

THE MAGAZINE OF  
THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF TULSA

Volume 6, Issue 1  
**WINTER 2009**

# gusher

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

**Laura Dester  
Shelter**

**Community Schools**

**Diva Day!**

**PLUS:**

Decadence Gala and Holiday Market Review



A close-up photograph of a young child with light brown hair, seen in profile from the nose down. The child's mouth is open, blowing air towards a dandelion seed head. The dandelion is in the lower right foreground, with its seeds beginning to disperse. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green, suggesting an outdoor setting. The overall mood is gentle and hopeful.

# **The Tulsa World proudly supports the Junior League of Tulsa.**

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# from the editor...

The Laura Dester Shelter has quickly become a favorite community project of the Junior League of Tulsa. The children served there are at a critical juncture and in such need giving our members a true sense of accomplishment through our volunteer efforts. Artist Sharon Allred graciously allowed us to use her painting, "My Baby," on the cover. What struck us about this work is the firm resolve in the woman's face; she understands the magnitude and the responsibility of caring for and protecting the child, which is what Laura Dester Shelter does. See page 3 for more information about Sharon's work and the article on page 8 for more about the vital mission of the Laura Dester shelter.

This issue's League Leaders Jan Creveling and Genie Shannon are a wonderful example of League training serving the community long term. Through their involvement in Community Schools they affect the lives of thousands of at-risk children. They had so much fun reminiscing about their JLT placements and training, they even visited the JLT office to pull their old files and review their training history. Thank you Jan and Genie for your active involvement in this article series as well as the work you do to make our community a better place.

We have an exciting new fund raiser that benefits you and JLT's mission! Intrigued? See the Diva Day article on page 16 and plan to bring friends for a fabulous time and a new-to-you wardrobe, all the while supporting JLT's community projects.

Do you know a college-bound high school senior who is also an active community volunteer? If so, the JLT Scholarship article on page 5 could make a difference in her life. Applications are online at [www.jltulsa.org](http://www.jltulsa.org).

Break out the board games and start a new winter tradition with the help of JLT's fabulous Oil and Vinegar Cookbook, page 10. Proceeds benefit our community projects.

We also review our successful fall fundraisers Holiday Market and Decadence Gala. Many JLT volunteers put in countless hours to make these events possible, and many sponsors supported them. Hats off to them all!

The Junior League of Tulsa endeavors to be good stewards of the funds we raise. In keeping with this goal, Gusher is funded entirely by our advertisers. Please take a few moments to review them carefully and thank them sincerely on our behalf when patronizing their businesses.



Happy Winter,

*Mary Anne Thoman*

Mary Anne Thoman  
Editor 2008-2009

**On the cover:** Artist Sharon Allred's oil painting, "My Baby." Prints of "My Baby" are available for purchase (see page 3). A portion of sales will be donated to the Laura Dester Shelter.

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**gusher** is a quarterly publication of The Junior League of Tulsa, Inc., 3633 South Yale Ave., Tulsa, OK 74135, and is devoted to informing the membership and the community of current League projects, events and issues. For information on advertising in *Gusher* please go to [www.jltulsa.org](http://www.jltulsa.org) and click on *Gusher* or e-mail [gusher@jltulsa.org](mailto:gusher@jltulsa.org).

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Stephanie Leonard

### Thank you to our Guest Contributors

Robyn Amberg  
Cassie Barkett  
Sarah Buchan  
Abigail Prescott  
Cassie Reese  
Stacy Rippy

# Letter from the president

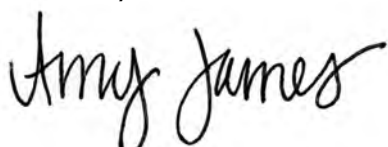
As I sit down to write this letter, I find there is so much to reflect upon! We had a very busy fall. We began two new community projects this year, we are in the middle of an extensive rewrite of our strategic plan, we completed three successful fundraisers, and we concluded our 85th Anniversary year. Whew! And that is in addition to all of our regular League work—staffing the Resource Library at the Children's Hospital at Saint Francis, helping high-risk kids build self-esteem in our Global Gardens project, carrying out our many Impact projects, doing the regular work of our committees, and general League operations. I'm struck by two things as I consider where we are—first, we have had incredible women in our organization these past 85 years who have transformed our community; and second, we have equally incredible women in our organization today who work tirelessly to make Tulsa a better and stronger community. Our future is brighter than ever!

As we delved into the past this year, we realized how important it is to connect with our heritage. With that in mind, we are holding a luncheon for sustainers on February 11 to provide an opportunity to reconnect with friends and JLT. Please watch your mail for details! We also realized there are so very many sustaining members who still work for the betterment of the League and the community, and we would like the opportunity to recognize and celebrate them through the Sustainer of the Year award. Please visit our website to learn more about submitting nominations to honor someone you know who has gone above and beyond in League and community service.

We also realized how important it is to insure our future. We are refining our leadership training program to prepare our members to be effective volunteers now as well as dedicated leaders in the future. We continue to work toward our endowment fund goal. We are looking for the most effective ways to grow our volunteer resources and financial resources to accomplish our goals. I invite you to encourage talented women you know to learn more about our organization and to consider contributing their time and volunteer efforts as a member of the Junior League of Tulsa.

With the current economic outlook, our community needs us more than ever. My appreciation goes out to all our advertisers, sponsors and donors for their generosity. And hats off to the many Junior League members who helped make our fundraisers successful with their countless hours of planning, tireless work, and support through grass roots publicity and ticket sales. We couldn't have done it without you! Though fundraising is not a part of our mission, it is so critical to achieve our mission—to continue the good work we do in the community and training our members to carry out our mission throughout their active League years and beyond.

Sincerely,



Amy James  
2008-2009 President



Amy James  
President  
2008-2009

*Junior League of Tulsa reaches out to women of all races, religions, & national origins who demonstrate an interest in and commitment to voluntarism.*

# Mission Statement

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

# 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

## Board of Directors 2008-2009

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## www.allredart.com

Tulsa artist, Sharon Allred, is pleased to offer giclee prints of her original oil painting, "My Baby," featured on the cover of this issue of Gusher magazine. Giclee prints are on archival canvas. 20% of sales will be donated to the Laura Dester Shelter.

11x14. . . . . \$210  
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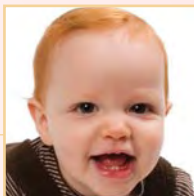


# Transitions

JLT Hugs Committee celebrates our members! Let us celebrate with you and share the exciting times that are taking place in your life! You are encouraged to share the following: birth announcements, engagement and wedding announcements, condolences, any community or business recognition, or announcement of a new job or promotion, etc. Please send all details to Heather Duncan, [hduncan@casciahall.org](mailto:hduncan@casciahall.org). We look forward to celebrating with you!

## Small Miracles

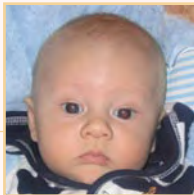
**William John Stava, IV "Will"**  
Born December 22, 2007



**Richard Luke Stava "Luke"**  
Born September 29, 2008  
Adopted Sons of Susie (A) and Jeff



**Connor James Grant**  
Son of Stacey (A) and Jason  
Born August 02, 2008



**Gabriela Rita Bendana**  
Daughter of Krista (P) and Charlie  
Born September 4, 2008



**Ian David Mason**  
Son of Laci (A) and Mitchell  
Born on September 24, 2008

**Stella Sebring Thomas**  
Daughter of Brandi (P) and Rick  
Born on September 29, 2008

**Sarah Margaret Leake**  
Daughter of Mary (A) and John  
Born October 21, 2008

**Charlotte Jade Laur**  
Daughter of Alexa (P) and Austen Laur  
Born October 27th 2008

**Cambell Mae Cornwell**  
Daughter of Lauren (A) and Ben  
Born November 6, 2008



## Achievements

**Dr. Brenda Lloyd-Jones**  
(S, past JLT President) has been named Associate Chair of the Department of Human Relations at the University of Oklahoma serving both the Tulsa and Norman campuses.



## Condolences

To Betsy Endicott (A) on the death of her grandmother.

To Shari Graham (S) on the death of her mother Virginia Kauffmann (S).

To Jean Holliman (S) and Joanna Holliman Potts (S) on the death of their husband and father.

To Vicki Lentz (A) on the death of her grandmother.

To Vicki Lentz (A) on the death of her father.

To Sarah Stewart (A) on the death of her father-in-law.

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*Leslie Hoyt*  
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# Junior League Scholarship

By Stephanie Leonard

Every year the Junior League of Tulsa offers scholarships to two young women who are college-bound Tulsa area high school seniors. The process begins in the fall semester with the JLT Scholarship committee contacting high school counselors in the area. Applications are available in January through area high schools and on the JLT website, [www.jltulsa.org](http://www.jltulsa.org). High school seniors with a demonstrated commitment to voluntarism and academic achievement, with a minimum GPA of 2.5, are qualified to apply. Finalists are interviewed in April; winners and their families are invited to the JLT year-end meeting in May where the scholarships are awarded.

The JLT Scholarships began when Laurie Brumbaugh was President elect (1998-1999). She had been working with another organization that awarded scholarships and it became apparent to her, based upon part of the JLT mission statement, "promoting voluntarism," that JLT should offer scholarships. She put together a proposal that was approved and the Scholarship Committee became part of the JLT community program in 1999-2000.

Funding for the first two \$1,000 scholarships came from a Leadership Tulsa Paragon Award presented to JLT President Debbie Ball (1998-1999) for her outstanding community service on behalf of JLT. It seemed fitting this award would fund scholarships based upon community service.

Past recipients Kristen Taylor and Megan Meussner share how the scholarship impacted them in their educational, career and life goals.

One of Kristen's educational goals was to leave college with a degree and as little debt as possible. She worked very hard during her Junior and Senior years in high school to earn as much scholarship money as she could. She was absolutely thrilled when she learned that she had received a scholarship from JLT. She was happy to be able to attend a Junior League meeting to accept the award and felt honored to include the Junior League scholarship on her resume when applying for college.

In 2004 she was awarded a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration from The University of Tulsa with only \$5,000 in student loans to pay off—due, in part, to the scholarship she received from Junior League.

After finishing school, she began working in the nonprofit sector, taking a position as a Community Specialist for Income Development at the American Cancer Society. After 2.5 years in this position, she became the Communications Director for Oklahoma with the ACS. In January of this year, she was promoted again to the position she holds currently: Community Development Director for Eastern Oklahoma. She has really enjoyed her career so far and truly appreciates the scholarship she received from Junior League. She hopes that her educational and professional success have made JLT proud!

The Junior League Scholarship did more than just help Megan Meussner with her educational goals, it helped her in her career path too. Attending the University of Tulsa, Megan was very grateful for the scholarship. Though JLT and TU she met one of her best friends, Jennifer Hulseley Campbell, the other JLT scholarship recipient that year. She was awarded her degree with a double major in Management and Marketing in 2005. She began working at TU planning stewardship events for the University and was promoted to Assistant Director of the Golden Hurricane Club, the fundraising arm of the athletics department, in February 2008.

She is currently working on her Masters in Business Administration at TU while working full time. She hopes her MBA will provide even more career opportunities. Megan is very grateful to JLT for the scholarship and the opportunities it provided her. She looks forward to joining Junior League in the future and to helping other women succeed in their educational goals through the JLT scholarship!



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Sustaining President

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Brenda Jones  
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Deborah Kurin

# Hello, Sustainers!

We want to let you know what a fun year we have been having; all our social events have been superb. We very much appreciated Julie Twilley offering her lovely home for our fall party and how much we enjoyed Erin Harp, Interior Designer, who provided many decorating tips for our homes. Below are a few pictures from the party so you can see everyone having a great time. It is nice to see people catching up and in fact, Francis Chandler, one of our sustainers, spoke to everyone at the party and told them how wonderful it was that there was so much love in the room from so many wonderful long-time Junior League friends.

We are also excited that we will be having our holiday party at Beverly Schafer's home. As you know, we had to cancel our holiday party at Beverly's home last year due to the ice storm. We are very excited that she agreed to have it again so we can see her wonderful holiday decorations.

As for Book Club and Restaurant Club, they are going strong. Ann Foster, Restaurant Club Chairman, said "We keep adding members who want to be included in our group, since they've heard from others how much fun our dinners are! We continue to meet whether its summertime or the holidays, even if we only have a few ladies attend." We also know that the Book Club is having a fun time and that many members can't wait to get to the next book to read.

Lastly, I wanted to say a personal thank you to each of you. Your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time have been very much appreciated and I couldn't have made it without you. I especially want to thank the Sustainer Board for stepping in and taking care of our fall party which allowed me to spend the last several days with my mother before she passed away. We lost a remarkable woman, Virginia Kauffmann, who gave so much of her time to the Tulsa community. She treasured being a part of the Junior League of Tulsa and spoke very highly of the wonderful friendships that she made through the years. I am so grateful that she instilled this in me too so that I could be involved in such a wonderful organization. I truly miss her every day and am so grateful that I have your tremendous support.

May each of you have a Happy New Year!

Sincerely,  
Shari Graham  
President of the Junior League of Tulsa Sustainers

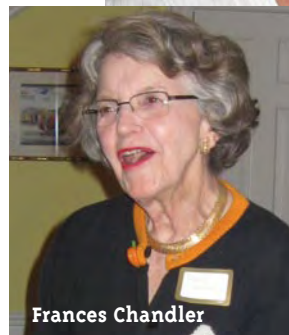
Mary Alice Ahlgren, Dru Johnson



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## Save the Date

Junior League of Tulsa together with Gilcrease Museum

Invites JLT Active and Sustaining members and a guest  
to attend our annual Spring Event

Thursday, April 2, 2008 • 6:30 p.m. • Gilcrease Museum  
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Cocktail reception and the opportunity to tour the Museum's special exhibition

**Transcending Vision: American Impressionism 1870-1940**

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Sanford Gifford, Mount Tacoma from Puget Sound, 1874, oil on canvas, (detail) on loan from Bank of America Collection

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# The Laura SH

It's 3:30 am.

Officer Smith pulls out of the parking lot and guides his cruiser onto the Broken Arrow Expressway, the lights of downtown Tulsa sparkling beyond. As he merges onto the near-empty highway, he glances at the little boy in the passenger seat. Hair tousled, his pajamas almost hidden under Smith's uniform jacket, the boy clutches a battered stuffed dog and watches the sleeping city through the window.

He said his name is Charlie.

The police radio continues to sputter the ordinary late-night chatter, but Officer Smith can think of nothing except the words which have been echoing in his mind for the last two hours: *Six years old and no place to go.*

It began as a simple domestic disturbance call: neighbors complaining about the noise. But when Smith escorted the resident and his girlfriend back inside the apartment to settle their argument, a fellow officer discovered drug paraphernalia on the counter. A search of the apartment revealed a functional meth lab, eight thousand dollars in small bills, a cache of weapons...and a six-year-old boy, still fast asleep in his bed.

The police arrested the two adults and took them to County Jail. But where do you take a little boy like Charlie at 3 o'clock in the morning?

In Tulsa, there is just one place.

Each year, the Laura Dester Shelter of Tulsa County serves between 1,300 and 1,500 children who have been removed from parental custody, providing a safe temporary home to Oklahoma's most vulnerable children. Many of these children arrive as victims of abuse, neglect or abandonment, but all of them find the Shelter to be a sanctuary in times of turmoil.

In 1964, the Oklahoma State Department of Human Services (DHS) assumed responsibility for the facility from the Juvenile Bureau of the Tulsa District Court. The Shelter was later named in honor of Laura Dester, administrator of DHS Child Welfare programs from 1937 until 1967. Along with the Pauline Mayer Shelter in Oklahoma City,



# Dester SHELTER

By Abigail Prescott

Laura Dester serves the needs of the entire state. Today, the Laura Dester Shelter serves as a temporary, emergency childcare facility for children ages birth to 17 years who have experienced abuse, neglect or abandonment.

Most children who enter the Child Welfare system in Oklahoma begin their journey through emergency foster care or an emergency shelter such as Laura Dester. Children may be placed at the Shelter by the courts, social workers or police departments and will remain there until they are either returned to their homes or are moved into a more permanent out-of-home placement. The average length of a child's stay at the Shelter is 15 days, although some children stay only a few hours while others may remain for several months.

A haven of calm at the center of a storm, the Shelter can help stabilize chaos in the life of a needy child. The staff members of the Shelter work tirelessly to understand each child's immediate needs while he or she is in residence at the Shelter. In addition to fulfilling the most basic care needs of food, clothing, shelter and education, psychological and medical services are provided.

Despite the efforts of a devoted staff, needs at the Shelter run high. Laura Dester often exceeds its capacity and most of the children placed at the Shelter arrive with no more than the clothes on their backs. Needs like these have prompted staff at the Shelter to rely more than ever on the support of organizations like the Junior League of Tulsa (JLT).

Jill McAninch, Chair of JLT's Laura Dester IMPACT Committee, was introduced to Laura Dester Shelter in 2005 when it was chosen as the Provisional project. "I had lived my whole life in Tulsa," Jill recalls, "and I had never even heard of the Shelter!" In addition to collecting donations of baby supplies, toys, clothing and other items, the Provisional Class played with the children and planned activities for them. "I enjoyed the time that we spent working at the Shelter and felt that we were really helping the children there."

After its successful involvement at the provisional level, the Junior League selected the Laura Dester Shelter as one of its community programs, an ongoing commitment launched during the 2006-2007 League year. Now an active member, Jill saw chairing the Laura Dester Committee as "the perfect opportunity to reconnect with the Shelter and get involved again."

As part of its ongoing outreach, JLT members collect donated items to help meet physical needs at the Shelter. Committee members also plan and implement a variety of "done in a day" projects on behalf of the children. Activities to date have included a Halloween party complete with trick-or-treating, a Thanksgiving party and field trips. The activities provided by JLT offer the children at Laura Dester a moment of normalcy

in the midst of their personal turmoil. "If they are at the shelter, things in their lives are upside down," says Jill. "It helps the children by giving them something to think about besides their current situation."

But not to be missed in the flurry of activity is what Jill calls the most important thing: the priceless gift of time and attention from a loving adult. Committee members often spend their time rocking babies, reading storybooks, playing games or just talking with children one-on-one. Jill explains: "Many of these children have been neglected, so just spending time talking to them and letting them know that there are adults who care is a big thing for them...At our Halloween party, I had a young man who was probably 12 or 13 come up to me and say: 'I don't know if anyone else here will tell you or not, but we really appreciate that you guys are out here doing this for us.' It brought tears to my eyes."

Some of the children at Laura Dester will eventually be returned to their parents' custody. For the children who do not return home, the Shelter is just the first stop on their journey. The length of their stay is usually dictated by the availability of a more permanent placement. These placements vary, ranging from a guardianship granted to a relative to placement in a traditional foster home, but also include permanent adoption for eligible children and transitional living for teenagers about to "age out" of the child welfare system.

Volunteer opportunities with the Shelter, including those coordinated by the Junior League, serve every age group from birth to age 17. Once volunteers complete a certification program through the Shelter, including a DHS background check, they can volunteer at any time or wait to be contacted by the staff's Volunteer Coordinator to address a specific need. In addition to the committee members actively involved in serving at the Shelter, Jill encourages other active and sustaining members to give their time as well. "This is certainly a case of getting more than you give," she said.

*Author's Note: Due to the sensitive and confidential nature of child welfare cases, the case referenced at the beginning of this article is fictitious.*

**Laura Dester Shelter offers a variety of opportunities for volunteer support and donations. If you have items to donate or are interested in volunteering at the Shelter, please contact Jill McAninch, Laura Dester Chair at [jillridenour@autopronetwork.com](mailto:jillridenour@autopronetwork.com) or 640-3130**

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*Christina Oden*

Director  
Tulsa's Young Professionals



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# SOUP'S ON!

By Robyn Amberg

Make those cold days of winter cozy by inviting your friends over for a pot luck of warm soups. Whether it's lunch or dinner, light the fireplace, get out those board games and create a new tradition that's easy and fun!

With one simple cookbook, **Oil & Vinegar**, you can create an entire menu that will please everyone's tastes. How about these ideas...

• **Corn Muffins with Green Onions and Sour Cream**  
- page 61

• **Spicy Chicken Chowder**  
- page 96

• **Chow Down Chili** -  
page 97

• **Tomato Basil Soup**  
- page 102

• **Tortilla Soup with Cilantro and Green Chiles** - page 103

• **Cookie Jar Gingersnaps**  
- page 232

• **Peanut Butterscotch Cookies** - page 233



The Junior League of Tulsa's self-published cookbook **Oil & Vinegar** contains 250 recipes that were selected and tested from over 2,000 submissions and reflect the best of Tulsa. Proceeds from the sale of this cookbook go towards the many community projects supported by the volunteer efforts of the Junior League of Tulsa.

**Oil & Vinegar** retails for \$24.95 and can be purchased by visiting [www.jltulsa.org](http://www.jltulsa.org) or calling 663-6100.





# global gardens

JLT Global Gardens committee chair Shea Eby has been named Volunteer of the Season by Community Schools Global Gardens program. Of the distinction Shea said, "I really want emphasize that it is my committee and JLT's partnership that is truly appreciated by Global Gardens. They have really enjoyed working with all of us and genuinely appreciate our involvement." For more information on Global Gardens, visit their website at [www.global-gardens.org](http://www.global-gardens.org).

Back row: Lisa Wakefield, Ayschia Saiymeh, Heather Oakley, Bianca Pineda, Destiny Vera, Casey Johnson, Tai Allen, Erin Remington, Kalan Chapman, Rita Burke; Right front: Shea Eby, Jessica Adams



## IMPACT PROJECTS

Junior League of Tulsa's Impact Committee provides short-term volunteer assistance to 501(c)(3) organizations in the Tulsa community, providing both funds and volunteers to implement a wide range of service projects. Since the start of the League year in September, eleven "done in a day" projects have been completed, including projects with CASA, Community Schools, Down Syndrome Association of Tulsa, Family and Children's Services, Mental Health Association, and others.

Although the Junior League is widely known for its long-term service through multi-year partnerships with other agencies, Impact projects provide an outlet through which JLT members can meet community needs at a hands-on, personal level. Impact projects offer members diverse service opportunities with flexible volunteer hours and without a long-term commitment. Individual projects are selected and planned by the members of the Impact Committee but all JLT members (both active and sustaining) are encouraged to participate. Please review the upcoming project list and signup to participate by contacting Mary Catherine Ward, Impact Chair, at [mcward@semgrouplp.com](mailto:mcward@semgrouplp.com) or 918-607-7724.

### JANUARY 2009

Project 12-Honor Roll Party

Tuesday January 13th • 12-1pm

### FEBRUARY 2009

McClure Elementary-Valentine's Cards

Wednesday, February 11th • 2:45pm-4pm

Thursday, February 12th • 2:45pm-4pm

### MARCH 2009

Project 12-Honor Roll Party

Tuesday March 31 • 12-1pm

### APRIL 2009

Parent Child Center of Tulsa-Toiletry Drive

Friday, April 17th • noon

Child Abuse Network-CAN Film Festival

Saturday, April 18th • 8am-10:30pm

Project 12-Development Day Job Workshop

TBA

### MAY 2009

Tulsa Area Burn Center

End of May

Project 12-Career Day Field Trip

TBA

Project 12-Graduation Party

TBA

# Community Schools

## *League Leaders in the Community*

By Mary Anne Thoman

League Leaders Jan Creveling and Genie Shannon have a favorite saying: "We Care About You." This is clearly evident in their daily work together at Community Service Council as they craft the partnerships and components of Tulsa Area Community Schools Initiative (TACSI). Genie has a gift for detail and Jan has a gift for seeing the big picture, providing the perfect blend for their work relationship.

Having joined the Junior League of Tulsa in the mid-1970s, their friendship spans 35 years and includes enough grandchildren (15 1/2) to fill a first-grade classroom. Genie joined League citing her parents' good examples of giving back to the community, which she wanted to emulate. Jan felt League was a good place to get to know people and the community. Their service and dedication to League, 14 years for Jan and 15 for Genie, developed the insights and passions that they feel ultimately led them to their current positions with TACSI.

Jan is the Senior Planner for TACSI, working with national, state and local leaders and funders to implement, support and leverage funds to support the development and sustainability of TACSI. Genie Shannon, as the TACSI Liaison, works with Tulsa and Union School District's administration, principals, coordinators, and site teams to develop and implement community school programs, services, and opportunities for students, their families, and school neighbors.

### **What do you want people to know about Community Schools?**

"TACSI is an initiative that looks at schools as the hub of each community and creates a network of supportive partnerships between the school and the community. These partnerships remove non-academic barriers to learning and help the school provide a nurturing environment and enriching opportunities to promote student success, healthy families and engaged communities.

"Each community school looks different because it is based on the needs identified by school faculty and staff, students and their families, and the residents who live in that neigh-

*Being a teacher as well as a participant in Mayor Taylor's Mentoring Initiative, I see clear examples of how mentoring positively influences our students. The children in the program work closely with mentors from the community and are able to form a healthy bond with stable caring adults as they work on many different and fun activities. Mayor Taylor's support of community schools via the mentoring program is a vital part to the success of the Tulsa Area Community Schools Initiative.*

--Melanie Clouse, 2nd Grade teacher at Rosa Parks Community School and Mayor's Mentoring Initiative facilitator.

borhood. Everyone in the Tulsa community can be involved in TACSI and help enhance the learning environments and neighborhoods surrounding community schools."

### *Core components of a community school...*

*Positive early childhood care and development*

*Health / health education*

*Mental health / social services*

*Family / community engagement*

*Youth development / out-of-school time*

*Neighborhood development*

*Life-long learning*

"There are 1 Title 1 TACSI schools, 12 Tulsa Public Schools and 6 Union Public Schools, giving every child the best possible chance to learn and succeed. They envision community schools as centers of community life, offering comprehensive programs, services and opportunities to students, families and the neighboring community.

"School-based health clinics provide primary care not only for students but also for families and teachers in Tulsa Public Schools and the larger community in Union Public

Schools. Better access to healthcare leads to fewer missed days of school.

"With the support of community schools and their partnerships, the goal is for every student to graduate from high school with a complete education, equipped with the academic, physical, social, and emotional skills needed to achieve success and continued active involvement in the community.

"Mayor Taylor started a Mayor's Mentoring Initiative two years ago as a vehicle to involve more caring adults in a child's life through out-of-school-time programming. The Junior League was a partner during the first year and provided space for the corporate volunteer training. Currently, anyone interested in mentoring, either one-on-one or in a group setting, can call 2-1-1 for placement in one of the schools.

"Global Gardens program, in partnership with TACSI, began at Eugene Field Elementary and grew into Rosa Parks Elementary, where the Junior League is currently providing volunteer hours and leadership. Global

Gardens' mission is: 'a nonprofit, educational organization that provides low-income schools and neighborhoods with the resources that they need to incorporate an educational, multi-disciplinary, science-based garden into their curriculum and community.'"

### **What do you want people to know about the Junior League?**

"Every year in League was a new opportunity to acquire new personal skills through Junior League trainings, meet and work with different women on community projects and learn more about the Tulsa community. We agreed that every Junior League president during our active League years was an excellent role model on how to juggle family and community responsibilities.

"Multi-tasking was the general rule of thumb because we had to do community service every year and/or work on a League committee as well as attend Junior League meetings and trainings and tend to young children. We shared a lot of carpooling as well as babysitters during this time. We were a part



of a group of Junior League members who started a baby-sitting co-op to deal with the hours away from home.

"We were fortunate to have been in the League during the time Career Development training was available. Both Genie and I agreed that because of that training and identification of interests, we set the direction for where we are today – child welfare and women's issues. Throughout our League careers, we took advantage of the various trainings offered and currently use the skills and knowledge we acquired in our positions with TACSI:

Communication Skills, Making Meetings Work, Child Advocacy, Parent Effectiveness, Public Speaking, Conflict Resolution, Interviewing Skills, Parliamentary Procedure, Effective Listening, Stress Management, Advanced Facilitator Training, Organizational Self-Assessment, Strategic Planning, Negotiating, One-Minute Manager, Managing Organizational Change, Public Affairs and Legislative Monitoring



**Jan Creveling, Student Council President and Vice President  
Taylor Kemp and Paries Cannady,  
Genie Shannon**

"The Junior League also created opportunities for leadership because of the expectations that you would be a chair of a committee or community project sometime during our League careers. Our combined leadership experiences on various League Community Task Forces and Projects were: Community Resource Center for the Arts & Humanities, Women's Center, Victim Witness Center, Child Welfare Task Force, Child Abuse Central Site, Child Abuse Network, Pediatric Enrichment Program, and Oklahoma Committee on Children, Youth, and Families. We think these combined experiences have given us the background and community relationships to

## **Donations of Time, Talent, Treasures for Community Schools:**

1. Mentors – either one-on-one or in group mentoring in after school programs.
2. Boxes of tissues
3. Monitors for state testing in the spring
4. New or used uniforms – khaki or navy blue slacks
5. Collection of Box Tops for Education - a Trademark of General Mills products (Kleenex, Campbell Soup, Cereals, Pillsbury products, Hamburger Helper, etc.)
6. School supplies for students and teachers
7. Refreshments for special events
8. Volunteers for the office or library
9. Book buddies to read to students
10. "H.U.G.S." – Hats, underwear, gloves, socks in various sizes

**Contact the TACSI Resource Center at 585-5551 and ask for Jan or Genie or email [jancreveling@aol.com](mailto:jancreveling@aol.com) or [gshannon@csctulsa.org](mailto:gshannon@csctulsa.org)**

create infrastructure to develop and sustain the Tulsa Area Community Schools Initiative.

"The Junior League is a great way to become an active participant in the Tulsa community. The training and relationships we developed during our League careers have provided a good foundation to take our current place in the community in developing another important initiative for Tulsa – The Tulsa Area Community Schools Initiative (TACSI). For more information on TACSI and to view an informative video please visit: [www.csctulsa.org/community\\_schools.htm](http://www.csctulsa.org/community_schools.htm)"



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# Meet your Junior League of Tulsa Board Members:

## Lisa Muller

Community Program VP

**PROVISIONAL YEAR:** 1998

**PLACE OF BIRTH:** Corsicana, Texas

**EDUCATION:** B. S. Curriculum and Instruction from Texas A & M University and M.Ed. Administration and Supervision from The University of Houston

**FAMILY:** Married to Frank Muller for 18 years, three children Whitney-15, Elizabeth-12, and Frank-9



Elizabeth, Lisa, Whitney, Frank and son Frank

**EMPLOYMENT:** Assistant Superintendent, Curriculum & School Improvement, for Jenks Public Schools

**HOBBIES / INTERESTS:** I enjoy reading, scrapbooking, and attending my children's activities and sporting events.

**FAVORITE CHILDHOOD MEMORY:** spending time in the summer at my grandparents home

**GOAL YET TO ACHIEVE:** receiving my doctorate-- a goal I hope to begin working toward this summer.

**HAVE YOU LEARNED ANY SKILL IN LEAGUE THAT YOU HAVE APPLIED TO OTHER ASPECTS OF YOUR LIFE?** Managing a project or a committee requires similar skills in both Junior League and in the workplace. My experience in the League has enhanced my career.

**FAVORITE JLT PLACEMENT/WHY?** Nominating Chair because of the close relationships I developed with the other committee members and the opportunity to meet so many League members and get to know them better.

**MY FAVORITE VOLUNTEER ACTIVITY:** Volunteering with the Impact committee at parties for community agencies and organizations.

**FAVORITE FOOD:** Anything chocolate!

**FAVORITE PLACE YOU HAVE TRAVELED:** Germany, Austria, and Switzerland during our 10th Anniversary trip

**BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP IN JLT:** Serving the community while having the opportunity to meet other women with similar interests.

**ADVICE TO PROVISIONALS:** Get involved. I received the most personal reward from my League membership during the years I agreed to serve in a leadership capacity, whether as a chair or as a Board member.

## Regan Leake

Recording Secretary

**PROVISIONAL YEAR:** 1996

**PLACE OF BIRTH:** Frankfurt, Germany. Daddy was in the military.

**EDUCATION:** Bishop Kelley High School, Colorado State University-BSW (Social Work)

**FAMILY:** husband Jim, daughter Olivia (6) and son Cameron (4) and #3 on the way

**EMPLOYMENT:** driver, soccer goalie, washer, finder of all toys, cook, errand runner, and the list continues...

**FAVORITE CHILDHOOD MEMORY:** Probably Christmas morning with my cousins. We would drive up to St. Louis on Christmas Eve and my Dad would spot Santa's sleigh every once in awhile. I would be lying in the very back of the station wagon trying to track Santa, way before seatbelts laws.

**GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT SO FAR:** Serving our country after 9/11. I was the first Oklahoman shipped out to serve at the Pentagon. I served three weeks in DC. My job was volunteer coordinator for all Red Cross volunteers on the Pentagon campus. It was the greatest experience of my life but also one of the saddest. I loved visiting with the rescue workers/rescue dogs and all the volunteers that came from all over the country. The families were truly amazing.. they still are the strongest people I have ever met.

**HAVE YOU LEARNED ANY SKILL IN LEAGUE THAT YOU HAVE APPLIED TO OTHER ASPECTS OF YOUR LIFE?** That everybody brings something special to the table!!!

**FAVORITE PLACE YOU HAVE TRAVELED:** Salzburger, Austria. The opera house square is amazing..the beer isn't bad either! But taking my kids to Mexico is awesome. They love the country, the people, and the food. I think they would be happy if we packed up and moved down there.

**BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP IN JLT:** I got to do things I would have never done and made great friends.

**ADVICE TO PROVISIONALS:** Exposure yourself to all councils. Every part has a purpose and that purpose makes the wheels go around. The community needs the financial and financial needs communication but everybody needs membership!! But the best part about League is that you make it what you want.



Jim, Regan, Cameron and Olivia



# Strategic Plan!

By Cassie Barkett

"Come on! Vamanos!" was the message from this Year's Strategic Planning Committee at the September General Meeting, challenging our membership to take a journey and help rewrite the Strategic Plan. With overwhelming participation, our membership accepted the challenge! Actives and Provisionals alike took part in both Speak Outs and the Survey Monkey launched online which elicited information ranging from marital status to committee meeting time preferences.

"Eighty-two percent of our membership is married and nearly sixty-two percent of our membership works more than twenty hours per week outside the home. This type of demographic information is important because we need to know who we are before we can determine where we want to go," says Nikki Bell, Chair of the Strategic Planning Committee.



**Shelli Holland-Handy (Map), Nikki Bell (Dora), Cassie Barkett (Boots), Vannessa Hoose ("New Plan") and Ronda Lau (Swiper)**

encouraged to take this opportunity to intimately participate and learn about the workings and goals of the League. The following members graciously opened their homes to host the small groups for friendly discussion: Robyn Amberg, Melanie Bates, Ashleigh Boedeker, Shea Eby, Stephanie Eckman, Christy Gilliam, Katherine Haskell, Belinda Hedgecock, Vannessa Hoose, Kathleen Jones, Kathy Knight, Regan Leake, Sally Mathew, Melissa Siemens, and Mary Catherine Ward. This year a new approach, S.W.O.T. (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) Analysis, was implemented. Says President Amy James, "I loved how the new format this year really focused on issues at the core of JLT. I'm really excited to see what we do with all the valuable information we received from our members."



left: **Facilitator Melissa Fabian and Recorder Kim Grayson;** below: **Mary Beth Nesser, Katie Mabrey, Lisa Silvestri**



In addition to the online survey, each year the Strategic Planning Committee coordinates Speak Outs which provide an opportunity for our membership to have small group discussions and socialize in members' homes. Women of all membership status are welcome; members of the Provisional class are particularly

It is critical for the Strategic Planning Committee to somehow capture and really listen to the voices of our membership. The online survey and Speak Outs are the most effective tools to accomplish that. Once the Committee has gathered all the information, it is then used to

formulate a new three-year Strategic Plan and, ultimately, it is the Strategic Plan which keeps our organization on track for the exciting journey ahead.

**Christina Fravell, Emily Dunaway, Melanie Clouse**



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# Women Helping Women In the Slimming Economy

By Stacy Rippy

In a time where prices seem to be going up and up, the Junior League of Tulsa's organization of women band together to help one another be as fabulous as they are and have fun doing it.

We all have a responsibility to look to our community and recognize its needs. This year we have also had an additional responsibility to be better stewards with our own household spending. We see a need everywhere we go and are "tightening the belt" ourselves.

How exactly does one raise money to give back to the community in these times?

The Junior League of Tulsa is proud to announce Diva Day, a fashion swap to be attended by you and your favorite gal pals. Bring your ticket, yourself and six or more clothing, shoes or accessory items (no jewelry) on March 7th. Drop off your items at check in for others to sort and receive complimentary spa treatments fit for a queen until the swap begins. Once the doors open, you and your friends pick out six new-to-you items for your closet.

We all have something in the closet that is fabulous and does not fit anymore, still has the tags on it or you just spent too much on it to put it in a garbage bag to donate. I will never tell how much was spent on a designer suit sitting in my closet I cannot seem to part with!

A \$40 ticket supports Junior League plus, gets you six things for your closet and free spa treatments.

A \$65 ticket means you are a risk taker. You get all the perks from a general ticket along with entrance back into the swap at the end of the day for Carte Blanche on the leftovers. Not only will you get the six items, you can leave with as much as you can hold!

Did I mention we are contacting design houses in New York for support in the form of clothing? Did I mention you may be in a drawing to be paired up with a professional stylist (yea, another set of hands!) to help you select your new duds?

Fashionistas, stylish, savvy and resourceful women of all ages, styles and sizes are encouraged to attend. Women who spend more on their kids than themselves, WELCOME! You deserve a girls' day out after all. Take off that belt you are tightening, just for today!

*Recycle, refresh, rejuvenate!*  
**A UNIQUE GIRLS' DAY OUT**  
**10 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Saturday, March 7, 2009**

*An event exclusively designed for Divas.  
Get pampered, and feel glamorous all over while refreshing your wardrobe in minutes!*



**Let it Go!**

*Put on your favorite tunes and tackle that closet today! Bring six (or more!) items that are new or gently used that you can barely part with. Go from "drab" to "diva" as you swap your former favorites for six new-to-you fashions. To complete the transformation, you'll also indulge in free spa treatments fit for a queen.*

And please remember, once the fun is done, items left will be going to women in need. That is where the six (or more!) comes in. The beautiful scarf you wear (really) once a year may boost someone else's confidence. My designer suit can help another woman on her interview as she transitions back into the mainstream of life. Women helping women. That is what we do.

**For tickets or more information, visit [www.jltulsa.org](http://www.jltulsa.org).**

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# Holiday Market



JUNIOR LEAGUE OF TULSA



Holiday Market Sustainer Liaison and owner of Mary Murray's Flowers, Gaylyn Wattman, Holiday Market Vice Chair Paula Settoon, and Holiday Market Chair Kim Smith

## HOLIDAY MARKET COMMITTEE:

*Kim Smith, Chair*

*Paula Settoon, Vice Chair*

*Gaylyn Wattman, Sustainer Liaison*

*Sarah Dougherty, Board Liaison*

*Leslie Croteau • Michelle Dickason • Stephanie Eckman*

*Ann Essman • Leslie Ferguson • Emily Green • Vicki Lentz*

*Stephanie Milburn • Rania Nasreddine*

*Jennifer Prout • Somerset Sea*

## Holiday Market is Tulsa's Best Holiday Shopping Experience!

Over 3,000 customers visited 75 merchants at Junior League of Tulsa's Holiday Market held for the first time at the John Q. Hammons Arena at the Union Multipurpose Activity Center (UMAC). A weekend of shopping and special events was kicked off with "Tricks, Treats, Sparkle & Sweets" on Thursday, October 9, as Chef Michael Fusco and company of Michael Fusco's Riverside Grill demonstrated techniques for preparing holiday menu items and treats. Adel Nasreddine of Israel Diamond Supply offered tips for keeping your jewels sparkling.

On Friday the "Tulsa World's" James Watts interviewed local authors Bob Avey, Peter Biadasz, Ally Carter, Toni Garner, Jeff Martin, Nancy Montee, Anna Myers, Kandy Radzinski, Charles Sasser, and K D Wentworth. All were available to sign books and visit with fans.

Jason Ashley Wright put some real sparkle in Saturday by visiting with Holiday Market merchants and creating a fashion show from their wares designed to help "Out-Sparkle Your Tree". Makeup artists from Clary Sage and hair dresser Tara Nichols from Salon III in Jenks were also on hand to offer tips for the upcoming holiday season.

On Sunday, Gaylyn Wattman of Mary Murray's Flowers and Stephanie Eckman of the Junior League of Tulsa demonstrated how to "Deck the Hall, Walls & Everything in Between." They presented great tips for decorating mantles and trees as well as how to create centerpieces that can go from one season to the next.

Holiday Market 2009 will return to the John Q. Hammons Arena at the Union Multipurpose Activity Center Oct. 8 to 11. Merchant applications will be accepted in early 2009. Interested merchants should check the JLT website for more information or email [holidaymarket@jltulsa.org](mailto:holidaymarket@jltulsa.org).

Many thanks to our sponsors for the event: GableGotwals, Kim Smith and Kimberly Clark – and to QuikTrip, Jason Prout & Imperial Catering for providing refreshments to our merchants.



JLT Volunteers Somerset Sea, Neil Dieterle, Sarah Dougherty and Jenger Baker sell tickets at the event.





# Decadence Gala 2008

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Jay Litchfield • Party Pro Rents  
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The celebration of JLT's 85th Anniversary culminated with our Decadence gala at the historic Oklahoma Jazz Hall of Fame. Gourmet food, fine wine, a fabulous live auction, and dancing to Dave and the Wavetones capped off an elegant

## An evening of...



**JLT President Amy James welcomes Decadence Gala Honoree Sharon Bartlett to the stage**

evening. This year's event honored Sharon Bartlett for her years of service to the Junior League and the Tulsa community. Sharon has been a Junior League member for 34 years, yet maintains the same enthusiasm for this organization that she did three decades ago. Her dedication and generosity has inspired many and has made an indelible impact on our organization and our community. In recognition of her service, a new auction-style fundraiser called "Money for the Mission" gave guests the opportunity to donate directly to the "Mrs. W. Albert Cook Scholarship," a need-based scholarship fund for female, non-traditional students seeking to further their education.

Accolades...



Live auctions...

## **Decadence Committee:**

Chair Andrea Garner; Vice Chair Sarah Buchan, Michelle Bolden, Kristen Crew, Joy Hulver, Chera Kimiko, Cassie Reese, Heather Sher, Courtney Smith and Libby Weatherholt

We would like to offer special thanks to Premier Sponsor, Michael D. Earl, President & CEO of New Dominion, L.L.C.

The Decadence Committee would like to thank the Sponsors who this event such a success!

## Fashion...





Dancing...



Romance...

**Decadence Gala honoree  
Sharon Bartlett and  
husband Mike.**



**Decadence Gala vice chair Sarah  
Buchan and her husband Craig**

And good friends...



**Nikki Bell, Vanessa Hoose, Cassie Barkett,  
Melissa Fabian, Sarah Dougherty and Ronda Lau**

All to benefit  
the community projects of the Junior League of Tulsa!

## 2008-2009 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:*

### **The Children's Hospital at St. Francis Family Resource Library Signature Project**

Chair: Melissa Siemens

JLT volunteers staff the Family Resource Library in the new Children's Hospital at Saint Francis to assist families in obtaining information about their child's medical condition and help them become informed participants in the health care process. In conjunction with this project, JLT also donated \$25,000 to the hospital to completely furnish the library.

### **Scholarship**

Chair: Vanessa Hoose

This committee oversees all aspects of awarding two \$1500 scholarships to high school seniors who have demonstrated a commitment to volunteerism. Also, the committee will oversee the awarding of a \$1500 need-based scholarship to a woman in transition living in our community. The committee will also work to maintain contact with former recipients.

### **Laura Dester**

Chair: Jill McAninch

This committee provides volunteer assistance to the Laura Dester Children's Shelter. A variety of "Done in a Day" projects are chosen, planned, and implemented by the committee with direction from shelter staff.

### **Resonance Connecting Women with Careers- Career Services**

Chair: Thayla Bohn

This project will provide 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.

### **Child Abuse Network (CAN)**

Chair: Carissa Cooper

This committee assists in the development and implementation of the Child Abuse Network (CAN) volunteer program which will enable CAN to serve children who are victims of child abuse.

### **Impact**

Chair: Mary Catherine Ward

Impact provides short-term volunteer assistance to 501(c)(3) organizations in the Tulsa community. Organizations apply for assistance and short-term ("Done in a Day") projects are chosen, planned, and implemented by the committee. Also falling under this committee is *Kids in the Kitchen*, a national initiative designed to promote healthy eating and lifestyles among children. In addition, we also participate in the Tulsa Metro Chamber's Partners in Education through our activities at Project 12, an alternative learning environment in the Tulsa Public Schools.

### **Community Schools - Global Gardens**

Chair: Shea Eby

JLT will work with Community Schools to provide financial assistance and volunteers to expand the Global Gardens after-school program to establish garden spaces for high-risk students and their families at Rosa Parks Elementary School. Global Gardens currently serves about 30 third- through fifth-grade students at Eugene Field Elementary School and with JLT's assistance, the project is expanding to Rosa Parks.

### **Community Project Development Committee (CPDC)**

**Standing Committee**

Chairs: Alison Wade

This committee identifies and develops community projects, focusing on JLT's mission statement and focus area (women and children in transition) and community needs.





**Cassie Barkett, Shelly Drullinger  
and Amy James**



**Kay Schermerhorn  
and Julie Kelly**

**Lisa and Frank Muller,  
Amy and John James**



**Decadence Chair Andrea Garner and  
Decadence Sponsor Coordinator  
Chera Kimiko**



**Massimo and Christina Rinaldi**



**Melissa Fabian and  
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