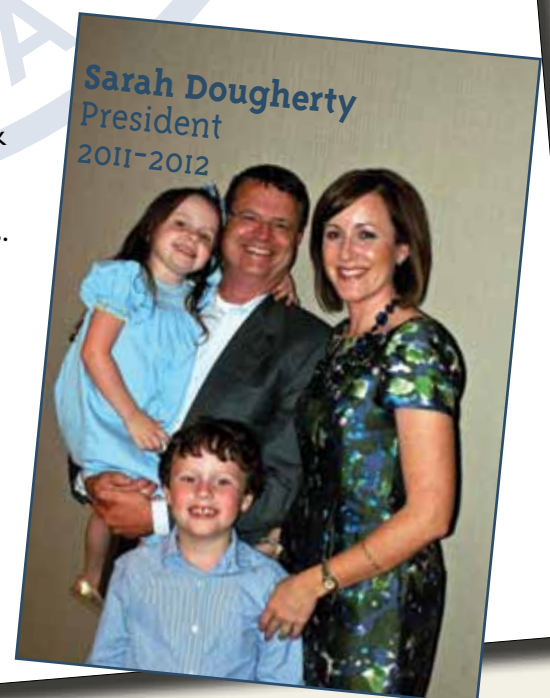
As I transition my membership to Sustainer status, I want to borrow a line from one of our family's favorite movies Toy Story; "You've got a friend in me."

I thank each of you for the blessing of serving with you this year. I look forward to your future accomplishments and the opportunity to see JLT Love, Serve, and Lead in the Tulsa community in the coming years.

Warmest regards,



Sarah Dougherty  
2011-2012 President



# Please Meet My Sister

By Brett Weston Jacobs

*“A leader is one who knows the way, goes the way, and shows the way.”*

According to this quote by John C. Maxwell, my sister is the ultimate leader. The eldest of eleven children, Heather Duncan never had anyone to show her the way, but somehow always seemed to know it. Her numerous accomplishments not only portray a fraction of the incredible person she is, but have given her ten younger siblings an example to follow.

In my eyes, Heather has always known what to do, no matter what the situation. She always has a clear and efficient plan. I remember back to my thirteenth birthday. Having anxiously awaited my birthday dinner, I was disappointed at the outcome. My sister stepped in and instantly cured everything. With sympathy, insight, and quick thinking, Heather hastily made reservations at my favorite restaurant and gave me a birthday that exceeded my expectations. This is just one of a thousand stories that come to mind when I think of my sister.

After graduating with honors from Metro Christian Academy, Heather attended Oklahoma State University where she graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration while simultaneously completing the GAP Inc., work study program and then a full time management position. She was also an active member of Kappa Alpha Theta. After college, Heather went on to become the youngest district manager of William Sonoma Inc., making an easy transition from student to working professional. Heather's heart for helping others also took priority in her schedule, as she made time for such activities as the Tulsa Boys Home. She served their Junior Women's Association as a member, then as a board member, and eventually as president.

She has been a part of the Junior League of Tulsa since 2005, where she's held several positions of leadership. Most recently she has served as chair of the Denim and Diamonds fundraiser, VP of Communications Council, and now President. But I'm still not finished. On top of all these accomplishments, Heather is both an amazing wife and mother. She will be celebrating her 13th wedding anniversary with

her husband, Jason, in August, and with him she has raised two great boys—Jack, who is ten years old, and Henry, who is five.

Being the eldest of such a large family, leadership comes naturally and necessarily for Heather. She is persistent and dedicated, as a good leader must be. I have never seen her fail at anything, because she refuses to give up. She puts everything she has into whatever task may fall upon her. With her as president of JLT, you can only expect the best. She is a woman who has not just been successful with everything she's done, but someone who I have always looked up to. She inspires me, and everyone around her to be at their best and I can honestly say she is one of the strongest women I have ever met. I am very excited about this opportunity to see her lead the women of the Junior League of Tulsa.

Sarah Dougherty, 2011-2012 President passes the gavel to incoming President, Heather Duncan during the May General Meeting.





# Transitions

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 the *gusher* at [gusher@jltulsa.org](mailto:gusher@jltulsa.org)

## Small Miracles

### Walter Cash Bradshaw

Born December 12, 2011  
Son of Kristin (A)  
and Jeremiah



### Trevor Price Sack

Born November 31, 2011  
Son of Kristal (A) and Justin

### William Thomas Coffman, II

Born May 31, 2011  
Son of Jordan (S) and Scott



## Wedding

**Bridget Davidson** (A) to John Matthew Treadwell  
on May 26, 2012

## Congratulations

**Leah Ashlock** (A) served as the Open Your Heart Chair for the American Heart Association. Leah's leadership helped to raise almost \$87,000 for the organization.

**Deidra Kirtley** (S) is the new Executive Director of Resonance.

**Paula Settoon** (A) is the new Dean of Learning Resources Centers for Tulsa Community College.

**Kim Smith** (A) was recognized at the May General Meeting for 20 years of active membership/service to the Junior League of Tulsa.

## Achievements

Recognized with the Spirit of the League award, the **2011-2012 Provisional Committee** led the first-ever provisional project. Through a partnership with the non-profit organization, Rebuilding Together Tulsa, the provisional group gathered donations to revitalize a home in one of Tulsa's under-served neighborhoods. Read more about the project on page 13.

The Catherine Costanza Provisional of the Year award was presented to **Kimberly Qualls** during the May general meeting. Said Qualls, "knowing that a group of women saw my abilities as a strength and something worth honoring is an incredible opportunity."

**Kristal Sack** was recognized with the Volunteer of the Year award for her leadership in the Junior League of Tulsa's largest fundraising event, Denim and Diamonds.

**Lisa Berry** and **Beverly Schafer** received the Junior League of Tulsa's Sustainers of the Year Award. With over 60 years combined service to the League, both women shine as bright examples of service and love for not only the League—but for their community as well.

## Thanks

Thank you, **Laurie Brumbaugh** and **Doris Brown**. Your legacy of commitment and service are an honor to the Junior League of Tulsa. On behalf of all League members, we wish you both the very best.



Award-winning photography!

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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

## Community Advisory Board 2011-2012

**Debi Friggel**  
QuikTrip

**Ken Busby**, Executive Director & CEO  
Arts & Humanities Council of Tulsa

**Mike Neal**  
Chamber of Tulsa

**Carolyn Blair**  
Gilcrease Museum/University of Tulsa

**Ann Fields, CPA**  
Heatherington & Fields

**Doug Dejarnette**  
F&M Bank

**Gary Percefull**  
Tulsa Public Schools Rep/Scissortail Group

**Tim Harris**  
Tulsa County District Attorney

**Michelle Hardesty**  
Hardesty Foundation

**Jan Creveling**  
Tulsa Area Community Schools

**Lee Clark Johns**  
Strategic Communication, Inc.

## August

**25 Provisional Retreat**

Corks and Cookies -  
Join us from 4-5 at Headquarters  
to welcome the new Provisional  
Class and new Office Manager,  
Sharmien Watkins. We will also  
say thanks and best wishes to  
Doris and Laurie.

## September

**19 General Membership  
Meeting**

## October

**17 General Membership  
Meeting**

SAVE THE DATE!

## Board of Directors 2011-2012

**President** Sarah Dougherty

**President-elect** Heather Duncan

**Treasurer** Jennifer Roberson

**Treasurer-elect** Jenny Lizama

**Recording Secretary** Jordan Coffman

**Corresponding Secretary** Amy Greene

**Communications Council VP** Paula Settoon

**Community Council VP** Sutton Murray

**Community Program VP** Kim Smith

**Financial Council VP** Ashleigh Boedeker

**Membership Council VP** Rita Burke

**Nominating Chair** Alison Wade

**Strategic Planning Chair** Abigail Prescott

**Sustainer Advisor** Deidra Kirtley

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:

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E-mail: [info@ajli.org](mailto:info@ajli.org)  
[www.ajli.org](http://www.ajli.org)

# Hello, Sustainers!



**Sue Curry**  
Sustaining President

## 2011-2012

### Sustaining Board

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

### Want to get involved in Sustainer Activities?

*Membership Dues/  
Communications*  
Sharmien Watkins at HQ  
663-6100

*Book Club*  
Annabel Jones  
629-7553  
ajones@samson.com

*Lunch Club*  
Robyn Cannon  
298-7753  
rlcannon@cox.net

*Restaurant Club*  
Ann Foster  
694-6118  
ann.foster@hilti.com

As I write my final "Letter to the Sustainers" in *gusher* marking the end of my three year term as Sustaining President, I think back to all of the good times I have had with you. My three years serving you were complemented by an outstanding Sustaining Advisory Board who supportively commit to JLT and the JLT Sustainers. Thank you to all JLT Sustainers, the JLT Boards and Presidents during my term for your support! A special thank you goes to Sustainer Ann Foster for the pictures she took at Sustainer events and published with my letter in *gusher*.

Spring hosted good times for JLT Sustainers. The Spring Party on April 19 at the home of Carla Gilbert was so festive. El Rancho Grande provided the Mexican Fiesta food, and it was delicious! Carla's beautiful house, pool and patios provided the lovely setting! Thank you Carla for being the perfect hostess!

The Sustainer Clubs met during spring with interesting reads in Book Club and dining experiences in Lunch Club and Restaurant Club. April's book selection was the classic *Madame Bovary* by Gustav Flaubert reviewed by Annabel Jones at the home of Earlene Gathright. Flaubert's first novel focuses on a doctor's wife, Emma Bovary, and her quest of affairs to compensate for an empty life in provincial France. The May meeting was held at the home of Debbie Luthey with Mary Alice Ahlgren leading the discussion on *The Paris Wife* by Paula McLain. The book captures the love affair and marriage of Earnest Hemingway and his wife Hadley.

Lunch Club met at Mi Cocina on Cherry Street in March and at Charleston's, Brookside, in April. Lunch Club did not meet in May and is taking a break this summer resuming in the fall. Restaurant Club enjoyed dinners at Bonefish Grill in March, at Michael V's in April and Mondo's in May. A farewell dinner was held in May at McGill's on South Yale honoring Sustainer Teresa Flushe who moved to Albuquerque, New Mexico. We will miss Teresa who was so active in Sustainer activities! Also, congratulations go to Sustainers Lisa Berry and Beverly Schafer upon receiving Sustainers of the Year at the May General Meeting.

JLT Sustainers is an engaging venue to support JLT and stay connected to each other. I look forward to continuing in participation under the leadership of Mary Alice Ahlgren, incoming Sustaining President. Mary Alice has served on the Sustaining Advisory Board for several years, welcome Mary Alice!

Sincerely,

Sue Curry  
Sustaining President

*April  
Restaurant Club*



Jane Grimshaw, Tucky Hazen, Teresa Flushe, Dale Roberson



# Spring Party



Mary Alice Ahlgren, Pam Rosser, Denise Piland, Ann Foster, Sue Curry, Robyn Cannon, Dru Johnson



Francine Bandy, Dianne Dericks, Lindsay Patterson



Hostess Carla Gilbert, Denise Piland, Ann Foster



Robyn Cannon, Beth Rainey, Fritz Prather



Ann Foster, Robyn Cannon, Pam Rosser, Sue Curry, Dru Johnson

# March Restaurant Club



Terry Waller, Kate Davis, Pam Rosser



Dale Roberson, Cathey Harned, Ellen Fuller



Doris Brown, Revelle Clausing

# March Lunch Club



Meredith Blackstock, Fritz Prather, Carla Gilbert Ann Foster



Robyn Cannon, Maggie Cornell, Francine Bandy, Beth Rainey



# Remembering Katie

By Tracy Guara, gusher Editor

*"Katie Westby was something else!"*

*"Katie will most likely be remembered as queen of the arts."*

*"Katie was a remarkable woman..."*

These are all quotes said by various people about Katie Westby, a true civic leader of the Tulsa community and a former President of the Junior League of Tulsa. Fifty years ago, Katie Westby, along with other League members, established the Tulsa Arts Council, now known as the Arts and Humanities Council of Tulsa.

Today, the Council is a service provider to more than 60 arts and cultural organizations. In addition, it provides arts education resources to more than 62,000 youth, mostly from at-risk and underserved populations, each year in Tulsa County, according to Ken Busby, Executive Director and CEO.

As the organization sets out on another 50 years with the brand new 42-thousand square-foot Hardesty Arts Center currently under construction, they are celebrating their anniversary and Katie's legacy. On May 18, 2012 the organization hosted a gala called *Remembering Katie* at the Harweldon Mansion. It featured a French bistro theme, a nod to the French

film *The Red Balloon*, Katie's favorite. Guests were entertained by a 17-piece orchestra and an evening celebrating the arts. One-thousand red balloons were also released in her honor.

Ken Busby said, "I think we truly captured the essence of Katie Westby. It was a complete success and because of that, we have decided to throw one big party every year. Just a night of dancing and great food to remember Katie because Katie and the Junior League of Tulsa are who started it all."

In addition to helping found the Arts & Humanities Council, Katie worked tirelessly on the Tulsa Performing Arts Center and Tulsa Arts Commission. In 1969, Katie was responsible for helping to pass an ordinance that 1 percent of the cost of a building, paid for by city of Tulsa taxpayers is designated to public art.

"She wanted Tulsa to be a home for the arts. That was always in her mind -- how could she improve the quality of life for residents and for visitors to Tulsa. Her gift was a belief in the power of the arts and that everyone deserved to have access to them," Busby said.

The historic Westby House at the University of Tulsa currently serves as the home of the University's President. It is the former home of Katie Westby, who was a

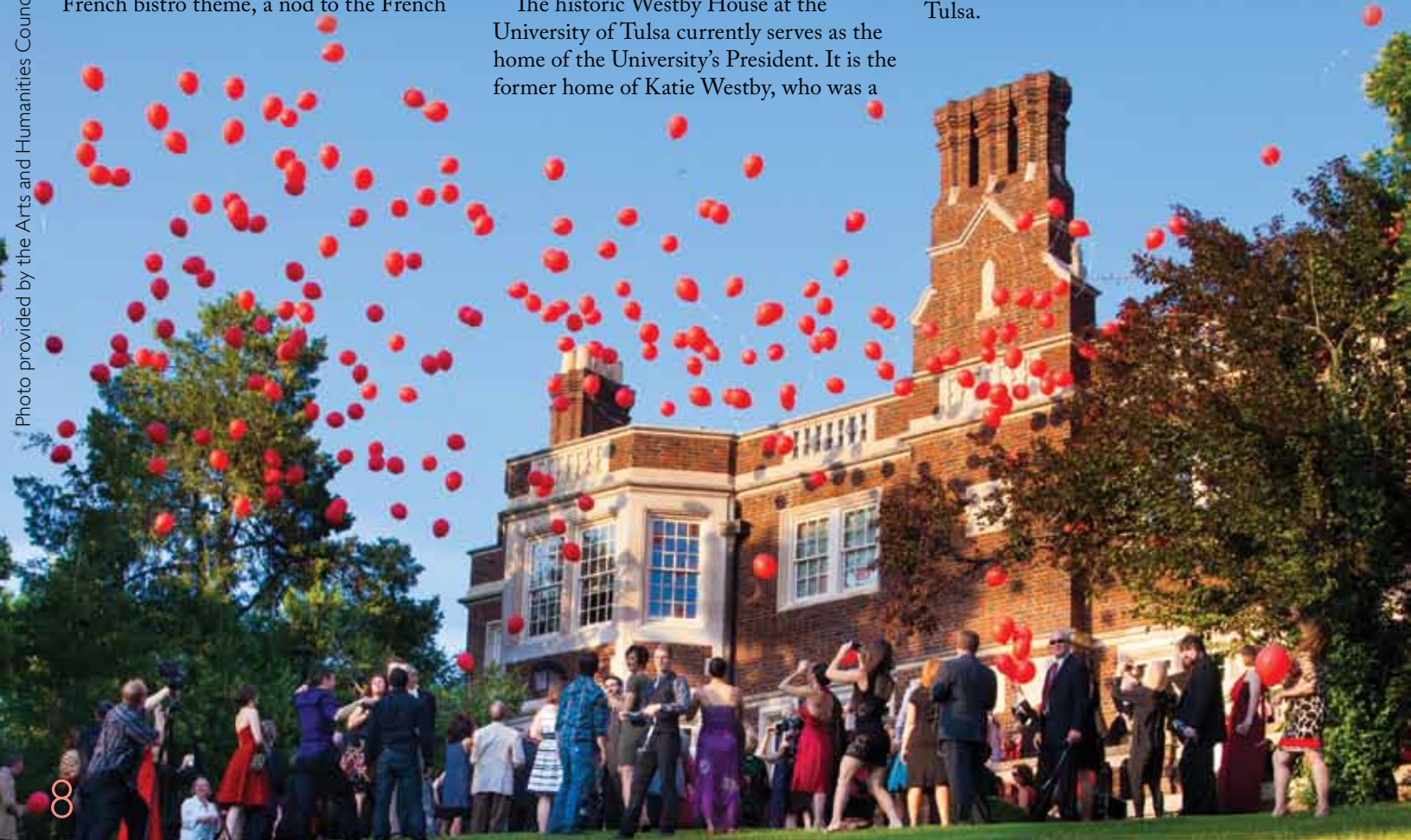


longtime supporter of TU and served on the Board of Trustees. The Junior League of Tulsa also has a Westby room, located at the Headquarters building, named for her contributions.

And get this—according to the Oklahoma Heritage Association, from 1946 to 1973, Katie Westby served as a member, chairman, president, secretary, or director of nearly 50 different organizations on the local, state, and national levels.

There's no doubt Katie Westby left behind quite a legacy and we're proud to say she was a part of the Junior League of Tulsa.

Photo provided by the Arts and Humanities Council of Tulsa.





# SPOTLIGHT ON: Community Advisory Board

**Debra Friggel, QuikTrip Corporation**

**Please tell us a little about your background/role in the community.**

I have lived in Tulsa most of my life. I was the Vice President of Community Research and Development when I was in the Junior League of Tulsa in the 80's. I currently am the Community Relations Manager of QuikTrip Corp.



**Explain your role on the JLT Community Advisory Board.**

I was invited to join as a person who is connected to a lot of the non-profits in Tulsa, through advisory capacity and/or support from QuikTrip.

**Why do you think JLT is important to the Tulsa Area?**

There is a very vital role to be played in our communities these days with our volunteers. Over the last 30 years, with so many educated women working, it has drastically impacted our communities' volunteer capacity.

**Doug DeJarnette, F&M Bank & Trust Company**

**Please tell us a little about your background/role in the community.**

Born and raised in Tulsa, I attended Cascia Hall and went on to study finance at the University of Oklahoma. In 2000, I entered the training program at Bank of Oklahoma with a focus on private banking. After ten years at BOK, I decided to join the F&M Bank & Trust Company, where I now manage the private bank.

**Explain your role on the JLT Community Advisory Board.**

The Community Advisory Board serves to counsel and advise the Junior League on issues that directly impact and/or need immediate attention in the Tulsa Area. This Board is made up of a diverse group of individuals that collectively provide suggestions and feedback on ways the Junior League can address Tulsa's challenges.

**Why do you think JLT is important to the Tulsa Area?**

The Junior League is a very unique organization that continually produces strong leaders for the communities that they serve. JLT has molded countless female leaders for the Tulsa area and continues to be one of the strongest chapters in the U.S.



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# Profiles in Training

Among the many positive aspects of the Junior League of Tulsa (JLT), is the organization's ability to provide training opportunities to League members. Throughout the years, these opportunities have assisted members in developing their personal legacy, whether it is preparing them to find a new career or helping them to successfully manage or plan other volunteer activities. Below are member testimonials on JLT's training success in their personal lives, and legacies.

## Confidence, contacts and ability

by Ashleigh Boedeker

In 2006, my family moved home to Tulsa where most of my friends were already members of JLT. I wanted to get involved, but I was also pregnant with my third child, in addition to having a two and three year old. However, I decided it was time to join the Provisional class. Since then, balancing all of my responsibilities seems like a juggling act, but definitely worth the effort.

I have a heart for public service. I was immediately drawn to placements within JLT that would provide me with opportunities to serve others. Ever since my first active year, I have chaired a committee. My first experience was to chair "Kids in the Kitchen" on the IMPACT committee. At the time, it was a new program for the Association of Junior Leagues International, Inc. (AJLI) with few guidelines. I was forced to go out of my comfort zone and design projects that I felt met the expectations of the program. Following the many examples of other women within leadership positions in JLT, I was able to design events and even partner with a city-wide event to target childhood obesity.

After that success, I had more confidence to accept larger placements within JLT. I went on to co-chair the American Girl Fashion Show where I learned an entirely new skill set ranging from organizing seven fashion shows (filled with 130 preteen girls and their moms), to securing sponsorships and auction items to managing teams of volunteers.

I have been able to transfer all of the skills that I have learned through JLT into other projects within the community. I now have the confidence, contacts and ability to organize large events which will benefit other organizations.

I will always be grateful for the opportunities and support I have received through the JLT framework and its members.





## Preparing to say “bye-bye Big Bird”

by Marnie Fernandez

Just short of three years ago, I walked away from a fifteen year career in public relations. I was at the top of my game, a Vice President for a PR firm and was considered a mover and shaker in the business community. Now my job consists of changing diapers, running carpool, endless loads of laundry and hoping to get a shower in every now and then. Sounds quite glamorous, doesn't it?



As I made the transition into full time motherhood – I also knew that I would at some point and time return to the working world. (There is only so much Sesame Street and Ring Around the Rosy I can take.) While the decision is the right one for my family right now, I also know that if I want to re-enter the workforce, it is important that I keep my skills relevant.

To me, that is the beauty of Junior League.

I joined in 2009, just at the same time I was making all these major changes in my life. After serving on a few committees, I was asked to chair the Marketing Committee in 2011.

During my year as chair, I not only was able to keep up my public relations skills – I also learned some new skills – such as budgeting, running a committee meeting and managing volunteers. Now I'm not saying I did a stellar job at any of it, as the

year definitely had its share of ups and downs. However, the structure of Junior League is one that is full of support. I always had someone to turn to, someone who could help me navigate the waters and answer questions. I am very grateful to my council and to my committee as I couldn't have done any of it without these great ladies.

Junior League is not only a great volunteer organization, but also a great leadership training organization too. This is not something I thought about when I joined, but it has turned out to be a wonderful asset.

And when I decide to retire Big Bird, Elmo and the gang for a suit and heels, I'll be all that more prepared.

## Developing the potential in ourselves

by Brandi Thomas

My husband says that I walk a fine line between feeling overwhelmed with responsibility and being bored to tears. With this mantra in mind and my belly swollen with my third child, I marched into the Junior League of Tulsa headquarters and signed up to become a volunteer.

For seven years I carefully balanced the responsibilities of domestic engineer and mother with the fulfilling experiences of helping others in my community. I tended garden with underprivileged school children, hosted fundraising fashion shows and coordinated vendors for our annual Holiday Market.

When it came time to pack up that last baby and send her to preschool, it was no surprise to anyone when I decided to add just one more thing to my plate. What else would I do with all of that “free time”? I

casually mentioned to a friend that I was day-dreaming about trading in my yoga pants for a power suit, and she suggested that I apply for her recently relinquished marketing position. With no sales experience, I laughed off the suggestion. How could a former teacher, and current stay-at-home-mom compete for a highly coveted marketing job? It was then that my friend reminded me of my experience with the Junior League.

I realized between breast-feeding, diapering, and folding laundry; I was also event planning, negotiating contracts and managing sales.

I decided to take a leap of faith. I scrubbed the finger paint off my computer screen and began to rewrite my antiquated resume. By the time I was done, my new revised resume boasted accomplishments such as, “increased client base from 90 merchants to 137 within one calendar year” and “raised net revenue by 78 percent”. As I built up my resume, I also built up my confidence - and landed the job.

I have a new appreciation for the Junior League of Tulsa. I always knew that it would afford me new friends, experiences, and the gratification of helping others. Now, I also see JLT as a training organization. One whose mission is to, “develop the potential of women”. With that in mind, we must never forget that the women we develop the most, is ourselves.



# That's a Wrap

*The Junior League of Tulsa's May meeting wraps up another successful year*



by Bridget Treadwell

The May 9 general meeting for the Junior League of Tulsa (JLT) celebrated the accomplishments of what busy women can do for their communities. From revitalizing a home through the Provisional project to chairing Denim and Diamonds, JLT members rose to the challenge to Love, Serve, and Lead.

## *Love*

Recognized with the Spirit of the League award, the 2011-2012 Provisional committee led the first-ever Provisional project. Through a partnership with the non-profit organization, Rebuilding Together Tulsa, the Provisional group gathered donations to revitalize a home in one of Tulsa's underserved neighborhoods. (More information on the project can be found on the next page.)

"I truly feel blessed to have been a part of this committee this year. I discovered things about myself as a team player, a leader and a League member. I had the opportunity to see into others' lives and their experiences with the League first hand. It has made me more humble, more understanding and much more open to every personality, leadership style and commitment in League," said Brooke Sturdivant, Provisional liaison.

On winning the Spirit of the League award, Ashli Rodgers, Provisional liaison, added, "it was such a wonderful surprise and so exciting! We had a great group of liaisons and Provisionals. Winning this just makes our year even better."

## *Serve*

For Kristal Sack, the award for Volunteer of the Year has extra meaning for her as she gave birth to her second son while continuing her responsibilities as the chair for JLT's largest fundraising event, Denim and Diamonds. "I was shocked and honored (to receive the award)," said Sack. "I get my drive to volunteer every night when I put my two precious boys to bed, look at my life and my wonderful husband and realize how lucky I am. Any spare time I have, I want to use it to try and improve the lives of other people who may not have all the blessings that I do."

Beverly Schafer and Lisa Berry were recognized with the Sustainers of the Year award. Said, Berry, "It (the award) is very humbling....it was a wonderful surprise and I am most appreciative."

## *Lead*

The May meeting also provided a moment to recognize the present and future leaders of JLT, starting with the Founder's Scholarship Award, recognizing two, female Tulsa area high school seniors, pursuing higher education and displaying an early commitment to volunteerism. Seniors Savannah Nicks, from Booker T. Washington High School and Summer Hill, a student at Owasso High School, received \$1,500 scholarships for their countless hours of volunteerism while maintaining high marks in their classwork.

Kimberly Qualls, received recognition as the Provisional of the Year for her leadership and volunteer efforts.

Wrapping up the year and looking to the future, a special video tribute to outgoing president, Sarah Dougherty, recognized her legacy in leading JLT for the past year. But, by the end of the evening, the gavel was officially turned over to Heather Duncan as she began her first address as the JLT President for the 2012-2013 League year.

Duncan marked this upcoming year with aggressive goals to update JLT's strategic plan and provide a clear scope on the League's community impact. The night wrapped up with a challenge to, "keep doing what you're doing every single day" and identify opportunities to be a mentor and promote JLT in the community.





# Building a Better Tulsa, One Home at a Time

by B.J. Weintraub

On Saturday, April 28, the Junior League of Tulsa (JLT) partnered with Rebuilding Together Tulsa, a local non-profit organization and leader in home repairs, for their Annual Rebuild Day. Beginning early in the morning, JLT volunteers worked throughout the day to complete the finishing touches on home repairs, which started in January, for Ms. Jessica.

This year marked the fifteenth Rebuild Day for Rebuilding Together Tulsa and is the organization's largest volunteer event, bringing together local corporations, churches and civic organizations. Since 1997, the organization has assisted more than 1,000 homeowners on repairs focused on safety, security and weatherproofing, as well as improving communities and neighborhoods. Repairs can include almost anything from painting to roof replacement. To qualify for assistance, homeowners must live within Tulsa city limits, show financial need and be over the age of 60 or live with a disability.

For JLT, this volunteer activity had extra special meaning because it served as the first-ever Provisional-led project. Throughout the months leading up to the rebuild day, the Provisional committee liaisons and the 2011-2012 provisional class worked tirelessly to collect monetary and product donations.

"The Junior League of Tulsa's motto is women building a better Tulsa. What better way to honor our motto than to help someone in our community build a better home?" said B.J. Weintraub, Provisional committee chair. "I am thrilled at the response we had from our members through either volunteering their time to help with the Annual Rebuild Day or from generous donations."

## *Special thanks*

On behalf of the 2011-2012 Provisional class, special thanks to the following individuals for donating to the Provisional class project:

**Kristin Bradshaw**  
**Doris Brown**  
**Rita Burke**  
**Kimberly Butts**  
**Amanda Chalmers**  
**Jessica DuBois**  
**Linda Dutke**  
**Christina Clayton**  
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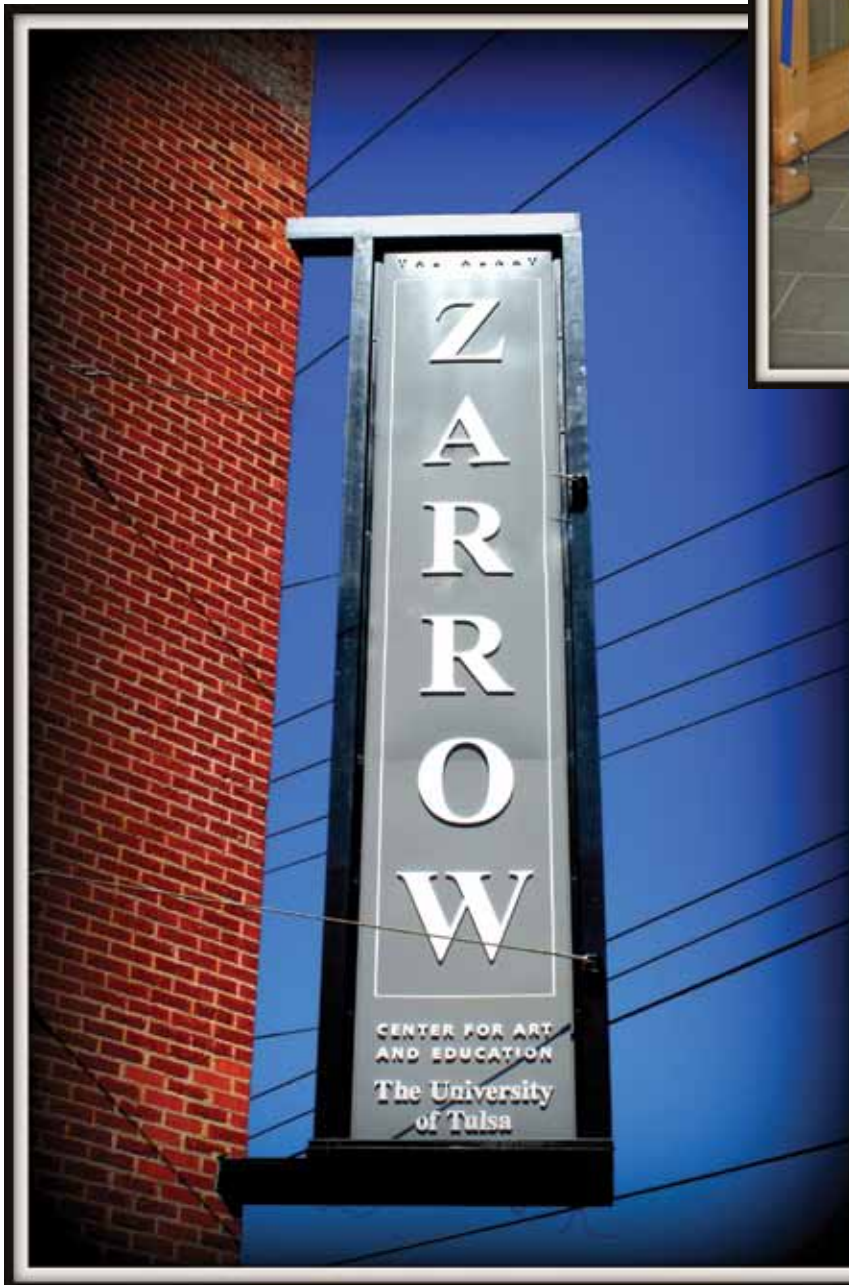
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# Zarrow Center for Art & Education Opens Doors

by Carissa Cooper

It began over fifty years ago when the Junior League of Tulsa (JLT) and the Gilcrease Museum of Art partnered together to create the Gillies, the volunteer organization serving the Gilcrease Museum. Today, the Gillies remains as strong as ever with more than 300 men and women from a variety of backgrounds who provide volunteer services to the Museum in various areas of operations. Fast forward to 2012 and the partnership between JLT and the Gilcrease Museum continues today with amazing results.

On May 15, JLT and the Gilcrease Museum, along with the University of Tulsa, celebrated the grand opening of the



Henry Zarrow Center for Art and Education. The Zarrow Center serves as a dynamic arts anchor to the University of Tulsa's School of Art, Division of Lifelong Learning and the Gilcrease Museum. The three-story Zarrow Center spans 18,000 square feet and has been renovated to include classrooms, art studios, gallery space and a reception area for public and private events

During the grand opening celebration, more than fifty Junior League of Tulsa (JLT) volunteers contributed 130+ hours of time and service to the launch. From greeting and educating guests about the first floor gallery space and inaugural, temporary exhibition, *Landscapes from the Brush of Thomas Moran* to assisting local art educators teach activities such as stained glass window charms, cityscape relief prints, art deco tiles, mask making and the construction of a wire sculpture circus, JLT volunteers did it all!

Students came from Zarrow International School, Kendall Whittier Elementary School, San Miguel Catholic Schools, and True Blue Youth Mentoring Group for the day's activities. "It was so much fun to see the enthusiasm and creativity of the kids as they worked with the teachers to create their art. They were inspired by the beautiful surroundings and the new materials they



were using,” said JLT member Ashleigh Boedeker.

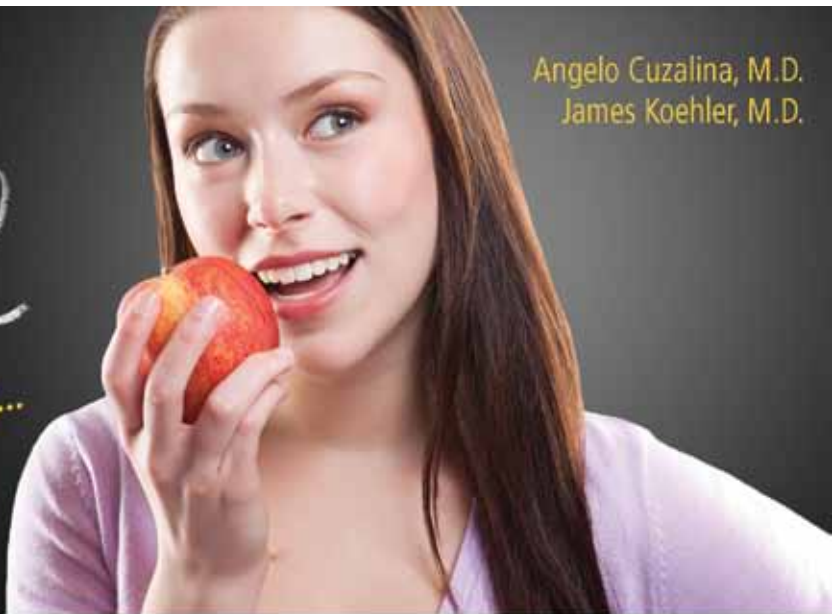
When asked about JLT’s volunteer efforts, Jan Zink, senior vice president of planning and outreach for the University of Tulsa said, “we owe a great debt of gratitude to the Junior League of Tulsa for their members’ creativity, commitment and hard work on behalf of the Henry Zarrow Center for Art and Education and all those we serve. The JLT’s trademark dedication has helped make this project a tremendous success and an asset for our community that we know will be well used and enjoyed by many.”

While there were lots of art activities taking place in the classrooms, the launch also provided an open invitation for guests to view the studio spaces reserved for University of Tulsa, Master of Fine Arts graduate students. JLT volunteers were equipped to answer questions and serve as tour guides for the spaces. “The launch allowed the public a glimpse into the graduate students’ creative processes,” said JLT member Sutton Murray.

The 2012-2013 JLT Zarrow committee will enthusiastically continue to garner the need for various offerings in the realm of art education and awareness. “The Junior League of Tulsa has already made an invaluable mark on the Zarrow Center. The enthusiasm of the task force and now, the newly assigned committee, has paved the way for an exciting time in downtown Tulsa and the Brady Arts District,” said Alex Paschal, project manager for the Henry Zarrow Center for Art and Education. “We are thrilled to collaborate with the Junior League as we unroll Zarrow’s volunteer, art education and outreach programs.”



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# Community Corner

## **IMPACT – Resonance Center for Women**

On April 27, the IMPACT committee hosted an event, chaired by Jennifer Walling and Beth Pielsticker for the women of the Resonance Center for Women to inspire new hobbies and encourage healthy living. The Resonance Center promotes and supports the well-being and self-sufficiency of women and their families challenged by their experience with the criminal justice system, whether they are involved in the justice system or at risk of incarceration or returning to Tulsa after a period of incarceration.

The day's activities included helpful photography basics for digital and disposable cameras, as well as tips for capturing family memories from professional photographer, Mary Sharp.



Ayschia Saimeh, with Global Gardens, discussed the therapeutic hobby of gardening and personalized the experience for everyone with creativity and humor. And finally, Deanna Douthit from the YMCA of Tulsa educated the group about the mission of YMCA, explained financial aid for Y memberships, highlighted classes and YMCA events and taught a few stretching exercises. Douthit shared YMCA giveaways and free passes.

Along with lunch, the IMPACT committee also provided all of the participants with disposable cameras, pots, soil and seeds to take home.

## **Kids in the Kitchen Program Receives Cash Award from Kashi**

The Junior League of Tulsa (JLT), along with 28 other Leagues across the United States, received cash awards from Kashi to support the Kids in the Kitchen program, an Association of Junior Leagues International, Inc. (AJLI) volunteer-driven program addressing childhood obesity and nutrition.

AJLI President, Delly Beekman, said, "we're honored that Kashi has recognized the great work Junior Leagues do every day in their communities as well as the success of our Kids in the Kitchen program, one of the first community-based approaches to fighting childhood obesity. These Leagues will use their awards to sustain and expand their activities, and in doing so, honor the great work that Kashi is doing to support organizations like AJLI that are working to keep 'real food' in the minds and hands of communities throughout the country."

In conjunction with Global Gardens, the JLT Kids in the Kitchen Program, conducts cooking classes at Westside Harvest Market to promote healthy eating and lifestyles among children, discourage childhood obesity and empower individuals to live healthier lives. JLT volunteers focus primarily on preparing and cooking affordable, nutritious meal options and promoting mealtime as a family affair for local families.

"We believe that real food can truly change people's lives. Unfortunately, many communities have limited resources to make an impact," said Lara Gish, Ambassador for REAL Goodwill at Kashi. "Our mission with the Kashi REAL Project is to help more people enjoy real, wholesome foods through education and greater access. We are

truly proud to support the Junior Leagues' Kids in the Kitchen program, which has inspired kids and families in more than 200 communities to adopt healthier habits."







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