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THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF MIDLAND, INC.



NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2018

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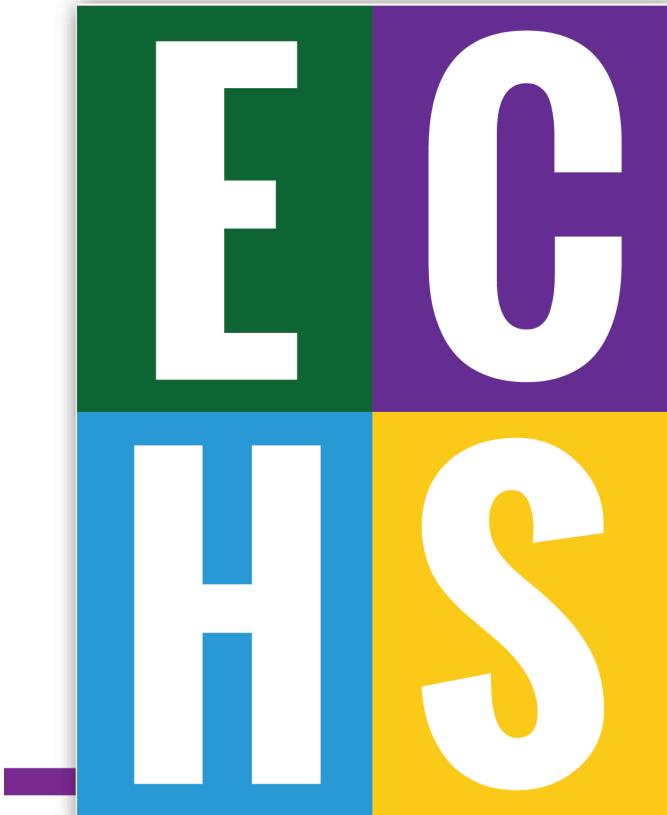
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TUMBLEWEED

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2018

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Temperatures in Midland might not reflect it, but we are nearing the start of winter. The holidays are in full swing and everyone can easily get caught up in the hustle and bustle of it all. Now is a time we generally take to spend with our own families and focus more on that rather than our intentions with the League.

Indeed, the Junior League of Midland has wrapped up their fall events: Rummage Sale, Face the Race, and Suits with Skills.

As we enjoy the holiday season and finish 2018, I implore each and every one of you to continue to be that “Unstoppable Change” that we set our intentions on this fall. We can take small steps to do so: Volunteer with Mission Agape on Thursdays to deliver weekend meals to children who would not have food otherwise, stock the pantry at the Jubilee Center who provides to those without, and give your time to Midland Teen Court. These may seem like small acts when done alone, but we are a League of over 350 combined members. Imagine what huge mountains we can move together!

So once again, I encourage you to continue to be an “Unstoppable Change” during these holidays and into 2019 because our community depends on us to do so.

Shandie Wild

SHANDIE WILD

THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF MIDLAND, INC.
TUMBLEWEED EDITOR

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Be An Unstoppable Change

T

he temperatures have cooled down, but activity within the League is staying hot! The year has started off wonderfully, and our committees are busy with their placements and projects.

We had a very successful Rummage Sale in October. The Rummage Sale was a day that marked the interaction of volunteers and community members and enabled us to raise funds to give back to our community projects.

Face the Race, Suits with Skills, IMPACT, Volunteers in Midland, and Reading Olympics have all had a wonderful few months working with our community partners to mentor and serve the needs of the Midland community. It is exciting to see how our members have taken the opportunity to “Be an Unstoppable Change” in the lives of those they are working with in each placement.



One of my favorite quotes by Nelson Henderson truly captures the spirit of the Junior League of Midland: “The true meaning of life is to plant trees, under whose shade you do not expect to sit.” Junior League of Midland continues to recognize and thank those that came before us, appreciate and serve those that are with us now, and plan for those that will come after us. In our 70th year of service, we are looking back at the work that has been done over the decades and focusing on ways that we can serve the community in an unstoppable way.

I am thankful for each of our members and everything they put into the League. Without our vast membership of women volunteers spanning several generations, we would not be able to continue making a significant difference in our community today. Keep up the great work and continue to “Be an Unstoppable Change”!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Myndi Easter".

MYNDI EASTER

THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF MIDLAND, INC.
PRESIDENT

INTRODUCING THE CAP!

By Ashley L. Warne, Board Member-at-Large



Ashley L. Warne serves the Junior League of Midland as the Board Member-at-Large for the 2018-2019 League year. In this role, she provides governance and strategic oversight, and works with the League's Community Advisory Panel (CAP).

"Working with the CAP is a unique and very valuable opportunity," Ashley explained. "It gives us a chance to tap into new ideas and areas that we might not have thought to explore before, on anything from fundraising ideas to potential placements. I enjoy working with the CAP members as they truly care about the success of the League, and they provide unique perspective and feedback from an experienced group already active in the community. Originally from Austin, Ashley graduated from Texas A&M University with her BBA in Marketing. After a couple years in hospitality, Ashley found her way into human resources and she currently owns her own HR consulting business. Ashley is married to her college sweetheart Charles Warne, and they have two amazing boys Caleb and Colin, ages 4 and 2.

Ashley is in her seventh Active year and says that she is a member of JLM because she "loves working alongside other women who care about making a difference in our community."

The Community Advisory Panel or "CAP", formerly known as the Community Advisory Board or "CAB", is comprised of individuals from various backgrounds in the community, who provide invaluable insight and perspective to the JLM Board and Management. These individuals bring a wealth of knowledge and guidance to the League regarding the community, and more specifically the non-profit arena.

The current 2018-2019 Community Advisory Panel includes: Rebecca Bell, Teresa Cain, Kevin Foreman, Alice Freidline, Jay Hendricks, Jay Isaacs, Laurie Johnson, Mark Palmer, Dr. Eileen Piwetz, Melissa Wicker and Holly B. Williams. Previously when the panel existed as a board, appointed individuals served three-year terms, but it was recently decided that the group would transition from a board to a panel, to allow for more flexibility in composition and commitment.

CAP members are invited to attend all League functions and events. In addition to that, members are asked to participate in one CAP meeting in the fall and one in the spring. During CAP meetings, Board and Management members share and receive feedback regarding current and anticipated projects. The fall CAP meeting was held on October 30, 2018 and included discussion on untapped areas in the community that could benefit from a partnership with the League.

"The CAP is truly a great resource for JLM in that we can receive constructive feedback on what we are doing currently, but then also tap them for new and fresh ideas," explains President Myndi Easter. "They provide insight and outside perspective that we wouldn't have otherwise."

Thank you to our Community Advisory Panel members for their volunteer service to the League. With their assistance and wisdom, we will continue to achieve the mission of the League.



Please join us for
The Junior League of Midland, Inc.

Prospective Member Informational Meeting

Tuesday, April 23, 2019

7:00 p.m.

**Junior League Headquarters
902 West Dengar Ave.**

You will have an opportunity to ask questions
and turn in your Member Agreement.

(Available online January 2019)

www.jlmidland.org

Attendance is required!

Any questions?

Contact Katie Presley at:

MidlandProvisionals@gmail.com



ACTIVE SPOTLIGHTS

By Ashley Swendig

Brittany Kelm



Brittany Kelm was born and raised in San Antonio, TX. Upon graduating high school, Brittany danced as a trainee with Ballet San Antonio and then attended the University of Texas at Austin. She graduated in 2015 with a Bachelor of Arts in Government and Communications. Brittany has always been active in politics and worked on several political campaigns and in the Texas State Capitol and Senator Cruz's Federal office while in Austin.

At the end of 2016, Brittany moved to Midland, TX and is now the Government and Community Affairs Advisor for Noble Energy. Brittany recently married Midland native, Stephen Everett, at La Cantera Resort in San Antonio, TX.

Brittany is in her first Active year and is an IMPACT mentor at Lee Freshman. She loves the opportunity to be in the community serving and mentoring teenage girls.

Tori Bezinque

Tori Bezinque grew up in Midland, TX, where she graduated from Midland Christian. After high school, she moved to Stillwater, Oklahoma to attend Oklahoma State University, where she got her degree in Human Development and Family Sciences. After graduation in 2015, Tori moved back to Midland and now works in business development at Concho Resources.

Tori loves spending time with her family and friends. On her free weekends, she likes to travel and be outdoors, but one of her favorite hobbies is cheering on her OSU Cowboys.

This year is Tori's first year as an Active and she is an IMPACT Mentor at Lee Freshman. She joined Junior League to meet new friends and give back to her community.



SUSTAINER SPOTLIGHTS

By Ashley Swendig

Misti Hopper

Misti Hopper joined the Junior League of Midland in 1996. Misti served on various committees over the years, but her favorite was working on the decorating committee for JLM's 50th Anniversary celebration. She has been a Sustainer since 2001.

Misti's involvement in the League was a natural complement to her life. She served as Education Coordinator for 12 years at the Museum of the Southwest's Fredda Turner Durham Children's Museum, and in her retirement, has served as a founding board member of Mission Agape for the last 6 years. The Junior League has amplified her impact in these roles.

Misti currently serves on the Parent Student Advisory Board at the University of Alabama and is a member of Hill Country Honey Bee Association. She spends her free time traveling the world and in the Texas Hill Country keeping bees. Misti is married to her husband, Eric Hopper. Misti's daughter, Liz Hopper, is now a first-year Active and was inspired to join the League after seeing what an impact the Junior League had on her mom.



Jane Samples



Jane Neill Samples was born in Midland. She graduated from Midland High School, Baylor University (BA), Texas Tech University (MA), and University of Texas Permian Basin (MA). She taught English and history and later served as principal of Goddard Junior High School and Midland Senior High School.

Jane married Gary Wisener when they graduated from Baylor, and has two children, Greg and Allison. She later married Don Samples, her high school sweetheart, and enjoys his two daughters.

Her League experience included serving at the Thrift Shop and Vice President of Recording. Her hobbies include reading, travelling and cultivating orchids. The organizational skills honed through League experience still serve her well.



The Junior League of Midland

Through The Years

By Candace Kaspar-Smith

Throughout the years, the League has developed and grown with the times, just as America and the community we serve has changed. Yet ultimately, the League has kept its focus on what is important - promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women and improving the community. For our focus is not internal on what has been accomplished, but on what is to come.

1940

What we know now as the Junior League of Midland began in 1949 as the Midland Service League. Twenty-nine members set their focus on making our community a better place by giving back, especially to women and children. That year those twenty-nine women collectively donated 1,370 community service hours through Story Telling at Midland Memorial Library, the Mobile Magazine Cart at Western Clinic Hospital, and volunteering at the Children's Theatre.

New charitable initiatives meant the League now needed additional financial support; fundraising at the time included candy and calendar sales. The 1951 Charity Ball marked the first official fundraising event for Midland Service League. With community needs continuing to grow, the League required more funds, so the Clothing Mart was born. This was an early adaptation of the Next-to-New Shop, which officially opened in 1957.

With official status as a Junior League, the members created new placement opportunities. League participation increased, and the Midland Memorial Hospital reaped the benefits of more women volunteering in their Outpatient Department. The Cerebral Palsy Center began serving the community in 1956 and the League was a huge benefit to them. For the remainder of the decade, the League focused its efforts on volunteering primarily with the Red Cross and the Children's Diagnostic Clinic.

1970

The Vietnam War continued, so people were desperately searching for peace and happiness. Music and fashion evolved to fulfill that need for people and everything was groovy. Sports figures were now earning more than ever, and people started to care about the environment. The country was flourishing, and times were definitely changing.

1950

This was a time where the average family income was \$3,300 a year and the Great Depression was merely a memory to most. Big changes in the world meant big changes for the League as well. Midland Service League remained steadfast in their focus to giving back to women and children in the community by serving on community boards and by establishing the Children's Dental Clinic and Family Counseling Services. The Children's Isolation Ward at Midland Memorial Hospital was created by the Midland Service League during this time and the League also dedicated their time to compiling and distributing the Directory of Community Services.

1960

The 1960s were a time when Elvis Presley, the Beatles, and Sandra Dee were capturing the hearts of Americans. Not everything at the time was so light-hearted though. Many people were protesting the unfair treatment of African American citizens, the war in Vietnam, and the inequality of women. A high moment came in February of 1964, as the Junior Welfare League became the 195th Junior League when they were granted membership to The Association of Junior Leagues International, Inc.

Many social issues were brought to the attention of the community, but drugs were at the forefront. To educate the community on the harmful effects of substance abuse the League aired anti-drug films. These films aired during regularly scheduled programs on television. Another area that the League focused its efforts was with the elderly by initiating the Telephone Reassurance Program. The program gave elderly a chance to live alone and remain independent as long as possible through social support, safety checks, and reassuring phone calls.

Permian Basin Petroleum Museum was a big placement during the 1970s. Members could also be placed at the Prenatal Clinic, CPR Training, or Audiometric Screening. The League joined forces with Midland Independent School District to initiate and fund the Partners in Reading Program. The League also underwrote the History of Midland Exhibit at the Museum of the Southwest.

1990

This was a time of recovery for Americans. The economy was bouncing back from a recession, inflation was down, and unemployment rates were low. The Internet became a way for people all over the world to communicate and personal computers became part of the norm for most people. The United States saw the largest increase in population in its history over one decade in the nineties by adding almost thirty-three million people. With growth like this in the United States, of course the League grew as well.

In 1991, The League held its 40th Charity Ball. The following year a new fundraiser, Festival of Trees, was born. Festival of Trees was a fundraiser for the League until 1997. All General Meetings were held in Mabee Hall of the new headquarters by 1993. The new headquarters was being fully utilized by members as well as other Midland community non-profit organizations. The League also followed suit with The Association of Junior Leagues International, Inc. by streamlining placements, but this took numerous years to accomplish.

In 1997, the League made a huge donation to Blitz Building. The Habitat for Humanity project was generously gifted with \$30,000 from the League. With 1999 being the 50th year for the League, members celebrated with a year-long 50th Birthday Bash and ended the celebration by gifting \$125,000 to four community agencies: Fredda Turner Durham Children's Museum for the Cityscape construction, Young Life for their new Activity Building, Midland Memorial Foundation for a nuclear medicine gamma probe, and Midland Fire Department for the Argus Thermal Imaging camera.

The Association of Junior Leagues International, Inc. created Kids in the Kitchen as their first ever project in 2006. Midland Provisionals added the project to their curriculum at that time. At this time Clay Shoot was so successful that Buckshot Bash was created as a celebration. The dance and dinner following the success of each Clay Shoot became a tradition. In 2008 the League created Face the Race and Family First as two new community projects. The next year was the 60th year as a League and members celebrated by creating Vision2020. This strategic idea for Midland's future led to an Endowment Committee which met its goal of \$1,000,000.00 by 2015.

Our League combined the Spring Fling Market and Clay Shoot in 2010 to create the community favorite, Shotguns and Stilettos. In 2012, Journey Summer Camp, HopeWorks, and Kids First were created by the Project Research and Development Committee as new placements. "Keeping Kids in School – Every Age, Every Stage" was 2013 in a nutshell. 70% of the League's community projects fell within this impact statement with the other 30% addressing other needs in the community. In most recent years the Advisory Planning Committee was reinstated, and leadership structure was divided into two categories. Management was developed apart from Board so that Board is able to focus on strategic planning and the Management focuses on the daily operations.

2019

This year, the League celebrates 70 years of service in Midland.

In addition to its current placements -- Suits with Skills at Buckner and Safe Place; Reading Olympics at the Boys and Girls Club of Midland's Halff Park and Taylor Park; IMPACT at Lee Freshmen and Midland Freshman; Face the Race at Abell, Alamo, San Jacinto, and Goddard junior high schools; and Volunteers in Midland, the League is reconnecting with past community partners in a series of service projects to commemorate this milestone. This service campaign will culminate with the 70 Years of Service Celebration in early May. Shotguns and Stilettos remains the League's chief fundraising event and a community favorite with the Annual Luncheon, the 18th annual Clay Shoot, and the always favored Buckshot Bash. This year's weekend of events looks to again garner a sell-out crowd.

2000

The turn of the century brought change not only for America, but for the League as well. Promoting voluntarism, improving the community, and developing the potential of women still stood at the forefront of concerns for the Junior League of Midland. The Charity Ball was no longer proving to be the most profitable fundraiser, so the Clay Shoot was established in 2001. The Spring Fling Market was born in 2004 as another way to fund and support our community projects. With the success of these new fundraisers, the League was able to introduce several new community projects such as: Bynum Schools, Scholarship Clearinghouse, and Suits with Skills.



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Bash

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CELEBRATING ALISON CUNYUS

By Shandie Wild



Alison Cunyus, the 2018-2019 Webmaster Chairman, grew up in the small town of Denver City, Texas in a farming family. She attended Texas Tech University, where she majored in Finance/Real Estate. While studying abroad in Sevilla, Spain she met her now husband, Adam Cunyus. They married in 2007 and lived in Arkansas and New Mexico before finally settling into Midland in 2010. Alison is an independent landman and her husband is a petroleum engineer. Together they have three children, Clary, Abigail, and Holden.

Mrs. Cunyus joined the League in 2011. Since then she has served as a Tumbleweed Reporter, Yearbook Chairman, Placement Advisor, Membership Placement Assistant Chairman, Membership Placement Chairman, Assistant Webmaster and now the Webmaster. She has enjoyed getting involved in the community through opportunities the League has provided as well as meeting so many wonderful women during her membership. The flexibility of her placement as Webmaster has been especially enjoyable

because she is able to work on it from anywhere.

As Webmaster Chairman, Mrs. Cunyus has made it her goal to continue to be aware of the needs of her community and to fulfill those needs. Most recently, Alison led the redesign of the Junior League of Midland website, both the external website for the public as well as the internal site for members' use. She gave the League's site a fresh look and upgraded website features. One thing Alison enjoys most as Webmaster Chairman is helping the League update its image and to become more tech savvy.

Alison has made a huge difference in the Junior League of Midland during her time served. The League thanks her for all her hard work and dedication.

Thank you, Alison, for all you do for Midland and the Junior League. We are lucky to have you!





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By Kelsey Christensen

CONVERSATION WITH SARAH GRIMES

We sat down to talk with Sarah Grimes about her path in the League.

When sitting down with Sustainer Mrs. Sarah Grimes, her appreciation for the Junior League and love of the Midland community it serves are clear. She became a Provisional in 1958 after knowing many women already involved. Joining an organization of women that provided structured service opportunities also seemed like a good thing to do and was a natural progression as Sarah had already been volunteering on her own. At the time she joined, there were many placements available and existing partnerships between the League and the community. Additionally, the Junior League of Midland was dedicated to training women as volunteers and community leaders, all of which remains true today, and which Sarah respected and valued.

Sarah did note that the League has evolved and changed since her time as an Active member. First, to be accepted as a Provisional member, the prospective had to apply, have three sponsors, and a committee had to meet and approve the candidate. It was quite an involved and lengthy process. Today, those seeking to join the League simply need to apply and pay dues; no sponsorship is required.

During her time as an Active, Sarah held many roles, including Chairman of the Nominating Committee, which facilitates the placement of women into leadership positions within the League. She also served on the Advisory Committee and was President of the League from 1972 to 1973. She found this a great responsibility, but a wonderful way to give back as she had greatly enjoyed her years as an Active member.

At that time, meetings were held at the Midland Community Theater or in smaller groups in members' homes. Committees held their meetings at the Turner Mansion, where the League had a small office before it

was turned into additional offices for the Museum of the Southwest. Sarah noted that the best feature of meeting at the Turner Mansion was the extra phone line they had to conduct League business. Meetings were also slightly different in that one rule was no needlepointing. But it was not always business only at the general meetings: the women would bring dishes to share and socialize while they ate. This was beneficial and fun for everyone, as Sarah uses the corn pudding recipe she gained from her time as an Active in the League to this day.

When asked what her favorite placements were during her Active years, Sarah stated that she enjoyed working as a committee chair and liaison for the League's involvement with the community arts, primarily the theater and library. She even took a locally provided course on how various community organizations operate in order to better serve them with League placements. She also mentioned the biggest fund raiser was a Charity Ball, and that every member worked on this event throughout the year. It was a locally recognized event, provided much publicity for the League and its projects, and was a lot of fun.

Another of Sarah's most memorable experiences when asked what skills she learned or valuable experiences she had from her time in the League was her time working to align the fiscal year with the League's placement calendar. There were many moving parts to coordinate, and she learned a great deal about financial working during the process, and she appreciated the skills and confidence gained from this experience.

While the Junior League of Midland has grown in size and changed some operations and placements, the mission of training women, improving the community, and promoting volunteerism have remained the same from Sarah's Active years.



Past Presidents of the Midland Junior League, Inc. from 1949 - 1999



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By Candace Kaspar-Smith

LITTLE LEAGUERS



Luke Robert Rigney

Born on October 29, 2018, weighing 7lb 3oz. Big brother, Will and parents Alison Rigney and Robby Rigney are thrilled to have baby Luke in the family.



Crawford Neil Douglas

Britnee Douglas and Brett Douglas welcomed Crawford Neil Douglas on August 17, 2018. He weighed 7lb 11oz.



John Henry Watson

Jerrica Watson, Ryan Watson and big brother, Warren welcomed John Henry Watson on April 12, 2018. He weighed 7lb 15oz.

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ANNUAL SUSTAINER'S LUNCHEON



The Annual Sustainer's Luncheon was held at the Midland Country Club on September 18th, 2018 and hosted by Jann Bash, Barbara Buckley-Hobgood, Julie Donnelly, Jananne McLaughlin, Darlene Parkis, Jackie Rendell, Cecily Shull and Sally Sipes. Guests were treated to lunch catered by the Midland Country Club at tables adorned with floral arrangements by Blooming Rose and a style show by local boutique, Studio Soho.



President Myndi Easter spoke about the year's theme for the Junior League of Midland - "Be an Unstoppable Change" and Sustainer Director Anne Mouton greeted the 65 women in attendance. After thanking the hosts and highlighting the Junior League's five community projects, she introduced Kassadie Barela, the 70th Year Service Chair. Kassadie is eager to coordinate a celebration of the past decades of the Junior League of Midland's accomplishments with a week of events in 2019. Michelle Ryan and Alison Rigney spoke about the Rummage Sale before Lauren Wall took over as emcee of the style show.

The trends featured on the runway were animal prints, white boots, fall sweaters and jeans - all of which can be found at Studio Soho.



By Ashley Swendig

SECOND TUESDAY CLUB



The beautiful fall centerpieces were made by Christine Foreman and Jane Samples.

The Second Tuesday Club met on October 9th, 2018 at The Junior League of Midland Headquarters. The event was chaired by LaNell Honeyman. The hostesses were Christine Foreman, Barbara Buckley-Hobgood, Carole Hinkle, Susan South, Jane Samples and Lee Scott.

Over 80 ladies attended the October Second Tuesday Club meeting and they enjoyed a delicious lunch of lemon chicken, rice and vegetables, served with a dessert of blackberry cobbler and ice cream. Lunch was provided by Exquisite Catering.

The guests for this luncheon were two FBI special agents, Kate Menaul and Laura Field. Special Agent Laura Field spoke about human trafficking and crimes against children, including a recent FBI case that happened in Midland.



FBI Special Agents Kate Menaul (left) and Laura Field (right).



Back row from left to right, Carole Hinkle, Jane Samples, Kate Menaul, Barbara Buckley-Hobgood, Christine Foreman. Front from left to right, Laura Field and LaNell Honeyman.



2018-2019 Calendar of Events

January 8, 2019

Winter Delight
with Floral Designer
Dennis Gilmore
Location:
JLM Headquarters

February 12, 2019

Let's be Frank!
Ben Franklin's
Candor, Wit and Wisdom
Location:
JLM Headquarters

March 5, 2019

Legacy of Lace
Presented by Jan Cook
Location:
JLM Headquarters

April 9, 2019

Dressing Hollywood Stars
w/Steve Porterfield
of The Cat's Meow
Location:
JLM Headquarters

RUMMAGE SALE

By Michelle Ryan

It is extremely easy to get caught up in the “hustle and bustle” when planning and organizing a fundraiser. However, moments before the Next-to-New Rummage Sale doors opened, I was humbly reminded of the purpose of the sale. As I was taping the welcome sign to the entrance of the sale, I began talking to a woman who was waiting in line. After a few minutes of conversation, she said something that brought tears to my eyes, “Do you want to know why I am here and always support the Junior League?” “Of course!” I replied. “Well, the Junior League is the only reason I am here today. When my children were little, I went through the Suits with Skills program. Y'all took me shopping, taught me how to interview, and taught me how to be okay on my own.” She continued to tell me how the Junior League had positively impacted her life in so many ways. She was truly grateful for the investment that The Junior League had made on her life. This conversation left me in tears. Without even knowing it, this woman reminded me why we have Rummage Sale in the first place.



Pictured Left to Right are Rummage Sale committee members: Eileen Gaona, Lisa Martin, Allison Tull, Mary Meadows, Haley Finch, Charissa Reeves, Michelle Ryan, McKensy Hoisager, Alison Rigney, Leslie Parra-Gomez and Natalie Powell

The vision of The Junior League of Midland, Inc. is “Hand in Hand, We Build a Better Midland.” We build a better Midland through the community placements. Reading Olympics, Suits with Skills, Face the Race and I.M.P.A.C.T. are all programs that invest in the people of Midland and whose goal is to positively influence others’ lives. The Rummage Sale’s profits go directly to help fund the community placements. I am so excited to say that we raised over \$12,600! This is incredibly humbling to know that all of our hard work will directly benefit the Midland community.

The success of the sale would not have been possible without our members, donors, and supporters! Our committee volunteered over 64 hours, we had 174 volunteers support the sale, and countless items were donated by members and League friends!

Alison Rigney and I would like to thank our amazing committee, the finance team, the public relations team, and all of our members who donated items or volunteered their time! The Next-to-New Rummage Sale would not have been possible without the help from our amazing sponsors: Reynolds Brothers Printing and Rocky Ford Storage.

Thank You!



Active Charissa Reeves standing by to help customers.



Active Abby Magness straightens kids items during the Rummage Sale.



Lines were nonstop to check out with great finds at Rummage Sale.



League members helped a customer find the perfect item as she shopped.



Shoppers hunting through the designer items featured at Rummage Sale.



Mary Meadows and Natalie Powell straighten the designer jeans during the sale.



Brittany Crowley, Leslie Parra-Gomez, Myndi Easter, and Elana Ladd

TRUNK OR TREAT

By Shandie Wild

The Junior League of Midland was able to donate almost 650 pounds of candy to Midland Fire Department for their annual Trunk or Treat. League members also donated volunteer hours by playing games with the children, working the cake walk, and passing out candy during the event.





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GETTING TO KNOW MISSION AGAPE

By Rian Grimes

I was able to talk with Stacey Baccus about one of our Volunteers in Midland partners, Mission Agape. We discussed the huge impact they make in the Permian Basin and how the Junior League of Midland helps them carry out their mission.

Please tell us a little about yourself and what your role is within Mission Agape - How many people make up the Mission Agape Team?

My passion in life is to love God and love people. And on a personal note, I love Disco music, love to laugh and make people laugh. Goofy is a word often used to describe me. Ha! Professionally, I've been blessed to work for some incredible non-profits over the past 20 years. I've worked for Operation Christmas Child, Safe Place, and now I am the Executive Director of Mission Agape. My position has many facets. Part of my job is paperwork, but the greatest part of what I do is loving and serving others through a smile, hug, offering words of hope, and offering prayers. Plus, I get to serve alongside so many incredible volunteers, community and church partners. We have three staff members - myself, Ric Baccus (my wonderful husband) who is the Program Director, and Nattie Araiza who is our part-time ministry assistant. We also have an incredible group of Board of Directors. They pray for us, support, encourage, and we are truly a family. We also have 200+ incredible volunteers who serve year-long. We all work together to be a blessing in the Permian Basin!

When was Mission Agape started and what is its mission?

My husband Ric and I founded Mission Agape and began serving the community in January 2012. We started the ministry with the purpose to demonstrate God's love in action by addressing food insecurity. "Agape" is the Greek word for "unconditional love." This is the love God has for us and is the love we want to show everyone who crosses our path. Our actual mission statement is "Love People, Meet Needs, and Build Relationships." We carry out this mission through all the programs and services we offer. We have three principles we live by - (1) Treat everyone as if they were family. This means we treat everyone with love and respect. We want to honor their dignity because it is so hard to ask for help. We never ask anyone to "prove" they're poor or fill out any paperwork. We just want to be a beacon of generosity, compassion, and love. (2) Provide quality food. All of our food comes from HEB and Sam's Club. The food we give is the same quality brands we buy for our own children and families. This is important to us all. (3) Food is free. All the services we provide are free to everyone we help, including the multiple community partners we have in four counties. No one pays a penny for any blessing, food, or otherwise, that they receive from us.

How many people do you serve in the community?

In Midland, we bless 500+ families at our food pantry throughout the year. We bless 500+ MISD students every school year through our school food program. We currently partner with fifteen campuses, consisting of nine elementary schools, Coddard Junior High, Lee and Midland Freshman, Coleman, Lee and Midland High Schools. We also provide food bags at Greenwood Middle School. But, we go beyond Midland because hunger has no boundary. We hold two food blessing events in Iraan (Pecos County) and McCamey (Upton County). In Iraan, we help 100+ families at each event. In McCamey, we bless 80+ families at each event. We also provide food to Communities in School, Crisis Intervention Unit, and Culver Juvenile Center.

What services do you provide to the community?

Our primary focus is food assistance. We provide food blessings to children, individuals, and families through our food programs. However, to further help families who struggle financially, we also bless children with school supplies, bless families with Thanksgiving Food Blessing, and Christmas gifts.

What can people in the community do to help?

I love this question! We definitely couldn't meet all these needs without the help of volunteers and financial support. Financial gifts are a blessing, food donations are a blessing, and prayer is always needed! We have volunteer opportunities throughout the year, and we ask for donations and volunteer support for our school supply drive (July) and our Christmas drive (November-December) every year. We have a website - www.missionagapewtx.org - and a Facebook page - Mission Agape - where we post information, ministry needs, testimonies, and pictures of those we serve. Plus, we love to show pictures of our amazing volunteers!



Stacey Baccus



Ric Baccus with Tinley and Abby Magness getting ready to deliver food to elementary schools.



Randis Butts and Ric Baccus.

What do you like about Mission Agape being a partner with the Junior League through Volunteers in Midland?

JLM members are lifesavers! As the number of campuses of our weekend food program has continued to grow, we desperately needed help delivering food bags every week. The Junior League has been instrumental in getting these food bags into the hands of the counselor, and ultimately into the hands of sweet children. Plus, JLM has blessed us the last couple of years with amazing food drives!! Such a blessing! Plus, we have a JLM member on our board of directors.

What are some of Mission Agape's biggest accomplishments this year?

(1) One of the great things to happen this year is adding three new campuses to our weekend food program. When a school calls and asks for help in feeding their students, is it an honor to say "YES" and become part of their plan to help their students. Children are our future and we are always ready to help when needed! (2) Because of the amazing support of our community and donors, we are able to expand our Outer County Outreach (2019) which is another great accomplishment. We formed a new partnership in Crane with First United Methodist. In Fabens, Texas, we'll partner with Crossing Borders who operates out of First Baptist Church Fabens. Being able to step up and feed more families throughout west Texas is an amazing way to expand our mission and meet needs. (3) Lastly, we hit a new record with our School Supply Drive and Blessing Event. Again, because of the generosity of donors, we were able to set a new record and bless 460 students with school supplies! Not only that, we had over 100 volunteers who helped at the event. Another record!! A group of JLM members were part of this event and had a great time helping kids. We give God all of the glory because it's His ministry. We are blessed to be His hands and feet.

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PROVISIONAL CORNER

By Jaimey Sloan

Team Tulips



(Standing, L to R) Rebecca Linehan, Paget Jones, Maggie Hegenbart, Rachel McDown, Mallory Marcoux; (Seated, L to R) Claire Ramirez, Tiffany Means, Kat Lopez Shelby

Introducing 2018-2019 Provisional Team Tulips

Maggie Hegenbart, Paget Jones, Mallory Marcoux, Tiffany Means, Rachel McDown, Kat Lopez Shelby, and Claire Ramirez!

Lead by Provisional Trainer Rebecca Linehan, this diverse team of ladies is excited to expand their knowledge of the Junior League through voluntarism and developing relationships in the community. Team Tulips' unifying goal is to further the mission of the Junior League while developing a strong bond with fellow members. They are looking forward to utilizing their individual skills and talents both professionally and socially to accomplish their goal.

Rebecca Linehan is excited to guide them through their Provisional year towards Active membership and develop them into strong members and leaders within the Junior League of Midland.

Team Lillies



The Provisional Trainer role transitioned to Katie Presley since this photo was taken.
(Standing, L to R) Lauren Party, Rebecca Young, Stefanie Masters, Abbey Travelstead
(Seated, L to R) Mary Susan Hunter, Brittany Crowley, Marissa Diaz, Angie Yang Underwood

Introducing 2018-2019 Provisional Team Lillies

Brittany Crowley, Marissa Diaz, Mary Susan Hunter, Lauren Party, Stefanie Masters, Abbey Travelstead, and Angie Yang!

These ladies are mostly new to Midland. Everyone on the team has a love for traveling and exploring new, fun places. Team Lilies members joined the League as a way to become more involved in the community and connect with women with similar interests.

Their Provisional Trainer Katie Presley is proud to acknowledge the whole team's commitment to attending all meetings thus far and looks forward to seeing them develop into members over the year.

By Jaimey Sloan

PROVISIONAL SPOTLIGHTS

Team Tulips

Rebecca Linehan, Provisional Trainer

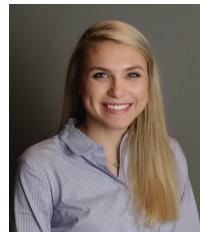
MAGGIE HEGENBART



Maggie is newly engaged to Jason McDaniel, a Petroleum Engineer, and is expecting a new fur baby, a Bernedoodle, in January. Upon completion of her Provisional year, Maggie will be a third generation Junior League member.

Profession: Landman
Hometown: Tulsa, Oklahoma
Favorite Flower: Orchid
Favorite Holiday Tradition: Thanksgiving Dinner!

RACHEL McDOWN



Rachel and her husband, RJ, are the proud parents of Zachary, their six year old son. Rachel and her family enjoy watching movies and eating pizza together as a family.

Profession: Land Analyst
Hometown: Huntsville, Texas
Favorite Flower: Daisy
Favorite Holiday Tradition: Driving around looking at Christmas lights

PAGET JONES



Paget and her husband, Jake Taylor, a Petroleum Engineer, are newlyweds who moved to Midland from Houston due to a job transfer. Fun fact is Paget's family is originally from Bermuda and she loves to travel.

Profession: Clinical Social Worker
Hometown: Detroit, Michigan
Favorite Flower: Orchid
Favorite Holiday Tradition: Skiing over the holidays with family in Utah.

KAT LOPEZ SHELBY



Kat is married to Michael Shelby and together they have seven children and three fur babies. Kat is also Vice President of the Permian Basin Bridal Association and enjoys spending time with her family.

Profession: Client Solutions Executive
Hometown: Abilene, Texas
Favorite Flower : Rainbow Flowers
Favorite Holiday Tradition : During Dia de Muertos, her family loves celebrating by face painting and making sugar skulls.

MALLORY MARCOUX



Mallory and her husband had their first child in October. They also have two fur babies. Mallory enjoys outdoor activities including hiking and flyfishing.

Profession: Technology Sales Representative
Hometown: Coppell, Texas
Favorite Flower: Hydrangeas
Favorite Holiday Tradition : My Dad dressing up as Santa Claus and tumbling out of the chimney, and now having to convince my husband to carry on the tradition.

CLAIRE RAMIREZ



Claire is married to Martin Ramirez and together they have a three month old son, Knox, and one fur baby, Beau. Originally from Midland, Claire returned to be close to her family and enjoys watching college football with them.

Profession: Owner of Pop Spot Midland
Hometown: Midland, Texas
Favorite Flower: White Anemones
Favorite Holiday Tradition: Decorating gingerbread houses with her sisters.

TIFFANY MEANS



Tiffany and her husband are expecting the arrival of their second child at the end of December who will join their 18 month old son and two fur babies. Tiffany moved to Midland to expand her career and is excited to volunteer in the community through Junior League.

Profession: Attorney
Hometown: Flower Mound, Texas
Favorite Flower: Zinnias
Favorite Holiday Tradition: Opening presents on Christmas Day.



PROVISIONAL SPOTLIGHTS

By Jaimey Sloan

Team Lillies

Katie Presley, Provisional Trainer

BRITTANY CROWLEY



Brittany and her husband, David, a Lease Operator/Completions Consultant, have multiple fur babies and enjoy attending baseball games. Brittany's mother was also a Junior League member and is excited to contribute to the community.

Profession: Teacher
Hometown: Houston, Texas
Favorite Flower: Sunflower
Favorite Holiday Tradition: Setting up her Department 56 holiday village.

STEFANIE MASTERS



Stefanie and her son, Bryson, have one fur baby and enjoy going on scavenger hunts together. Stefanie joined Junior League to meet new friends and contribute to the community.

Profession: CEO of Your Girl Friday and Blissfully 2 Gather
Hometown: Austin, Texas
Favorite Flower: Lavender
Favorite Holiday Tradition: Decorating gingerbread houses with her son and sister.

MARISSA DIAZ



Marissa moved to Midland to advance her career and join her boyfriend. Marissa enjoys spending time traveling, crafting, and getting together with family and friends.

Profession: Supply Chain Manager
Hometown: Houston, Texas
Favorite Flower: Wildflower
Favorite Holiday Tradition: Spending time at her Aunt's Christmas Eve party and Christmas breakfast with her family.

LAUREN PARTY



Lauren and her husband, Robert, a Geologist, have two fur babies and is currently a Graduate Student at Texas Tech. Lauren's interests include learning new skills like cookie decorating and modern calligraphy.

Profession: Graduate Student
Hometown: San Antonio, Texas
Favorite Flower: Peonies
Favorite Holiday Tradition: Making cookies with her Dad.

MARY SUSAN HUNTER



Mary Susan and her husband, Sam, are currently expecting their first child in February. Mary Susan comes from a family of Junior League members, her mother and sisters are members as well.

Profession: Engineer
Hometown: Dallas, Texas
Favorite Flower: Lisianthus
Favorite Holiday Tradition: Driving around with her sisters looking at Christmas lights.

ABBEY TRAVELSTEAD



Abbey and her husband, Alex, moved to Midland where he is a Petroleum Engineer. They have two fur babies and she enjoys traveling, reading, and event planning.

Placement: 70 Years of Service Committee
Hometown: Wichita Falls, Texas
Favorite Flower: All! Cannot choose one!
Favorite Holiday Tradition: Helping her Nana decorate cookies and looking at Christmas lights while drinking hot chocolate with her fur babies.



ANGIE YANG UNDERWOOD



Angie and her husband, Austin, are both Petroleum Engineers and enjoy traveling in their free time. Angie is excited give back through volunteering with the Junior League.

Profession: Petroleum Engineer
Hometown: Golden, Colorado
Favorite Flower: Tulips
Favorite Holiday Tradition: Drinking hot cocoa.

SATELLITE MEETINGS

By Shandie Wild

Each October, JLM breaks down into smaller groups for their monthly general meeting. This is a great chance to get to know members a little better and socialize with ladies who might not always be able to interact at typical meetings. The October Satellite Meetings are held at numerous members' homes for a more intimate setting. This is a meeting where Actives and Provisionals are able to learn more about the Board and Management positions prior to the upcoming nominating process.



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By Leslie Whitehead

ODI TRAINING

"The Association of Junior Leagues International, 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." I have recited this pledge at every General Meeting I have attended in my four years with the Junior League of Midland; however, I do not think I ever really gave weight to those words until I attended the Fall Organizational Development Institute (ODI) in October 2018. When I was a Provisional, we were asked why we joined the Junior League. Most every answer, including my own, started with, "I want to serve and better my community." That has always been my focus in my service as a League member- improving my community with my time and service. After attending ODI, I have a completely different perception of the Junior League as an organization. Yes, its purpose is to better the communities of its members; however, the most important population to the organization is us- the members. Developing the potential of women and creating civic leaders catalyzes the mission of community betterment.

From the opening plenary to the closing lunch, ODI attendees have the opportunity to absorb information along their selected "tracks" as well as participate in discussion with members from Leagues all across the country. The information presented by the speakers provided insight into the future directives of the Association of Junior Leagues International (AJLI) while the interactive aspects create dialogue among attendees that provide opportunities for troubleshooting, innovation and encouragement. I selected the membership track this year. This track focused on effective recruitment, member retention, and how the structure of membership in Junior Leagues is changing across the country. The constant theme throughout each portion of our discussion echoed the mission statement: we are here to develop the potential of our members. Any nonprofit can offer a vehicle to give your time and talents to better the community. The Junior League offers a vehicle not only to serve your community, but to serve and better yourself. Other educational tracks included community enrichment, fund development, governance, marketing and communications, and diversity and inclusion. Whatever goals you may have for your League tenure, ODI has a specified track.

Fellow League members Elizabeth Christensen, Katie Presley, and Haley Buckles also attended ODI. Before the conference, I would have called them acquaintances, but I now call them friends! We spent hours sharing stories of our personal lives, our League experiences, and how we could take everything we learned throughout the weekend and create change in the Junior League of Midland. I am so grateful for the opportunity to experience ODI. It is an experience I wish for every League member.



By Shandie Wild

GROWTH GROUPS

Growth groups are the League's way of connecting members on a social level. Members who do not always cross paths are able to meet in a social setting and just get to know one another. There is a brunch group, lunch bunch, dinner divas, and a happy hour crew. This is just another way members can enjoy the friendships that the Junior League cultivates.



(Top Left, L to R) Courtney Midkiff, Brandi Wheeler, Ashley Swendig, Lauren Sonka, Ashley Farmar, Casey LeBlanc at Hemingway.



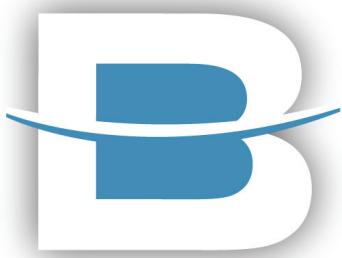
(Bottom Left, L to R) Brittany Crowley, Katie Stephenson, Gwendolyn Taylor and Mae Hargrove at Steak 42.

(Right, L to R) Gwendolyn Taylor, Mae Hargrove, Bailey Stang, Andra Jones, Andrea Reynolds, JoJo Milling, Brianne Jones, Jennie Martin, Brittany Crowley, Katie Stephenson.



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JLM CALENDAR

— January —
15

General Meeting
7:00 pm at JLMHQ

— February —
18

Suits with Skills
Shopping Event
6:00 pm at Kohl's

19
General Meeting
7:00 pm at JLMHQ

— March —
4
Suits with Skills
Graduation
6:00 pm at JLMHQ

19
General Meeting
7:00 pm at JLMHQ

21-23
Shotguns & Stilettos
21st - Annual Luncheon
22nd - Clay Shoot
23rd - Buckshot Bash

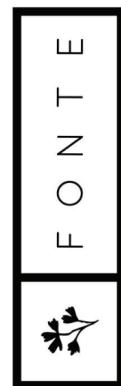
By Catherine Bassett

NEW IN MIDLAND

Fonte, a self-described “new American” restaurant, opened downtown in October. With daytime service, some of the breakfast offerings include bagels and lox, tacos, and parfaits. The lunch menu has a variety of twists on classics, including a daily soup (past options include a posole and corned beef Rueben), Caesar salad, Fonte club sandwich, Fonte banger, and a margarita flatbread. Fonte will host occasional reservation only dinners with varied menus and is BYOB.

Hours are Monday through Friday, 8 am to 2 pm.

Located at 201 West Wall St., Floor 1, Midland, Texas 79701



Looking to try some new barbecue? **Up In Smoke** recently opened off of Highway 349 and is serving up classic barbecued meat cuts and sides including beans, potato and macaroni salad. It is all coming from the 2014 BBQ Pitmaster Champion and owner, Junior Urias.

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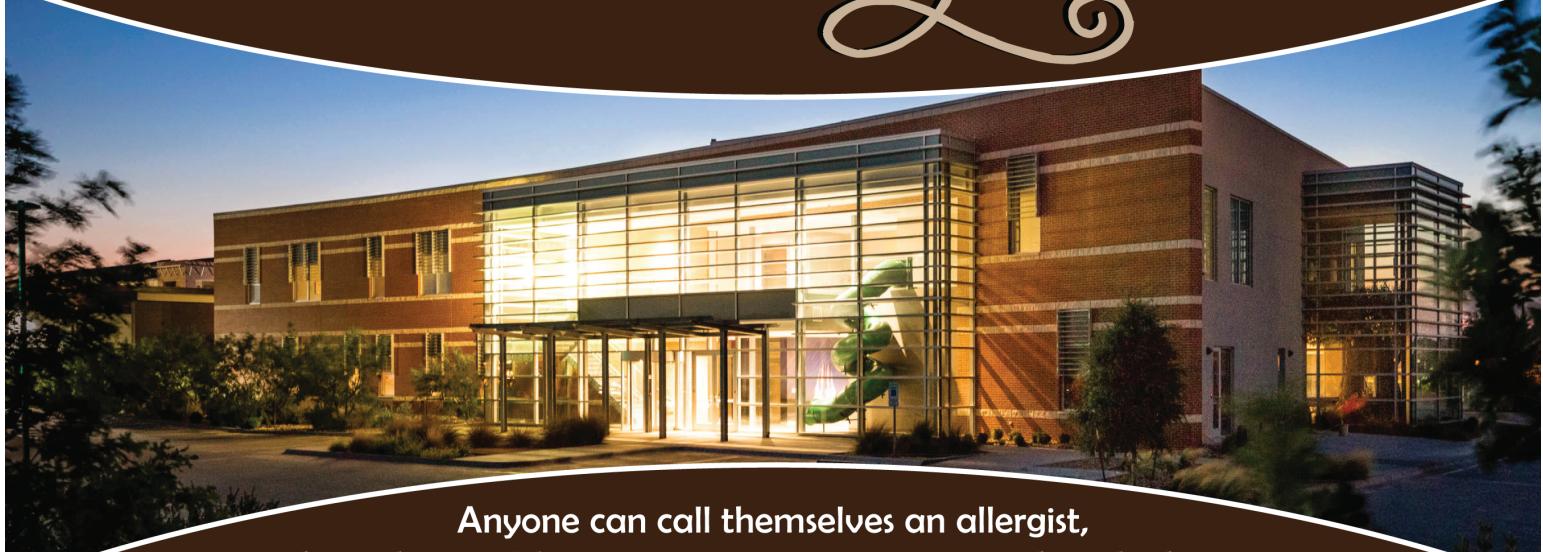
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