



JULY 2012

FOCUS

Newsletter

JUNIOR LEAGUE OF LANSING

2012 KIDS IN THE KITCHEN EVENT A SUCCESS!

Karissa Chabot-Purchase

The Junior League of Lansing's 2011-12 New Member class was proud to host an extremely successful seventh annual 'Kids in the Kitchen' event this April.

For the first time ever, the JLL partnered with Lansing Westside's YMCA during their national 'Healthy Kids Day' to deliver an exciting set of free health education services to the nearly 300 children and families who participated in the day's event (which was free and open to the public). Each year, Healthy Kids Day encourages children and families to commit to nurturing an active body and mind by providing opportunities for free health screenings, interaction with trainers, and exercise programming. The JLL expanded upon the event tremendously by offering attendees the chance to put together nutritious snacks (yogurt parfaits, vegetables with hummus, trail mix, and fruit/veggie stackers) and plant their own food (carrots, cucumbers, potatoes, and green peppers) to learn about identifying health food options and preparing meals in their own homes.

We also received assistance from the Purple Carrot Food Truck-- Michigan's first Farm-to-Food Truck food stand. The Purple Carrot works directly with Michigan farmers to grow and buy seasonable food that they use to prepare innovative, creative, and fresh cuisine. Our friends at the Purple Carrot not only prepared and donated the granola and hummus for our event-- they also volunteered their time to help serve food.

Finally, we were thrilled to welcome Todd 'TJ' Duckett as our special guest. Duckett, a Michigan native, was the lead running back for MSU from 1999-2001 and played in the NFL from 2002-2009. Now back in East Lansing, Duckett is passionately focused on working to better the community. He spoke to participants about the importance of making responsible life choices, helped raffle off a wide array of giveaways, and helped arrange for donation of our extra food items to a local children's school.



This year's New Member class had a tremendous amount of support from Active JLL Members throughout the KITK process. Pictured here (L to R): Trisha Garvey, Torye Santucci, Wesley Reece, Alexis Derrossett, and Maureen Watson-Bolger.

The 2011-2012 New Member class would like to extend a special thank you to the following JLL Members who volunteered their time and talents before, during, and after KITK to make the event so successful: **Christina Carr, Alexis Derrossett, Jennifer Edmonds, Yvonne Fleener, Susan Lupo, Becky Paalman, Kate Powers, Torye Santucci, Meghan Sifuentes, Betsy Svanda, Sarah Triplett, and Ann Vogelsang.**



After speaking about the importance of making positive life choices, Todd 'T.J.' Duckett helped the JLL pass out a variety of health-related giveaways, including boys and girls bicycles.



Yogurt parfaits were one of the most popular healthy snacks offered at this year's KITK. Here, an excited participant enjoys a cup.

*Women
building
better
communities®*

BOARD LIST

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MISSION STATEMENT

Junior League of Lansing, Michigan is an organization of women committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women, and improving the community through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. Its purpose is exclusively educational and charitable.



PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

BECKY PAALMAN, PRESIDENT 2012-2013

I began this journey seven years ago with one of my dearest friends, **Lisa Gnass**. From the beginning, I always thought it would be a great honor to be president of this organization. To lead over 400 women who are doing extraordinary things in our community and to provide an example for my children. Well, the day is finally here and you all have granted me the opportunity to represent this incredible organization. As I looked back over the last seven years, I realized that the amazing women who served prior to me have been great mentors and each has exhibited a different leadership trait that has prepared me for this journey:

- a. **Cheryl Bartholic**—strength
- b. **Katie Strong**—ambition
- c. **Becky Myers**—faithfulness
- d. **Amy Suhrheinrich**—resourcefulness and organization
- e. **Tracy Jelneck**—compassion
- f. **Betsy Svanda**—enthusiasm
- g. **Miss Kate Powers**—confidence and pose and it can’t go without saying that you did so with an awesome style

As I reflected on these traits I thought in Junior League fashion why not create an acronym because we all know that we Junior Leaguers love them. While sitting at winter leadership last year my acronym popped in my head and I have been attempting to jot things down every since that represent League and what my acronym meant to me, so here it goes.

H.O.P.E.

H – HEART—being part of an international organization we are a group of 155,000 women in 293 communities that spreads across 4 countries each of us with heart. Of those 155,000 women over 400 of the largest hearts belong to women in this organization. As Jaimie mentioned earlier, you have provided 107 patients dental care, donated 2700 items through DIAMs and taken 273 hours away from your careers and families to volunteer at DIADs. Becoming a great leader is not about the act of serving...it’s about having the heart of a servant. You all have this servant’s heart. Each has contributed this heart to do something that matters.

O – OPTIMISTIC—an article I read stated that optimism was the hidden asset in leadership. Optimistic individuals move others from being stuck with “how things are done around here” and help them see “how things could be done better”. It is only when you are optimistic about your future that you can be a progressive person. We as optimistic women are making a case for change and have the ability to create, initiate and execute this change that has and will have profound effects in our community. WE ARE AGENTS OF CHANGE TO MAKE OUR COMMUNITY A BETTER PLACE.

P – PASSIONATE—the reason I stand before you this evening is my passion for this organization. I mentioned earlier one of the reasons I wanted to lead this organization was to be an example for my children, CJ and

heart
optimistic
passionate
enthusiasm

Sydney. I honestly would not be here today if it were not for them and my husband, Chad. They are on this journey with me and I cannot think of a better driving force for our journey than our League’s Mission. The Mission of League can provide each of us a reason for our passionate personalities. For those of you keeping track of acronyms I like to refer to the Mission as D.I.P. We develop the potential of women, improve the community and promote voluntarism. We find ways to make our lives and those around us lives exciting, meaningful and special. We are constantly learning, reinventing and exploring ourselves as a training organization. You can reflect back to what I said about the heart of this organization and see where this passion truly comes into play to improve our community and promote voluntarism.

E – ENTHUSIASM—Enthusiasm drives passion and fuels achievement. Enthusiasm is one of the Marine Corps Leadership traits and is expressed in the following manner:

Definition: It is defined as a sincere interest and exuberance in the performance of your duties. If you are enthusiastic, you are optimistic, cheerful, and willing to accept the challenges.

Suggestions for Improvement: Understanding and belief in your mission will add to your enthusiasm for your job. Try to understand why even uninteresting jobs must be done.

Enthusiasm is the electricity of this organization. An outsider can walk into any given general membership meeting or our recent Kids in the Kitchen event and feel that electricity. Enthusiastic people are the catalyst for change. It enables you to take advantage of the opportunities as they present themselves. I thank each of you who have given me the opportunity to be the Junior League of Lansing’s chief enthusiasm officer or CEO for short.

So there is my acronym to be added to the list along with JLL, AJLI, and ODI just to name a few.

When I began preparing this speech and was jotting down notes I looked at items that represented my acronym. The anchor is seen as a symbol of a well-grounded hope. As the anchor was often a seaman’s last resort in stormy weather, it was frequently connected with hope. Being made of a solid body, the anchor was also identified with firmness, solidity, tranquility and faithfulness. I have attached an anchor charm to each of your programs as my gift to you. As your Chief Enthusiasm Officer, I ask you take this journey of hope with me. Along this journey I encourage you to look at this anchor when the stormy weather hits and remember the moment you chose to join this organization and how you felt, stand firm and solid knowing that you are a proactive and intelligent woman being an agent of change. You will need to tap into your passion for this organization and encourage people to live up to their fullest potential and challenge yourself to make a positive difference in others and our community. My friend posted a picture on FB today that seemed perfect for this evening and what we do as an organization. I’d like to leave you with what it said...I always wondered why somebody didn’t do something about that, and then I realized I am somebody! Thank you!



2011-2012 MEMBERSHIP AWARDS

On May 23, 2012, the Junior League of Lansing lost another of its special Sustainers, Past President Char Roe. A woman who was instrumental in the Establishment of our Endowment Fund which is now in it's 28th year. If you read her obituary, you saw a person who gave her time, talent and leadership to our community, and our state. Her goal was always to make the groups she was involved in even better.

It is hard to think of one word to describe Char but that was what I asked of several of her friends.

Jane Drake said honorable. She always did the right thing.

Insightful, a visionary remarked **Mary West**.

Dedicated, whether it be to raise funds for cancer or to pull donations together to

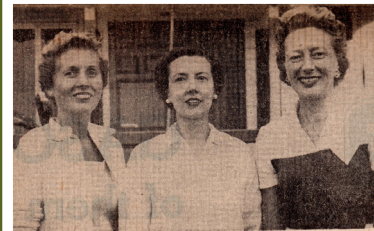
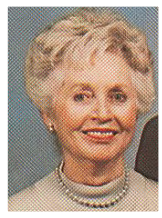
raise a new church from the ashes wrote, long time friend, Rex Session.

Caring with action, all for the good of the Lansing area, **Barb Cleland** recalled.

The first thing that came to **Joan Stapleton's** mind was that Char was a lover and patron of the arts.

Mine would a philanthropist. Char saw financial challenges as opportunities. With perseverance, needs could be met. She will be remembered for many worthwhile endeavors. However for the JLL, she will noted for so carefully guiding our group toward a permanent funding source for our community. Thus, a true leader who had a vision for our future of giving.

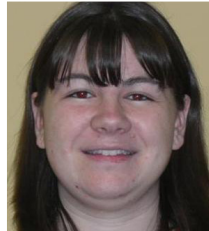
Debby Harrison
Sustainer



Mrs. J. Woodward Roe, president-elect of the Junior League of Lansing, and Mrs. W. Gordon Dahlberg, vice president-elect, are shown with Mrs. R. Jamison Williams, director of Region IV at the 35th annual conference of the association of the Junior League of America, Inc. held last week in Coronado, Cal.

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD . . . Given to a JLL Member (Active or Sustainer) who has contributed significant, outstanding volunteer time and effort to improve the quality of life of the Lansing community, either through her own community involvement or League Placement.

This person exemplifies excellence in community service because: She is always looking for great community service opportunities for League. She has more knowledge of community need, than anyone I have ever met. Not only does she know about, and spread the word about upcoming community projects, I think she volunteers for every organization she comes across. She is amazing and cares about her community in great depth.



This 2011-2012 Community Service Award goes to **Jennifer Edmonds**

PLACEMENT AWARD . . . Given to a JLL Member (Active or Sustainer) who consistently goes "above and beyond" her placement "job description" or, in addition to her regular placement, assists other committees or projects in an outstanding manner.

This person exemplifies excellence in her placement because: As a first-year active, this member stepped up to co-chair the New Member Recruitment committee. She came to the placement late, but she jumped in with both feet and has provided the committee with an extraordinary amount of support and help. She received some difficult family news recently and has maintained her commitment to League and our committee even through her personal hardships. The New Member Recruitment Committee considers themselves blessed that this member is their vice-chair. In addition, she accepted a double placement after the League year had begun and has been very successful in juggling everything that she has been asked to do on both the New Member Recruitment and Public Relations Committees.



The 2011-2012 Placement Award goes to **Alexis Derrossett**

SPIRIT AWARD . . . Given to a JLL Member (Active or Sustainer) who embodies the spirit of Junior League volunteerism in her actions and interactions in the community and with other JLL Members. This

person consistently inspires others with her caring, understanding, enthusiasm and pursuit of excellence embracing the values of JLL.

This person exemplifies the JLL spirit because: She is so happy and easy to approach. She has a great spirit and positively promotes Junior League. She is always friendly and fun. She has served on the Nominating Placement Committee for 4 years with this year being the nominating chair. Within her role, she has always reached out to those members that were going through personal challenging times. She is truly an understanding, caring, supportive and realistic individual.



The 2011-2012 Spirit Award goes to **Susan Lupo**

LEADERSHIP AWARD . . . Given to a JLL Active Member who demonstrates outstanding leadership abilities and who motivates and inspires others to further the vision of the organization.

This person demonstrates outstanding leadership because: She has the ability to bring people together and inspires them to reach their own personal goals. She is the ultimate leader. She is gifted with bringing her own sense of humor during a challenging task to motivate individuals in the utmost positive direction. She is approachable, knowledgeable and has provided supportive emails and phone calls to committee leaders throughout the year. She is humble and would say "why not somebody else, there are many more deserving individuals for this award". Most recently she topped off



her leadership abilities with an extraordinary speaker at our last formal GMM. And let's not forget to mention that she also looks great on the cover of the Capital Area Women's LifeStyle Magazine.

The 2011-2012 Leadership Award goes to **Kate Powers**

SUPER SUSTAINER AWARD . . . Given to a JLL Sustaining Member who has given of her time and talents to support the efforts of the organization.

Extremely supportive to league and the board, taking time to meet individually with board members to further develop individual leadership skills. She has graciously opened up her home to the board on several occasions and created fabulous meals! She is

always positive with a caring presence about her. She carries a loving smile on her face. She is kind, thoughtful, always keeps a level head, is willing to help you work through any issue you might have with grace. She has not only been a fantastic advisor to the board, but a mentor and a exemplifies what a great friend should be. When time is spent with this member, it is valuable.



The 2011-2012 Super Sustainer Award goes to **Janet Freund**

SUPER NEW MEMBER AWARD . . . Given to a JLL New Member who has given "above and beyond" of her time and talents to support the efforts of the organization.

This awards goes to two New Members:

This first new member demonstrates an admirable commitment to JLL as her commitment to the New Member project has been outstanding. In addition she embraced her responsibilities as our event Co-Chair. She has shown a willingness to reach out to those around her to offer much-appreciated assistance and helpful insights even when her own plate is already full. She's leveraged her personal and professional network in ever-impressive ways for the good of Kids in the Kitchen, has shown herself to be calm and collected under almost constant pressure, and has been a cheerful, positive role model for everyone in the group. Working alongside her hasn't just been educational and exciting—it's been a true delight.

The second new member demonstrates an admirable commitment to JLL as the Kids in the Kitchen co-chair, she has been extremely dedicated to planning the event. She is very organized and makes a point to thoroughly communicate and address issues. Members of her committee have stated that she will be a fantastic active member.

Members of the committee have stated that both of these members have stepped up to co-chair the New Member Project KITK and have divided their duties equally. They have grown the size of the event & have facilitated leadership among other new members by providing challenge and support to the committee chairs that comprise the KITK leadership team.

The 2011-2012 Super New Member Award goes to **Karissa Chabot-Purchase & Trinea Crafton**

MEET THE NEW JLL MEMBERS!

SARAH ANTHONY

Sarah was born and raised in Lansing, Michigan. She attended Lansing public schools and graduated from Central Michigan University with a B.S. in Political Science/ Public Administration major and a Legal Studies Minor. She is currently attending Western Michigan University to pursue a Master's degree.

After graduation from CMU, Sarah returned to Lansing to work with numerous social justice and progressive political campaigns. In 2007, she accepted a position with State Representative Joan Bauer (D-Lansing) as a Legislative Assistant. In late 2010, Sarah transitioned from the Michigan Legislature to work with the Michigan College Access Network. Here, Sarah serves as the Director of Finance and Strategic Partnerships.

Committed to community service, Miss Anthony serves in a number of capacities throughout Mid-Michigan. Currently, she is on the Executive Committee of the NAACP Lansing Branch, a member of the Capital Area United Way Community Investment committee, Accelerate Lansing board member, dance instructor at Lansing Church of God in Christ, and member of the Historical Society of Greater Lansing. Sarah was also selected to attend National NAACP conferences in Kansas City, MO and Los Angeles, CA on behalf of the Lansing NAACP.

In her spare time, Sarah enjoys reading and spending time with family and friends.

LEAH ARENDT

My name is Leah Arendt. I live in Haslett with my husband and my two miniature goldendoodles, Riley and Audi.

I am originally from Green Bay, Wisconsin and love the Packers and cheese. I moved to Michigan in 2006 to attend law school at Thomas M. Cooley Law School in Lansing, Michigan. I graduated law school in 2009 and also procured an LLM in Corporate Law & Finance from Thomas M. Cooley Law School in 2011. I am a licensed attorney in the State of Michigan and currently work for the State as a departmental analyst in the Corporations Division.

My husband and I got married in April of last year in a hot air balloon in Sedona, Arizona. It was such an amazing experience and if you ever get the chance to take a hot air balloon ride, I highly recommend it. For those of you who are scared of heights, look out, not down :)

In my spare time, I enjoy working out at the Westside YMCA, playing co-ed softball, and taking my dogs to the park.

I am very excited about this opportunity to become involved with Junior League of Lansing. I look forward to making an impact in the community and forming new friendships along the way.

ANN BERTSCH

My entire family has been blessed to be a part of the East Lansing community for almost 40 years. My husband Brian and I have three children, Mollie (18), Jackie (13), and Patrick (6). I am East Lansing High School and Michigan State University graduate (BA in Advertising). I have worked at Thomas M. Cooley Law School in various positions for almost 22 years. I currently hold the position of Assistant Director of Communications. We are huge Spartan fans and we love to follow the football and basketball teams. Our oldest daughter is a freshman at State as well. Go Green!

I joined the Junior League for its philanthropic emphasis, to give back to the community, as well as to meet new people in the area.

BECCA BUDDE

Becca Budde graduated from MSU a couple years ago and decided to stick around Lansing for a while. Her favorite thing about being in Lansing is the people she's met and the great community that's so welcoming to newcomers, so she joined JLL to keep that going.

EMILY CASWELL

Emily Caswell came to the Lansing area 11 years ago to attend Michigan State University, fell in love with the community and has made it her home for the better part of the last decade.

Armed with a journalism degree from MSU, Emily has worked for the Lansing State Journal, her hometown paper and now for Capital Area Women's LifeStyle Magazine where she serves as managing editor. She is also the discussion diva at Motion Marketing & Media and is a Lansing entertainment blogger for MLive.

She lives in Lansing with her husband Matt and enjoys cool drinks, swimming, shopping sprees, hanging with friends and family and supporting Lansing.

KARISSA CHABOT-PURCHASE

My husband Stephen and I have made Lansing our home since we graduated from Michigan State University, where I have a Bachelor's degree in Political Theory and Constitutional Democracy and a Master's degree in Critical Studies in Literacy and Pedagogy. My professional interests include visual literacy, professional writing, public relations, and education policy. I currently work in the Michigan House of Representatives as a Legislative Assistant but hope that Junior League will

enable me to give back to my community (and to Michigan) in new ways. When I'm not working or volunteering I enjoy spending time with my sisters, cooking with my husband, attending Spartan sporting events, DIY endeavors, and organizing anything I can get my hands on.

TRINEA CRAFTON

I am originally from Haslett, Michigan. I left here and moved to Chicago to study Journalism at Columbia College Chicago. After graduation I booked a one way ticket to Rome, Italy where I spent the next year and a half working at the Colosseum and attempting to learn Italian. After Italy I went to India where I volunteered for a women and children's center for four months. Following India I spent the next year and a half in Australia working and traveling. Now I am home and am working in sales and marketing for Medical Management Systems of Michigan, a medical billing company in Lansing. I love to travel and work with several non-profit organizations here in Lansing and through this love of travel, working with people all over the world. I have major goals to work again with an organization in a third world country. I have other family members who were part of JLL and I am very excited to be part of such a giving and wonderful group of women!

LINDSAY DANGL

I moved to Lansing eight years ago to attend Michigan State University. I now live in Lansing with my husband Brad. I am working as an associate attorney at Murphy, Brenton & Spagnuolo, PC.

MALLORY GILBERT

I live in Grand Ledge with my fiance, Adam along with our cat and two dogs. I graduated from Florida Gulf Coast University with my bachelors degree in business with a concentration in human

resources. Currently I am working at Auto-Owners Insurance Company as a Property Manager for corporate real estate. I enjoy spending time with my family and planning our upcoming wedding. I look forward to becoming more involved in the community and meeting new people.

JENNIFER HODGES

Jennifer Hodges is a Southern belle at heart however, she does bleed green. A native of North Carolina, she has lived in Michigan since 1998. Jennifer lives in Holt and has been married for 13 years; she has a 9-year-old daughter and works at Motion Marketing & Media as the agency's senior media buyer. She loves spending time with her family, camping and singing lots of karaoke.

JEN HUMPHRIES

Jen Humphries is a Senior Business Analyst with Auto-Owners Insurance Company. She enjoys bowling on a weekly league, serving on her condominium board of directors, reading, clogging (similar to tap dancing) and experiencing local activities. She joined Junior League of Lansing to help make a difference in the local community and to develop friendships with charity minded women.

KALEIGH JAEGER

I am originally from Escanaba, MI. I graduated from GVSU with a BS in Health Communication in 2009. I moved to Okemos last January with my fiancé, Aaron and maltipoo.

EMILY KLAVENSKI

I am a local family law attorney at John W. Bissell, P.C. and the best part of my job is helping local families. I wanted to join Junior League to broaden my skills, meet other women and learn ways I could become involved in the local community.

JAIMIE WALSH

My name is Jaimie Walsh. I am currently employed at Sparrow Health System in their Information Technology Department as a Business Analyst. I received my Bachelors in Business Administration from Grand Valley State University, and am currently working towards my MSA in Healthcare Administration at Central Michigan University. I currently live in Mason, MI with my husband (Scott) and boxer (Paisley). I am looking forward to being involved with Junior League, and working more with the community.

DANA ZECCHINO

Dana Zecchino is a proud mother of 2 and has stayed at home with her children for the past 3 years. She has currently taken a position with Michigan Gas & Electric as a Business Development Manager. Dana is also a member of Women Working Wonders.



2011-2012 OUTGOING BOARD



Back Row (L to R): Jaimie Hutchinson, Melissa Seifert, Michelle Lange, Janet Freund
Front Row (L to R): Becky Paalman, Kate Powers, Traci Riehl, Kirsten Soltis, Lisa Keefer Not Pictured: AmySue Melville

2012-2013 BOARD



L to R: Becky Paalman, Kate Marchyok, Ann Vogelsang, Torye Santucci, Bridget Seitz, Nanette Nasser, Leslie Donaldson, Amy Lothamer Not Pictured: Susan Lupo, Deb Atkinson