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THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF MIDLAND, INC.



VOLUME 66, NUMBER 3

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Standard Sales Company, L.P. is a company with a proud heritage of supporting and serving worthy community projects and events in the counties it serves. We are honored to support the Junior League of Midland and the efforts they make to improve the lives of people in the Permian Basin. Cheers, to JLM and to another 70 years of community service!





TUMBLEWEED

SPRING 2021

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LETTER FROM ASSISTANT EDITOR



Spring - a time of growth and renewal. A time of new beginnings, short sleeves, and sunshine. And if you're a native Texan, this time of year means bluebonnets, crawfish, and rodeos. In our League, spring signifies the beginning of an end. We will celebrate with our annual fundraiser, honor our graduating class of Provisionals, and commend our dedicated members. Hands down, spring is the best season, not only in this great state but also in our League.

This year, the League, like Mother Earth, has shown her resilience and adaptability to the world around her. Like a wildflower, our League refused to let the weeds of a pandemic hold her back. She did not stay silent; she did not sit still. Instead, she kept going and kept growing from the seeds previously planted.

From socially distanced parking lot socials, Zoom general meetings, virtual book clubs and trainings, to taking on renewed volunteer opportunities with the Recording Library of West Texas, where members record themselves reading various texts for our visually impaired community members; our Leadership team devised new ways for us to continue to volunteer within our community and for our members to stay connected. No matter the change in our previous routine, we have each been given the opportunity to keep going and keep growing.

In honor of this spring's new fundraiser, Farm to Table(aux), I am excited to share with you how our League has been involved and has impacted our local arts community. As an avid theatre-goer, former actor, and theatre director, the arts hold a special place in my heart. There is absolutely nothing more freeing than escaping one's own reality by consuming the role of a character, belting out the chorus of a song, or even engaging in an impromptu dance battle in your living room. Within these pages, you will discover how art in various forms can improve your mental health, how the League has supported and nurtured our local arts community, as well as how this publication has helped to showcase artists and their talents through the years.

As we step into this new season of life, don't treat it as the beginning of an end. Rather, I challenge you to reflect on the past year and how you have grown, not only personally but professionally and as a League member. Treat each experience, both positive and negative, as a lesson from which you can continue to grow. Whatever you do, wherever life takes you, continue to nurture yourself so you may keep going and keep growing wherever you have been planted.

BRITTANY CROWLEY

TUMBLEWEED ASSISTANT EDITOR
THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF MIDLAND, INC.

Brittany Crowley is a 2nd-year Active who has served as a Tumbleweed Reporter and is the current Assistant Editor for the Tumbleweed. Over the course of her service with the League, Crowley has enjoyed volunteering with the Boys and Girls Club of the Permian Basin through the Reading Olympics after-school program, as well as serving our community through Volunteers in Midland opportunities.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Junior League of Midland, Inc. 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.

VISION STATEMENT

Hand in Hand, We Build a Better Midland

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Membership Vice President Leslie Whitehead
Membership VP-Elect Alison Rigney
Management Members-at-Large
Suzy Prucka & Brianna Aylesworth

UPCOMING LEAGUE EVENTS

MARCH

- 16 General Meeting, 7pm
- 10 Farm to Table(aux)
Opens Online
- 20 Farm to Table(aux)
Live Auction Broadcast

APRIL

- 6 Provisional Information Session
6:30pm, JLM HQ
- 20 General Meeting, 7pm

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ON THE COVER

"What good is the warmth of summer, without the cold of winter to give it sweetness."

- John Steinbeck

Taken at the beginning of the New Year, the Junior League of Midland, Inc. headquarters looks picturesque in the fallen snow. While the 2020-2021 League year continues to challenge members and the community, we find beauty and renewed strength in the journey.

Artistic rendering of a photograph taken by Chris Goodgame, husband of Junior League of Midland Office Manager, Jamie Goodgame.

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Involved in the Arts

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT-ELECT



Anne Mims Reese is currently serving as the Junior League of Midland, Inc. President-Elect for the 2020-2021 year and will continue her service in the League as President for the 2021-2022 year. This is Reese's 6th Active year. She was very instrumental in the success of the League's previous fundraiser, Shotguns and Stilettos, the year former First Lady Laura Bush was the keynote speaker at the Annual Luncheon. Reese has also served in League placements such as the Nominating and the Advisory Planning committees and feels our newest community project, Pink Pantry because Reese feels like this partnership with Communities in Schools of the Permian Basin is addressing a need that was previously not addressed in the community. Reese is excited to lead the League into the 2021-2022 year.

The 2020-2021 League year has been a year of resilience for the Junior League of Midland, Inc. I am proud when I see our members still making our community placements meaningful for our community partners, as well as themselves. With our resources and COVID-19 protocols, the League has had to reimagine our placements. However the dedication of our members' desire to serve and lead our community has remained steadfast.

Many of our members are making a great impact on the community outside of the League in addition to fulfilling their current League placement requirements. We have numerous members serving on boards around Midland, as well as helping these organizations fundraise during a challenging, depressed market. Active member, Mandy McCabe, spearheaded a community effort to organize donations of gift cards, food and drinks for Midland Memorial Hospital (MMH). With the help of active member, Whitney Lorenz, and many others around the community, they were able to deliver fifty baskets of goodies to MMH for our frontline workers during two trips around the holidays.

Our League continues to be forward thinking in our fundraising endeavors in an effort to be prepared for the 2021-2022 League year. Although we may not be 100% certain what our placements will look like in our next League year, we are making every effort to having them be fully funded. With Elisabeth Christensen, Fund Development Vice President, holding the reins, our newly formed Fund Development committee has been extremely successful during its inaugural year. Numerous new grants have been received and expanded our funding strategies. Our fundraising activities have been diversified, such as receiving \$2,000 from City Bank Community Rewards and diligently working on a new fundraiser, Farm to Table(aux). The Fund Development & Farm to Table(aux) committees have been tremendous in securing sponsors and facing adversity of a depressed commodity environment. This inaugural year of Farm to Table(aux) will be a virtual event, and we can't wait to see you all there!

The League is often an introduction to Midland for women looking to network and serve our community. Bri Bertelsen Aylesworth and Suzy Prucka, our Management Members-at-Large, have done a phenomenal job at providing educational and networking opportunities for our members this year; both providing engaging opportunities in-person and virtual formats. This has continued to promote engagement in the League and develop relationships with others in our League.

The 2020-2021 League year has been bittersweet in many ways. We have persevered and accomplished so much in the community during a pandemic. However, many of us ache to have that regular Tuesday General Meeting on Dengar Avenue, where we can all finally be together. I am encouraged and excited for the 2021-2022 League year whatever that may look like, because I have a membership of determined and independent women making Midland a better place each and every day.

Sincerely,

ANNE MIMS REESE

2020-2021 PRESIDENT-ELECT
THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF MIDLAND, INC.



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Encouraging Reading at Halff Park



Reading Olympics, an after-school reading program for students in kindergarten through sixth grade, is truly an amazing program that works directly toward the Junior League of Midland Inc.'s mission of "Keeping Kids in School – Every Age, Every Stage". There are two sessions held each year at two different locations: Halff Park in the fall and Taylor Park in the spring. The most recent Halff Park

sessions served approximately 60 student participants over an 8-week period.

In years past, our League members worked hand-in-hand with the students each Thursday afternoon at the Boys and Girls Club of The Permian Basin. This year, the team shifted from face-to-face learning to virtual instruction with the participants via ZOOM. The kids gathered in a room with a Boys and Girls Club staff member, then League committee members were projected onto the wall providing everyone with a great view of the weekly reader. In years past, lessons were filled with costumes and guest readers; these virtual meetings were no different. The kids were comfortable and excited to interact with our members virtually as they have become pros in hybrid learning experiences similar to many school environments over the past year.

Every session, the children are divided into two groups: kindergarten through third grade and fourth through sixth grade. An age-appropriate book is presented to each group weekly. A themed craft and snack are typically paired with the book reading which helps our members better interact with the kids and reinforce the content of the book.

Mary Meadows, the chairman for Reading Olympics Halff Park, said, "What stood out to us most is the resilience that each child showed as they arrived each week, happy and excited to participate despite the virtual format." Traditionally, the last session of Reading Olympics is a graduation ceremony for the children. The committee was able to hold a graduation ceremony and pizza party in person with the participants, while adhering to the Boys & Girls Club and the Junior League of Midland's COVID-19 safety requirements. Mary shared, "I am so thankful that our committee had the opportunity to be with all the kids before ending this year's program, and we look forward to the day when we can be back with them in person each week!"



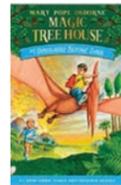
Not only does Reading Olympics help get these children excited about reading and get more books in their homes, it strengthens confidence in their reading ability, reading comprehension, and social engagement skills. Numerous studies have shown the importance of reading skills in a child's overall success in school, and how literacy correlates to a student's concentration, critical thinking skills, memory skills, and vocabulary. When a child starts to struggle with reading, oftentimes they begin to struggle in other subjects as well. Our League members experience the joy of watching these precious kids get excited about books while becoming increasingly confident in their ability to read and comprehend a story, helping to lay the foundation for success at school.

Please know that your generous donations to The Junior League of Midland, Inc. support programs like Reading Olympics that directly benefit children here in our community and paves a road for their future academic success.

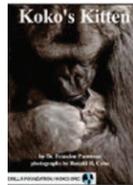
Reading Olympics Graduation Book Selection

Participants each received a copy of the grade-appropriate books below in celebration of the program completion.

KINDERGARTEN THROUGH THIRD GRADE



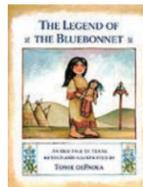
Magic Treehouse: Dinosaurs Before Dark
by Mary Pope Osborne



Koko's Kitten
by Dr. Francine Patterson

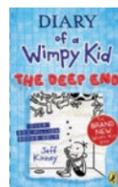


The World Needs More Purple People
by Kristen Bell and Benjamin Hart



The Legend of the Bluebonnet
by Tomi dePaola

FOURTH THROUGH SIXTH GRADE



Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Deep End
by Jeff Kinney



Ghost
by Jason Reynolds



Hatchet
by Gary Paulsen



Candice Kendrick, The Junior League of Midland, Inc. President, receives a check from the team at Walmart as part of the Walmart Giving program. Pictured (L to R) are Miranda Prtyle, Candice Kendrick, Alicia West, and Tawania Cooks

Walmart Giving

We are excited to announce that The Junior League of Midland, Inc. received a grant from Walmart Giving!

This grant will benefit our Reading Olympics program, an after-school reading program for students in kindergarten through sixth grade. Through reading and related activities, trained Junior League members help strengthen participants' reading comprehension and social engagement skills. The League also provides every student participant with a new book each week of the program to take home, practice their reading skills, and share with their families.



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VOLUNTEERS IN MIDLAND

By Catie Matthews

Junior League Day at the Jubilee Center

Angela Hunt, Volunteers in Midland committee member, organized a Junior League Day on December 19th at the Jubilee Center, a food pantry and partner of the West Texas Food Bank. Only one week before Christmas, several League members braved the frigid cold in everything from ski pants to FRCs in their effort to give back to community members in need.

Staff at the Jubilee Center took great care of the volunteers as they moved boxes of food filled with Christmas goodies for everyone: eggs, milk, gift cards for turkeys or hams, and baking tins containing the ingredients required for mouthwatering Christmas dinners. The next step was delivery.

Dressed warmly with PPE, League members greeted families as they drove up to receive their Christmas bundles. Volunteers often felt overwhelmed by both the community's needs and the feelings they experienced during the event. League member and Volunteers in Midland committee member, Kristin Schmidt, commented, "When I signed up to volunteer at the Jubilee Center, I knew that I would leave feeling good knowing that many families would enjoy Christmas dinner, but I didn't know just how much of a profound impact it would leave on me. While I've lived through the ups and downs of the oil industry my whole life, I've never had to worry about whether I was going to be able to buy my next meal. The Jubilee Center staff told us when we arrived that people are running out of any savings they had and are desperate for food."

Additionally, League members learned that the Jubilee Center staff believe in their mission so much that they gave up their salaries to ensure they could continue serving their clients this year. What an organization!

This was the first time most of the Volunteers in Midland committee members met each other in person, and are a stronger committee for it. Event volunteers included Angela Hunt, Kristin Schmidt, Mallory Marcoux, Rohini Restelle, Abbey Travelstead, and Ginny Van Doren.

Current Volunteer Opportunities for JLM Members

JUBILEE CENTER

A client choice food pantry servicing approximately 1,300 people per month.

Opportunities are available for shelf-stocking on Fridays and assisting clients with shopping on Saturdays.

KIDS FIRST

A supervised visitation program that provides a safe and conflict-free space for children to build and maintain a bond with their non-custodial parents.

Thursdays 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

MISSION AGAPE

Services include delivering food to area schools for students who do not have access to meals on the weekends.

Thursdays from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm.

THE RECORDING LIBRARY OF WEST TEXAS

Dedicated to improving the lives of people who cannot access the printed word, the Recording Library offers audio versions of various media to the visually impaired. In addition to aiding the visually impaired, the Recording Library also offers services for dyslexic individuals and others with learning disabilities or mental and physical impairments.

Mondays from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm.



Junior League Volunteered at Operation Elf Toy Drive

Each year, Centers for Children and Families, an organization dedicated to providing quality and affordable mental health care to our community, holds an annual Christmas Party for their clients called Operation Elf. Due to COVID-19, Operation Elf transformed into a drive-thru holiday party on December 15th. This event, held in the Centers parking lot, allowed children to pick out toys from the safety of their family's vehicle.

League volunteers – Kelsey Estes, Alexis Leggett, Natalie Morgan, and Ginny Van Doren – commented that the smiles and excitement on the children's faces were priceless and brought an overwhelming sense of joy to all who participated.



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HEADLINER PACKAGE - \$2,500

Includes name or logo on the event website and social media, verbal recognition during live broadcast and a host kit. Host kit contains one bottle of tequila, two bottles of wine, a case of Long Drink, one flower arrangement, 10 branded cups, themed sponsor gift, and heavy appetizers and dessert for 10.

ROCKIN' DUET PACKAGE - \$400

Includes one bottle of wine, 2 branded cups, themed gift, appetizers and dessert for two.

OPENING ACT - FREE

Enjoy the live broadcast and all of the virtual aspects of the event, including opportunities to bid, buy, and donate.



By Amanda Mason

MENTAL HEALTH FOCUS

Find Your Inner Bob Ross

Art has been used for years to help improve mental health. The experts at Centers for Children and Families in the Permian Basin said any type of art form is beneficial. Whether it's dancing, drawing, music, writing, or creating crafts, it helps you find some inner peace.

"Art allows your emotions to come up and out of your body. Many times, when we have trauma, anxiety, or depression, we stuff that in the body. Art allows us to bring emotions through the brain and out through our fingers in some expressive way," said Kristi Edwards, executive director and therapist at Centers for Children and Families.

Melanie Saiz, the marketing director for Centers, encourages everyone to explore their inner artist, "Not everyone is a Bob Ross, but even painting with friends takes you away from the things that are bothering you. A lot of treatment centers incorporate art into their programs."

There are several ways that art is used at Centers. Edwards said the therapists use drawing for boys ages nine to twelve for anger management. "We want to teach them that they don't go from zero to 60 and explode in anger," said Edwards. What therapists do is give these young boys an outline of a body and help them recognize where they start to feel the anger first. The children draw on the shape of the body what and where they feel the anger.

"Does it start in your stomach? Do your hands get tight? Do you get flushed? We want to connect them with what's going on with their body and where we can put in an intervention before an explosion," said Edwards.

“ I can't think of anything more rewarding than being able to express yourself to others through painting. Exercising the imagination, experimenting with talents, being creative; these things, to me, are truly the windows to your soul. **”**

BOB ROSS



As a family, pick up a marker and a sheet of paper, journal every day before the kids get up, or have your own dance party. Theaters and museums are either closed or limited due to the pandemic, so we have to create our unique art.

Edwards and Saiz say it's important that you don't judge your art form or have any specific expectations. It's about letting your creative mind take over and express yourself. As Bob Ross once said, "We don't make mistakes, just happy little accidents." If you make a happy little accident, follow Bob Ross' lead and make it a bird, "Yeah, they're birds now."

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For additional resources and upcoming art and mental health collaborations, visit the Centers for Children and Families website: centerstx.org.

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AT JLM HEADQUARTERS

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THE APPLICATION



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The Lasting Arts Legacy of the League in Midland



Incorporated in September of 1965, the Museum of the Southwest was initially a civic project voted on by The Junior League of Midland, Inc. in an effort to develop an art and science museum for the city of Midland. The League pledged support to establish the institution over a five-year period, leading to the successful opening in 1966. From that brilliant beginning emerged the Museum of the Southwest, an asset for the community in promoting education in art, culture, and science for more than fifty years.

Today, the Museum of the Southwest is comprised of four buildings totaling over 50,000 square feet of space for the community, including over 16,000 feet of galleries and a collection comprised of more than 1,700 works of art and approximately 45,000 archaeological items. The Museum hosts numerous events for the community including art exhibitions, astronomy programs, musical evenings, festivals, a weekly farmer's market and many other activities.

The League continues to partner with the Museum today by annually appointing a new League member to the designated Junior League of Midland seat on the Museum's Board of Trustees. Many of these members continue to serve on the Museum's Board after their year concludes to continue furthering the Museum's mission through volunteering, attending events, and financial contributions.

While the last year has been a hybrid of in-person and online events and tours due to COVID-19 precautions, the Museum of the Southwest is back to regular operating hours and open to visitors under the direction of their new Executive Director, Lori Wesley. Over the course of this year, the Museum will be phasing in exhibition openings and special events back into their schedule and beginning construction on the new Children's Museum very soon!



Pictured above: [Top] League members in front of the Turner Mansion; [Second Row, L to R] Trustees Bob Leibrock and Bill Blakemore witnessing League member and office manager, Bev Strong, sign the League's agreement with the museum to occupy a portion of the museum for the League's office; Septemberfest; Students from Carver enjoy the first exhibit, "Echoes of Texas"; A.K. Bergstrom family attended the opening exhibit at the museum; [Third Row, L to R] Summer Sunday lawn concert; The Museum of the Southwest's first guest, Governor Jon Connally, signing the guest book; Museum of the Southwest at its original location on West Wall Street; [Bottom Row, L to R] Museum of the Southwest grand opening; Turner Mansion today

Current and Upcoming Museum Exhibitions



PRECOLOMBIAN LIFEWAYS

FEBRUARY 2021 THROUGH MAY 2021

Showcasing artifacts from ancient cultures of Central and South America ranging in time from around 1000 B.C. to 1500 A.D.



FIVE CENTURIES OF MEXICAN MAPS: SELECTED MAPS FROM THE MUSEUM OF THE BIG BEND'S YANA & MARTY DAVIS MAP COLLECTION

MAY 2021 THROUGH JULY 2021

This exhibit of over 60 maps of Mexico is one of the largest exhibits ever of its kind and shows how the cartography of Mexico evolved over five centuries, with the oldest map in the collection from 1493.



KATIE MARATTA: THE LONG HORIZON

AUGUST 2021 THROUGH JANUARY 2022

Focusing on the Texas landscape, a typical piece is just about one inch high and four feet long engaging the viewer to "travel" the artwork, an experience that parallels seeing the landscape from a moving car.



JLM Continues to Serve the Museum

Both Active and Sustainer members continue our partnership and service with the Museum of the Southwest as members on their Board of Trustees. Current members on the Board include:

Emily Buescher

Bethany Etheredge

Karmen Hendrix Bryant

Served as Interim Executive Director in 2018

Rebecca Linehan

Mauri Scharbauer

Bronwyn Dower

Will serve as the 2021 JLM representative on the Museum's Board



Museum of the Southwest
Blakemore Planetarium

1705 W. Missouri Ave.
Midland, Texas
79701

(432) 683-2882

Museum Hours:

Tuesday - Saturday
10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Sunday
2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

[f @MuseumoftheSouthwest](#)

[@MuseumSW](#)

Museum of the Southwest Timeline

- 1965** Incorporated with the assistance of the Junior League of Midland.
- 1966** Opening and ribbon cutting attended by Governor John Connolly at the original location on Wall Street.
- 1968** Relocated to the Turner Mansion, generously donated by the daughters of owners, Juliette and Fred Turner, Fredda Turner Durham and Dorothy Turner Scharbauer.
- 1970** Expansion of the Thomas Gallery.
- 1972** Blakemore Planetarium established and funded by a grant from the Blakemore Foundation.
- 1986** Children's Museum established based on a Junior League of Midland community needs assessment that determined a children's museum would benefit Midland. Fredda Turner Durham gave a generous donation to assure the development of a new facility which was named in her honor on land generously donated by a museum patron.
- 1987** Lissa Noël Wagner Wing established to provide much needed exhibition space, collection storage, preparation and art-handling spaces. The building, designed by noted architect Frank Welch, won the Texas Society of Architects' Award for Excellence.
- 1988** The Turner Mansion recognized as a registered historic place and was listed on the National Register of Historic Places.
- 1992** Received accreditation from the American Alliance of Museums (AAM). This accreditation signifies a museum's quality and credibility to the entire museum community and helps to ensure the integrity and accessibility of museum collections.
- 2002** Received additional accreditations from the AAM.
- 2009** The Lissa Noël Wagner Wing was renovated and expanded in honor of Marian Blakemore.
- 2021** Renovation begins on The Children's Museum.

OPERA'S LIFE LESSONS

By Amanda Mason

Opera is an art form that is easily misunderstood. The work and dedication it takes to hit high notes, sound effortless, and sing for more than an hour at the absolute peak of your vocal capabilities could be compared to rocket science.

Why Opera?

Opera has been a part of my life for many years. I started singing at five-years-old with a TCU teacher in Fort Worth. After the first lesson, my voice teacher, who was blind, said I could become an opera singer one day. At five, I was more interested in Franklin, her seeing-eye dog, who I fell in love with. She could hear something in my voice and told my mom to treat this as a gift. Opera was where my voice flourished and the ultimate vocal expression. Before becoming a reporter and anchor, I was an opera and musical theater singer in New York City. I received a bachelor's degree and master's degree in music for classical vocal performance at the internationally renowned conservatory, Manhattan School of Music. It was an incredible experience to have and I am so grateful. Training for opera is similar



Amanda Mason performing at Carnegie Hall, New York City

to how an athlete would train for the Olympics—spending years and years for a few incredible sparkling moments, my favorite singing at Carnegie Hall.

In honor of the arts, I wanted to share the most important lessons I learned from singing opera in hopes of helping others succeed.

Listen to Your Body

The most significant difference between opera and musical theater is you sing without a microphone. Not utilizing a mic takes years of training to build vocal strength to project your voice and fill a theater with hundreds of audience members. It is one of the draws to the opera performance. As an athlete, your lungs and voice are muscles that need to be conditioned, and they also need to rest. This is also true about opera.

One of the biggest challenges as an opera singer is the skill to convert your body into an instrument. Everything that happens to you also happens to your voice. Number one rule, your body, has to come first. There are many nights I have stayed home instead of going out because I had a show the next day. The vocal cords are the size of a dime, and they can be damaged if you are not careful, if you are dehydrated, if you take too much Advil (or any blood thinners), if you are upset, stressed, tired and the list goes on and on. So many factors in life can affect your singing, along with your performance. Even something as small as neck or jaw tension could throw off my singing. Singers have to be hyper-aware of their entire instrument to tune their body and mind to sing at the level demanded by classical music.



Amanda Mason's recital at Manhattan School of Music

To stay aware of my health, every day I quietly check in with myself. I take five minutes in the morning and evening to assess my body from head to toe and figure out what it may need. Sometimes you need hydration or to stretch a part of your body. If you have to say no to friends one night or get some extra sleep or stay up a little longer to finish a project that is stressing you out, never apologize for doing what you need to do. It's about giving your body what it needs to be aligned. Not sure what you need? Just ask yourself, "What one thing could I do right now to feel more balanced or content?"

Whatever you choose, your body and mind will thank you.

Paying Attention to Detail

I spent more than a week in Montepulciano, Italy studying opera. The room we performed in around the piazza had floor to ceiling murals, and the sound of our voices would float through the main square. It was straight out of a fairy tale. I was the only American, and none of my instructors spoke English. Honestly, my Italian was not up to speed for this type of immersion and the first day was, for lack of better words, a shock. The second day, I fell right into the rhythm and understood everything because my instructors and I communicated through the small details of each piece.



Rehearsal Hall in Montepulciano, Italy

We all connected through the language of music and the attention to detail. When singing, I am simultaneously:

- Breathing at the right moments.
- Portraying my character.
- Remembering my staging.
- Pronouncing the words correctly.
- Thinking of the English translation at the same time.
- Connecting emotionally to the piece.
- Thinking of the notes ahead.
- Placing the sounds where they need to be in my voice.

All while watching the conductor and keeping in rhythm with the instruments.

Maestro Bruno Bartoletti took my skills to the next level that week. When I coached with him, he would have me start the aria (which is a song in opera), and he would stop me every time I made a mistake. Then I would begin the aria again and go as far as I could until I made a mistake, even the tiniest of errors, I had to start over. This may sound crazy to many, but that is what it took to be prepared for this art form. Like an athlete making a movement over and over to build muscle memory, I was building performance memory.



Sheet Music of a popular aria "Quando Men Vo" from La Boheme

I use this technique when preparing for presentations and speeches. Fine-tuning every detail, no matter what you are doing, starting over after a mistake and fixing the error as you approach it, helps you prepare for any pitfalls.

Always Have a Dress Rehearsal

I was once on stage during a vocal competition when I was in high school; my performance did not go well. After I finished my aria and left the stage, my parents came up to me and asked what was wrong. They knew something was off. "I couldn't sing in my

dress," I said. I could not breathe properly in the dress I was wearing. From that moment on, I would sing in the dressing rooms if I considered buying a dress to sing in. I would wear multiple shoes to rehearsals to test out the height of the heels. A half an inch could make a huge difference and throw off my body's alignment and disrupt my breath. Any little thing can throw you off. Never let an event be the first time you wear a new outfit or pair of heels.

Pass the Knowledge Along

What I learned was a critical part of who I am today. Every teacher or conductor gave me the tips

and directions that helped me become a successful performer. I hope the lessons I learned can be applied in your life. This is a good time to think back at all the people in your life who helped you learn something new and how you apply it to tasks today.

I mentioned my parents earlier; they were completely engaged in everything that I did. They never sugar coated anything which gave me a chance to really grow. For parents, it's a good thing to remember to be honest of mistakes and potential improvement with your kids. My parents would say, let the teacher come out in your communication and not the critic.



Amanda Mason's Graduate Recital and Manhattan School of Music

By Ellecia Randle



SAVANNAH ROSS
PROVISIONAL

Savannah Ross began her love of painting as a child. While attending college, she painted custom coolers for friends as a side business. This experience led her to minor in art and design. Ross now paints in her free time. "When I'm overwhelmed with screen time, it's nice to be able to leave my phone in the other room just to see what I can come up with," said Ross.

Ross also uses her creative talents with her company, Hancock Group, a full-service advertising and promotional products agency. Businesses hire the Hancock Group to handle their marketing and advertising from billboards to any promotional products including hats or shirts. Ross worked as a Hancock Group employee for two years before purchasing the company in 2020.



GINNY VAN DOREN
PROVISIONAL

Ginny Van Doren's passion for event planning began in college volunteering at special events and concerts. Van Doren soon realized she could make a career working in the arts and has now worked as the Marketing Director at Wagner Noël Performing Arts Center for three and a half years after moving from Austin. The Wagner Noël hosts over 200 events a year. It is community built and run with 90% of staff born and raised in West Texas.

Van Doren believes "the arts have the power to transport you to another time and place, and the power to inspire and bring people together. Simply put, it's magical. Wagner Noël, along with other art venues in Midland, bring the arts together under one roof for us all to enjoy as one community."



SAMANTHA VOSS
3RD YEAR ACTIVE

Samantha Voss works as the Events and Engagement Manager for the Museum of the Southwest, where she designs events and assists with fundraising. Voss enjoys working to further the Museum's mission to help West Texans explore their potential as artists and makers.

"My favorite part of working at the Museum is getting to meet and serve members of the Midland community. The Museum has worked diligently to help bring art, history, science and culture to West Texas for over 50 years and it is such a privilege to get to contribute to that legacy in a small way," said Voss.

By Mary Susan Hunter

Sarah Brannon



After 10 years in the Dallas/Fort Worth area working with notable interior designers and mentors David Corely, Jan Showers, and Amy Walton, Sustainer *Sarah Brannon* is back in West Texas ready to transform and update our homes with her elegant eye for design. As an interior designer with a minor in architecture, Brannon recently started her own design business in Midland encouraged by people in the community looking for a local designer.

Brannon says, "We love Midland and the sense of community we feel here. We are looking to continue planting our family's roots here." The League has also had a positive impact on Brannon as she is always reminded how much good can be done for people in need through the League. Brannon continues, "Sometimes you need a reality check after a stressful day and Junior League can do just that!" Brannon can offer design assistance with any size project – from picking a paint color to larger-scale renovation projects.

To see her design work in progress, follow her on Instagram, [@sarahbrannoninteriors](#).



Katherine Curry-Prementine

In addition to her position as the Marketing and Communications Coordinator for Midland College, Sustainer *Katherine Curry-Prementine* also has her own photography business, *Photos by Katherine*. She fell in love with photography at the age of three years old and has pursued it ever since. Curry-Prementine is responsible for designing the artwork for all social platforms for Midland College, assisting with print and digital promotional pieces, and is the resident photographer for the school all the while capturing many family's special moments through *Photos by Katherine*. "The best part of my job, is the part that I fell in love with when I was three, being the photographer for the school. I use my photography skills every day at the college."

Through her business, *Photos by Katherine*, Curry-Prementine captures milestone events such as weddings, portraits, engagements and family photos. "I enjoy capturing the intimate moments a client's special day. There's nothing quite like the joy of watching families laugh and interact together when they think no one is watching. That's when the magic happens!"

Curry-Prementine is thankful for the Junior League not only because of the connections she has built professionally, but personally as stated, "I have learned how volunteering makes a difference while developing leadership skills and trying out different and new things."

To see more of her work or to connect with her, visit her website: www.photosbykatherine.com.



By Historian Committee

Showcasing Art Within the Community and League

The Junior League of Midland, Inc. is dedicated to embracing art and culture, developing skills and talents, and improving the community through effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. This is evident in our long history of being invested in and embracing culture and art.

From helping to establish the Museum of the Southwest in the 1960s, the League was instrumental in establishing the Midland Community Theater through programs like Pickwick Players and the Children's Theater. The League also sponsored multiple youth symphony concerts with the Midland Symphony Association.

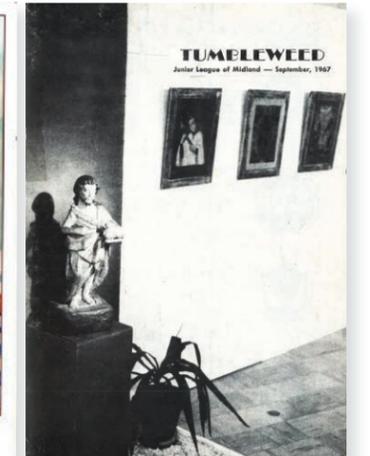
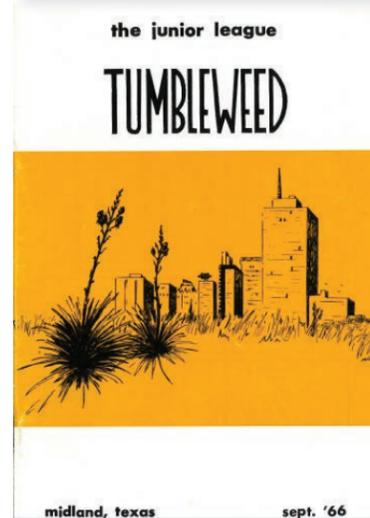
The League has hosted events over the years showcasing and embracing the artistic talents of the community.

In 1977, the 16th Annual Student Art Festival opened at the Museum of the Southwest. The Junior League of Midland was a proud sponsor of the work done during the year in art classes in the city's public and private schools. The Junior League went on to continue sponsoring such events for many more years.

Along with the student art festival, in 1979, the Junior League put on "Showcase Midland: A Celebration of the Arts." This event was created to showcase what was happening in the arts in Midland, Texas. Coordinators compiled a calendar of events which were held during the showcase. The Junior League continued to feature artists in issues of the *Tumbleweed*. This exemplifies the Junior League's dedication to the arts, local artists, and culture of Midland.

Not only did the League embrace local artists, but displayed the talent within the organization by having art and photography done by members as the covers of the *Tumbleweed* – a great example of the many talents that the members of the Junior League of Midland have! *Tumbleweed* covers have also been art of children who submitted their own artwork as part of the *Tumbleweed* Art Contest.

These events are great examples of how the women of the Junior League of Midland are improving the culture and community of Midland!



SECOND TUESDAY CLUB RECIPES

By Mary Susan Hunter

By Ellecia Randle

MEMBER MILESTONES



"One of my favorite Instant Pot recipes that I have found and would like to share with the League. Enjoy!"

- Kimberly Davis, Sustainer



"This dinner roll and cinnamon roll recipe is one I have always made for family meals and holiday gatherings. Enjoy!"

- Kathy Robbins, Sustainer

Shrimp and Asparagus Risotto (Instant Pot)

INGREDIENTS

- 2 tsp olive oil
- 1 small yellow onion, diced
- 1½ cups Arborio rice
- 1 cup sliced cremini or white button mushrooms
- ½ cup white wine
- 3½ cups chicken broth
- 1 tbsp butter
- 1 cup chopped asparagus
- ¾ lb large shrimp, peeled and deveined
- ¼ cup grated Parmesan cheese
- ½ tsp fresh black pepper

STEP 1

Set an electric pressure cooker to browning or sauté, and heat the oil. Stir in the onion, and cook for 2 or 3 minutes, until the onion is translucent.

STEP 2

Add the rice and the mushrooms, and cook, stirring, for 4-5 minutes, until the rice is coated with the oil and very lightly browning. Pour in the wine, which will bubble immediately. Stir for 1 minute, until most of the wine has been absorbed. Then add the chicken broth all at once.

STEP 3

Lock the cover and turn the pressure valve (so it's not on venting.) Set on High Pressure for 6 minutes.

STEP 4

When the cooker switches to Keep Warm, immediately release the pressure. After the pressure indicator drops, remove the top.

STEP 5

Switch the cooker to Sauté. Stir in the butter and asparagus. Cook for 1 minute, then add the shrimp.

STEP 6

Cook, stirring frequently, until the shrimp are pink and cooked through, approximately 3 minutes, and most of the liquid has been absorbed. Stir in the cheese, vigorously, to melt the cheese and distribute it throughout the risotto. Serve immediately. (Risotto left in the pot will thicken substantially.)

SOURCE

<http://cookwithsara.blogspot.com/2016/09/shrimp-and-asparagus-risotto-instant-pot.html>

Refrigerator Yeast Rolls

INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup butter
- 1 cup sugar
- 2 tsp salt
- 1 cup boiling water
- 2 large eggs, lightly beaten
- 2 envelopes of active dry yeast
- 1 cup warm water (105-115 degrees)
- 6 cups all-purpose flour
- ¼ cup butter, melted

STEP 1

Combine yeast and 1 cup warm water in glass measuring cup; let stand 5 minutes.

STEP 2

Combine first 3 ingredients in a large bowl; stir in 1 cup boiling water. Cool. Stir in eggs.

STEP 3

Stir yeast into egg mixture. Gradually add flour, stirring until blended. Cover and chill at least 4 hours.

STEP 4

Pinch off 1/3 of dough mixture and roll dough to a ¼ inch thickness on a floured surface.

STEP 5

Cut with a 2 in round cutter and fold in half. Place dough on lightly greased cookie sheets. Brush with melted butter.

STEP 6

Let rise at room temperature 1 hour or until doubled in bulk.

STEP 7

Bake at 375 degrees for 10-12 minutes or until golden.

STEP 8

Repeat with the remaining dough.

Cinnamon Rolls

INGREDIENTS

Dough – utilize recipe to left.

ICING INGREDIENTS

- ½ cup powdered sugar
- 2 tsp milk

FILLING INGREDIENTS

- ½ cup butter, melted
- ½ cup sugar
- 2 tsp cinnamon

STEP 1

Roll 1/3 of the dough into a 14 x 10-inch rectangle on a floured surface.

STEP 2

Brush with melted butter; sprinkle sugar and cinnamon evenly across dough.

STEP 3

Roll up, starting at the long end; cut crossways into ¾ to 1-inch pieces.

STEP 4

Place dough in 2 lightly greased 9-inch round cake pans. If using more of the dough, you can put in a larger rectangular baking dish.

STEP 5

Let rise and bake as directed above.

STEP 6

Icing Optional - Stir together powdered sugar and milk; drizzle glaze over warm rolls.



Active *Katy Beth DeWinne* and her husband, Dalton, welcomed their son, Lincoln Patrick DeWinne, October 29th weighing 7 lbs. 6 oz. and 19" long.



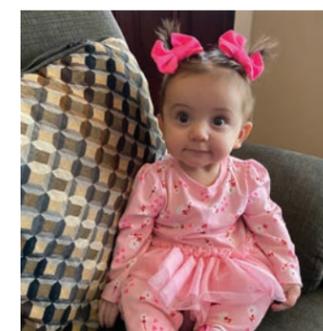
On November 15th, Cody Keenan proposed to Active *Jennifer Gentile* in the backyard of their home in Midland. The couple met in the fall of 2012 through a mutual friend and became good friends while attending the University of South Florida. After four years as friends, the two decided to give dating a try and the rest is history.



Active *Kristin Ditto* and her husband, William, welcomed their first child, Caroline Rose Ditto on December 20th weighing 8 lbs. 15 oz. and measuring 20.5" long.



Active *Lauren Smith* and husband, Zachary, welcomed their son, Nathan Charles Smith, on September 13th weighing 5 lbs. 11 oz. and measuring 18.75" long.



Active *Natalie Morgan* and husband, Michael, welcomed their miracle IVF baby girl, Evelyn Quinn Morgan, on July 4th.



Sustainer *Shelley Jowell Smith* celebrated the first birthday of her first grandchild, Addison Elizabeth Smith, on February 3rd. Addison is the daughter of her son, Clayton, and daughter-in-law, Nicole Smith.



Active *Stephanie Houston* and husband, Matt, welcomed their son, Forrest Walker Houston, on November 20th weighing 7 lbs. and 4 oz. and 21" long.



Active *Kristin Groner* and her husband, Jered, welcomed their baby girl, Payton Marie, on November 11th weighing 8 lbs. 7 oz. and measuring 21" long joining big brother, Brooks, to the Groner family.

By Ellecia Randle



Molly Grigsby recently transferred from the Junior League of Memphis after spending a few years in Denver while husband, Cade, attended law school. Born and raised in Austin, Grigsby received her MBA from the University of Memphis and currently works as an investment analyst for a Denver-based investment company. Grigsby and her husband, Cade, welcomed their first child, George, in September 2020.

Please help us welcome Molly to the Junior League of Midland!

TRANSFER WELCOME

Virtual training courses offered by the League's Management Members-at-Large (MMAL) have proven to be the bulk of members' enrichment and development opportunities over the League year. Open to both Actives and Sustainers, the trainings and classes offered this year have been insightful and varied widely in their content and experiences. While there have been limited opportunities to meet in person, the MMAL team is hopeful that COVID-19 will be at bay for the beginning of the next League year and there will be opportunities for more in-person Growth Groups and trainings.



The Tumbleweed interviewed Suzy Prucka, a Management Member-at-Large, to learn inside information on these trainings.

HOW HAVE THE ONLINE TRAINING COURSES BEEN GOING?

"We have had over 100 training opportunities thus far in the year. JLM has been very responsive with these opportunities, and almost every training offered has at least 1 member participating. Many have had at least 4 or 5 participating in them. Very few virtual trainings go unattended!"

HOW IS YOUR TEAM ABLE TO ENGAGE THE MEMBERS AND WHAT MAKES THESE EVENTS SO SUCCESSFUL?

"Both Bri and I have worked very hard to find trainings that meet members where they are in their lives. The League is made up of a marvelous group of avid cooks/bakers, new mothers, members itching for leadership development, nonprofit management knowledge, or just members looking for something different during the current times."

HAS THE ONLINE TRAINING MADE YOU FEEL A CLOSER CONNECTION TO OTHER JL CHAPTERS SINCE WE ARE SHARING RESOURCES AND EVENTS?

"Yes, what is neat about offering a variety of online trainings hosted by other Leagues is members can see that JLM is really part of a greater network. We had many opportunities to see issues and topics other Leagues are attempting to tackle. For me, I had kindred feeling from seeing chapters all over the country offering substantive, often times free, trainings on topics we need most covered here. A win, win!"

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE MOST POPULAR CLASSES?

"We have quite a few members taking the infant/child car seat safety class. With a young membership and lots of new moms, I am glad we can provide these types of training opportunities. Additionally, the cooking classes have also been popular. The trainings are sure to result in quite a few amateur chefs in Midland."

WHAT IS SOMETHING SPECIAL THAT YOU HAVE LEARNED THROUGH THIS PROCESS?

"I am excited to see the large number of members eager to better themselves as civic leaders and volunteers through extensive leadership trainings we have offered over the year."

By Maggie McDaniel

HIGHLIGHTS FROM MMAL EVENTS

MMAL hosted its final in-person Growth Group event for the League year on January 13th at the newly opened Far West Coffee.

MMALs hosted a Hot Chocolate Bomb Making Class on February 1st with over 16 members and friends joining via video. This class was led by Chocolatier Yeli Marshall, owner of Yelibelly Chocolates in Addison, Texas and suggested by a fellow League member. Each participant received a kit with chocolate, bomb molds, mix, and decorations from the chocolate shop.

UPCOMING VIRTUAL TRAININGS AND EVENTS INCLUDE:

- Cookie Making and Decorating
- Media Training
- Oil and Gas Industry
- Virtual Evening with Tara Westover, Author of "Educated"

Yelibelly Chocolates



BOOK CLUB UPDATE

January



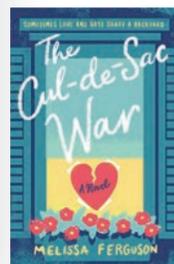
"THE TWO LIVES OF LYDIA BIRD"

BY JOSIE SILVER

This book explores a woman's chance to decide between the love of her life and a new love.

The book was well-received by the book club, and members who enjoyed the style of "The Two Lives of Lydia Bird" are encouraged to read Silver's first novel, "One Day in Decembet." "One Day in December" was both a #1 New York Times bestselling book and a Reese's Book Club Selection.

February



"THE CUL-DE-SAC WAR"

BY MELISSA FERGUSON

All's fair in love and prank wars in "The Cul-de-Sac War." This comedy is about a heated, neighborly rivalry takes a romantic turn. When a single, free-spirited woman is given an opportunity to take ownership of a house she lives in it for a year, she is forced to deal with a handsome and infuriating neighbor. The rivalry begins as well as the romantic tension!

By Maggie McDaniel

PINK PANTRY EXPANDS REACH TO NEW SCHOOL



The COVID-19 pandemic may have interrupted school schedules, but it did not interrupt the need for critical hygiene products for teenage girls in Midland ISD. This need has expanded into a new partnership with the Young Women's Leadership Academy, where the League donated 15 premade hygiene bags including feminine and personal care products in January.

Through the generosity of JLM members, we have donated hygiene products to more than 200 students in the past four months including pads, tampons, wipes, soap, shampoo and conditioner.

If you would like to donate products to Pink Pantry, please contact Erin Pabody at pinkpantry@jlmidland.org or donations can be dropped off directly at JLM Headquarters.

The Coffee Shop Growth Group and hot chocolate bombs were the inspiration for Midland Coffee & Tea Bingo.

See how much of a Midland caffeine connoisseur you are!

B	I	N	G	O
Consumed Irish Coffee	Received an oxygen boost from Café at the Garden's greenhouse dining room	Drank coffee or tea at JLM Headquarters	Visited Far West's mobile coffee stand (a brunch market & farmer's market staple)	Drank Boba Tea
Coffee Dated at Higher Grounds	Enjoyed an Affogato (espresso over vanilla ice cream)	Relaxed on the patio at Brew St.	Dined on Hand Cafe's crepes	Tried oat milk in a latte, cappuccino, or macchiato
Tried Thai Tea (Thai House serves Thai Tea)	Risked getting rear-ended by blocking a major Midland road due to a long Starbucks drive-thru line	FREE SPACE - Take a coffee break -	Drank a Dirty Chai Latte (espresso in a chai tea latte)	Brunched at Bean and Grape
Ordered at Far West's new shop	Ground your own coffee/espresso	Savored an Espresso Martini at Butter	Chilled at Mulberry Cafe	Expanded your tea palate at Tea2Go
Drank more than 5 Starbucks holiday specialty drinks in 2020	Scored on HTeaO's Happy Hour Social	Hit up a Midland coffee shop in your PJs	Visited Human Bean's drive-thru	Considered coffee the other Black Gold

By Maggie McDaniel



Active Mary Katherine Bergman recently opened her own private physical therapy practice, **MK PHYSICAL THERAPY AND WELLNESS**. Experienced in working with a variety of different types of injuries in orthopedic sports medicine, geriatrics, and pediatric populations, Bergman especially enjoys working with athletes, pre- and post-surgical injuries, and non-surgical injuries for patients of all ages to help them return to their optimal performance. Bergman has successfully rehabilitated many patients after ACL reconstruction, low back pain, knee, hip, ankle and shoulder replacements, and other post-surgical injuries. MK Physical Therapy and Wellness is deeply devoted to each patient's health and recovery by incorporating a whole-body approach when rehabilitating from an injury.

@mkptwellness MKPTwellness
www.MKPTwellness.com

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9:00 am to 5:00 pm
Saturday
By appointment only
Located at:
4400 N. Big Spring St.
Suite A-9



SUITS WITH SKILLS BUCKNER GRANTED A PRIVATE SHOPPING EVENT

Suits with Skills Buckner is excited to announce their partnership with JC Penney to offer participants the opportunity to shop for much needed work attire in a private shopping event. We would like to thank JC Penney for accommodating our community project during current COVID-19 protocols by helping us continue this cherished event for Suits with Skills participants.



CITY BANK GRANT AWARD

The Junior League of Midland, Inc. placed second in the Education and Youth Services category of the City Bank Community Rewards Program! Due to support of members and the community, the League received a grant of \$2,000 from City Bank. This generous award will be utilized to further our mission and influence in the community!



ART IN THE BASIN

By Andra Lancaster Jones

While the last year has limited our ability to experience new opportunities in person, we have found a few businesses providing an opportunity to experience art and culture in the Permian Basin. In times where we are hoping for normalcy in our daily lives, as German artist Gerhard Richter states, "art is the highest form of hope."



BAKER SHORR FINE ART - ALLY VILLAGE
200 Spring Park Dr., Suite 105, Midland, Texas 79705
Monday thru Friday 10:00 am - 5:00 pm; Saturday 11:00 am - 4:00 pm
Available by appointment.
www.bakerschorrart.com
Instagram: @bakerschorrart

Opened in 2018, Baker Shorr Fine Art brings high quality art to the Permian Basin. I first experienced this bright and airy gallery during the Ally Village Christmas Celebration. I met Kathryn Schorr and her husband that evening and was so impressed with the variety and scale of the art in the gallery. She has curated a gallery where visitors can relax and linger. Finding beauty in a variety of 20th century art, the gallery is flooded with natural lighting that changes pieces and perception throughout the day. Events such as art appreciation nights, collection tips, gallery talks and artist lectures are open to the community. Check out the website to learn more about this hidden gem and current artwork on display.



MIDLAND PALLETTE CLUB
907 W. Wadley Ave., Midland, Texas 79705
www.palleteclubmidland.com
For more information, email palleteclub907@gmail.com

This local nonprofit started as a local art club dating as far back as the 1930s. I wanted to feature this as many new-to-Midlanders might not know it even exists, even though it is located right behind our League headquarters. The mission of this organization is to promote self-expression and hands-on experiences by collaborating with local artists and art organizations to support and exchange ideas. This helps to promote appreciation of art throughout our community. Their community art shows feature local artists that encourages anyone to expand their collection of art at home. Memberships for individuals start at \$50.



ELLEN NOËL ART MUSEUM ODESSA - NEAR UTPB
4909 E. University Blvd., Odessa, Texas 79762
Tuesday thru Sunday 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Senior Citizens/At Risk Population Special Hours from 12:00 - 1:00 pm
www.noelartmuseum.org
Instagram: @ellennoel_artmuseum

Our family visited back in the fall when one of my favorite area artists, Alice Leese, had an exhibit. Thirty people at a time are allowed inside to provide a safe experience for all to enjoy. The museum's exhibits change often so trips throughout the year are a part of our routine. The current exhibit 'Betrothed' has stunning wedding fashion from the past 250 years. 'Art Tales' is a virtual opportunity for you and your toddler to explore art together. The museum also offers 'Adventures in Art' classes for small fees. Check out their website for more information.

MIDLAND COUNTY LIBRARY
301 W. Missouri Ave., Midland, Texas 79701
Monday thru Friday 9:00 am - 6:00 pm, Saturday 9:00 am - 2:00 pm
Instagram: @tallcitylibraries

Have you seen the exterior art on the outside of the downtown library? It is bright and refreshing during our winter months of grey skies. Walk over if you are visiting the newly opened Centennial Park which has amazing elements of building architecture (Instagram: @rwaarchitects) and landscaping (Instagram: @teneyckla) that has enhanced our downtown layout with community greenspace.



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- 11 HNB Mortgage - Stephanie Dunnam Houston
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