



SANDSCRIPT

A PUBLICATION OF THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF SARASOTA

ALL IN

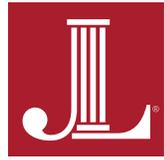
ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS

Hunger Outreach

New Member Education

Dancing Under
the Stars





JUNIOR LEAGUE OF SARASOTA

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PLATINUM



GOLD



SILVER

michaela ristaino
P H O T O G R A P H Y

BRONZE



IN EVERY ISSUE ...

| | |
|--------------------------------------|----|
| PRESIDENT LETTER | 2 |
| EVP LETTER | 3 |
| FINANCE COUNCIL | 6 |
| COMMUNITY COUNCIL | 10 |
| MEMBERSHIP COUNCIL | 24 |
| A MAGICAL EVENING UNDER THE STARS | 30 |
| SUSTAINER COUNCIL | 40 |

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OUR MISSION

The Junior League of Sarasota, 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.

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

OUR VISION

The Junior League of Sarasota will be the leading force of trained volunteers committed to improving the quality of life in Sarasota County.

WE VALUE

A QUALITY ORGANIZATION. Education and training as vital to the development of women as well as the advancement of our community and its children; accountability to the League and to each other; inclusiveness in our membership as well as our community collaborations and projects; open communication, respecting and encouraging differing viewpoints; our League friendships.



Junior League of Sarasota

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JLS office E-mail: office@jlsarasota.org

Office Manager: Cathy Simmons Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday,
Thursday & Friday 9:00 a.m. to Noon

Summer Hours to August: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 9:00 a.m. – Noon

“Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much” - Helen Keller

Happy 2020 Junior League of Sarasota!

Time flies when you are having fun and serving the community. It is hard to believe we are halfway through this Junior League year. On behalf of the Board of Directors, I want to thank you for being ALL IN for Junior League of Sarasota. This has been an exciting and impactful year, thanks to your hard work, dedication, and voluntarism. And there is still much more to do. Being ALL IN to me means more than being a committed volunteer; it means being present and doing your best for the greater good of the collective women of Junior League. I am inspired by each of you as you embody our theme this year.

I want to highlight a few pride points for our League. We have seen so much collaboration between committees, councils, Actives and Sustainers. Digital Cheetah was a huge and transformational launch for our League and will streamline our platform. The Board of Directors adopted a Diversity and Inclusion statement for our League and will be establishing a D and I task force. This year we will send 20 women to training conferences such as Winter Leadership, Organizational Development Institute (ODI), State Public Affairs Committee, and AJLI Annual Conference. Our State Public Affairs Committee (SPAC) keeps us engaged and informed on issues through trainings and a table for members to attend the monthly Tiger Bay Luncheon. We reflect on a meaningful six years with a focus on hunger outreach and sunset with pride as we look forward to our next signature focus. We remain in a very strong financial position in both operating and in our endowment fund. This is thanks to our fundraisers and being great stewards of our treasure.

We are more than volunteers, and Junior League is with us through all the seasons of life: joys, sorrows, celebrations, new chapters, sunsets, sunrises, adventures, new additions to families, goodbyes to those we love, new career paths, placements we enjoy and those we do not. As a training organization, Junior League helps us grow and learn more about ourselves, our talents, and new opportunities for growth. I am forever grateful for the support, training, and relationships of JLS.



ALICIA CHALMERS

As we move into the second half of this year, I encourage you to continue strong and with pride on all you have and will accomplish. I also hope you are present to the joy you bring to yourself and others by volunteering in our community. YOU make a difference being ALL IN!

With sincere appreciation,
Alicia Chalmers, President 2019-2020
Junior League of Sarasota

**JUNIOR LEAGUE OF
SARASOTA**



#MoreThanAVolunteer



ELLA LEWIS

Happy New Year and welcome to 2020! It is hard to believe we are more than halfway through the 2019-20 League year. On behalf of the entire Management Team, thank you to our incredible members for such an exciting year so far. We began 2019 with a revised Annual Plan layout that has helped tremendously in our communication between the Board of Directors and the Management Team. Some highlights from the year so far include...

- Welcoming a fabulous New Member class after several Outreach events over the summer;
- Launching the new Digital Cheetah platform to replace our outdated Volunteer Matters system;
- Hosting a record-breaking Lilly Pulitzer Luncheon & Fashion Show at the beautiful Westin;
- Distributing a member survey for our next signature focus;
- Awarding \$40,000 in Community Grants to local nonprofit agencies;
- Throwing an incredible Dancing Under the Stars event to support the League's Annual & Endowment Funds;
- Introducing our new online apparel store!

As you can see we have been ALL IN this League year and there is even more to celebrate... from Jamboree to the Legislative Breakfast, more amazing Done in a Day projects, Legacy Luncheon & Tour of Homes, we are one group of women who knows how to fundraise, support our community, and foster leadership.

Thank you to everyone who has stepped up this year and supported JLS with her time, talent or treasure. You are the League, and I am so proud to serve alongside all of you.

Cheers to 2020!

Ella

SPRING 2020 EVENTS

Legacy Luncheon:
February 12, 2020
at Michael's on East

Simply Sarasota Tour of Homes:
February 28-29, 2020
at Michael's on East

SPAC Legislative Breakfast:
April 9, 2020
at Sarasota Yacht Club

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS:

February 18, 2020
at Marina Jacks

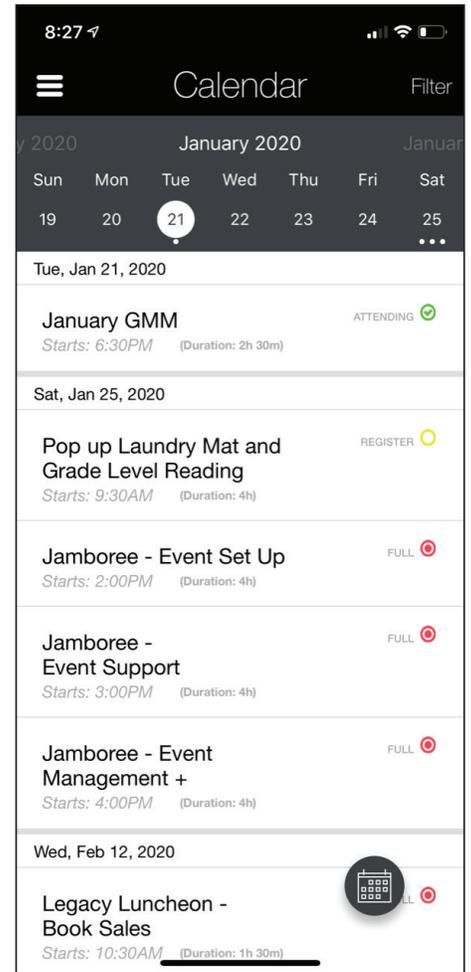
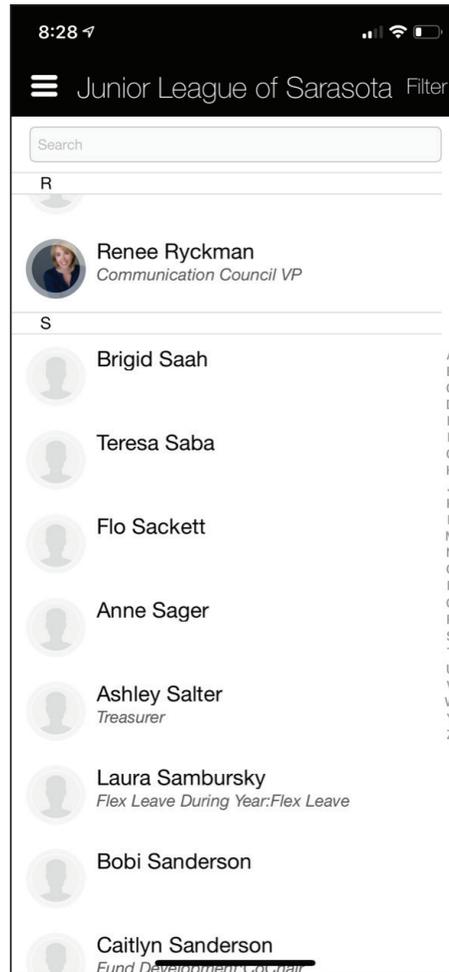
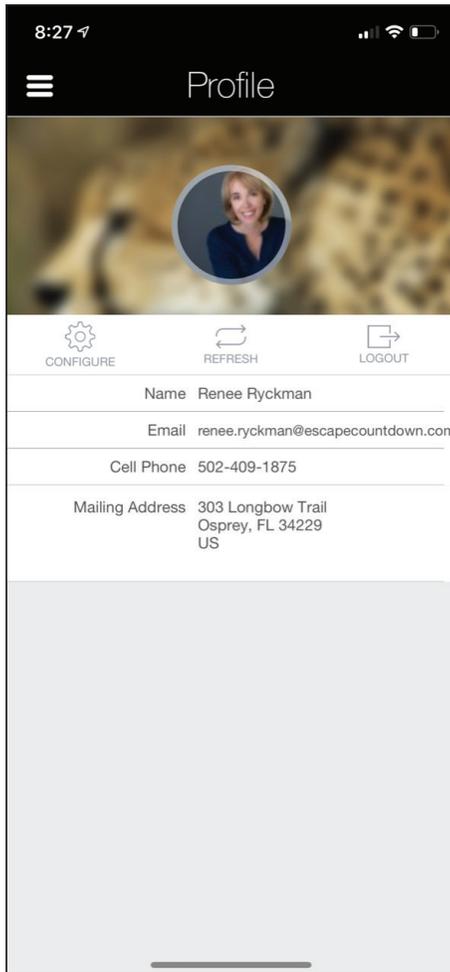
April 21, 2020
at Michael's on East

Annual Dinner:
May 19, 2020
at Art Ovation

SUSTAINER MEMBERSHIP MEETING

March 23, 2020
Spring Meeting and Luncheon @ Sara Bay Country Club

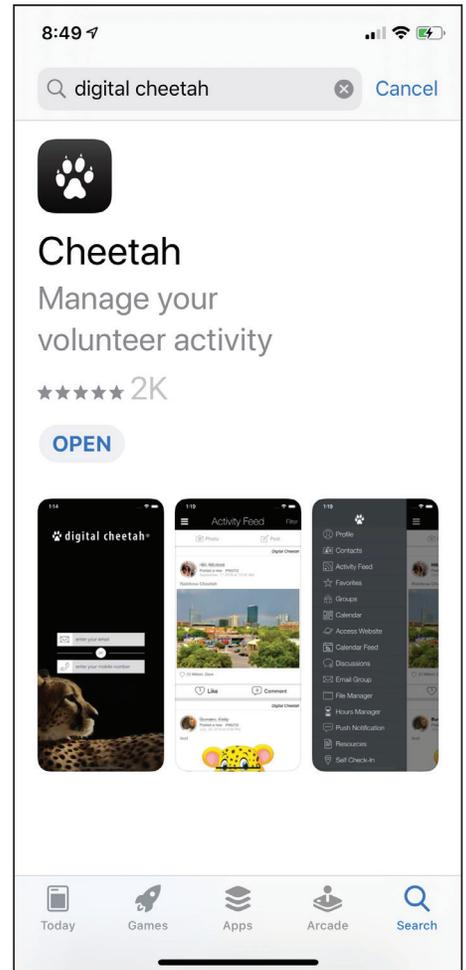
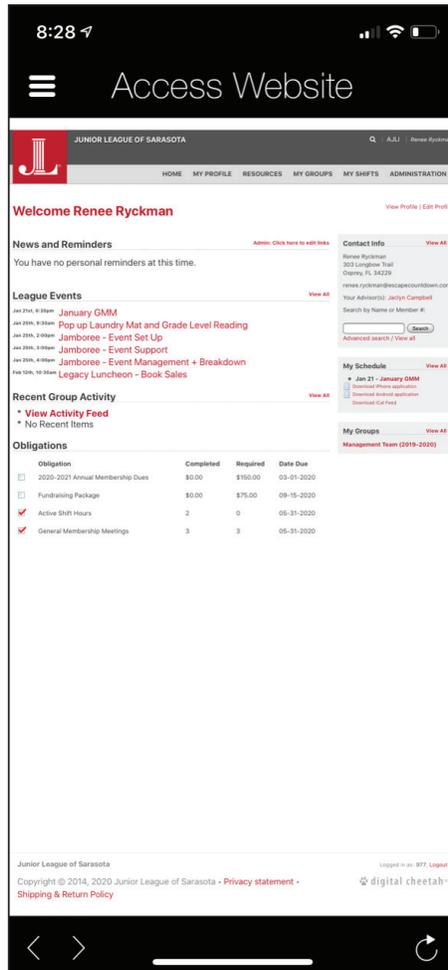
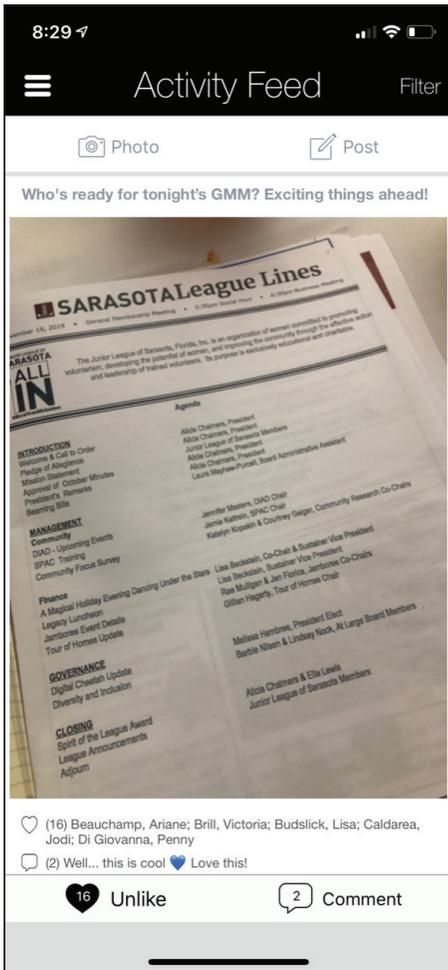
DIGITAL CHEETAH



Have you checked out the new JLS Digital Cheetah App? There are so many new, great features on the app that will make your League life easier! With the app, you can: Create your profile, add your photo, and update your contact info. You can add your personal bio and League history so other members know more about you.

Quickly search the JLS membership list to find other Sarasota League members. When you click on the member's name, you will have the option to contact them via text, email or phone call!

Sign up for volunteer shifts, meetings and events – on your phone! When you sign up, you will get a confirmation email and a reminder email prior to the event.



Check out photos of JLS events. You can also easily add photos to share JLS happenings.

Get connected directly to the members section of the JLS website.

To get started, simply download the Cheetah App from the App Store, create your username and password, and get connected! Look for the icon with the white Cheetah paw on a black background.

LILLY PULITZER LUNCHEON AND FASHION SHOW

Chairs: Shana Zamikoff, Monica Barth

Committee: Kristen Arbuckle, Kelly Baldwin, Miranda Barsch, Caroleen Brej, Jessica Janota, Jeanne Paulus, Anneliese Sandstrom, Roxanne Summerville, Alexandria Twigg

Total Funds Raised: \$41,800

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SIMPLY SARASOTA COOKBOOK

Chairs: Kirsten Hofheimer, Liz Berry-Skerrett

Committee: Beth Cannata, Jordan Evans, Lea Graf, Jenn Hyatt, Elise Near, Caylyn Wells

Total Funds Raised: \$40,000 (and counting!)

This fall, *Simply Sarasota: From Fresh to Fabulous* celebrated its one-year anniversary. The cookbook continues to serve as a beautiful display of healthy recipes featuring locally sourced ingredients, all of which have been triple-tested by League members. In addition, it includes helpful serving tips, picturesque spreads of Sarasota destinations, and highlights the impact of the Junior League of Sarasota on the community. We also offer deliciously scented candles and soaps as part of the Simply Sarasota product line.

Members have been promoting the cookbook at Junior League events and hosted our first annual Simply Sarasota Gift Expo and Social to toast the holiday season. We are proud to announce new partnerships at several retail locations including Sunshine & Sand Hidden Treasures and Church of the Redeemer.





Simply Sarasota: From Fresh to Fabulous and other Simply Sarasota products can be purchased at www.JLSarasota.org or at many other local retailers including: Bookstore 1 Sarasota, Shelly's Gift and Christmas Boutique, Marie Selby Botanical Garden's gift shop, Molly's, Clever Cup, and Garden Argosy.

HUNGER OUTREACH

Chair: Charli Nimz, Jeney Slusser

Committee: Katie Chiaro, Alexis Etter, Lacey Holland, Carli Powers, Madeline Ross

FIGHTING HUNGER FOR LOCAL FAMILIES

During the 2019-2020 League year, the Junior League of Sarasota continues to fight hunger in the Sarasota community. The Hunger Outreach Committee's main goals are to help reduce hunger, raise awareness of hunger in Sarasota, and give back to the community in a unique and impactful way. The Hunger Outreach committee has been busy providing much needed resources to the families in Sarasota and surrounding communities who need it most.



COLLABORATING FOR COMMUNITY IMPACT

As we enter the final year of this signature project, we have been focused on forming meaningful partnerships that will create sustainable impact. Through our partnership with All Faiths Food Bank (AFFB) and its Cooking Matters program, we teach slow cooker classes, give out free slow cookers, cooking utensils, cookbooks, and groceries for the participants to take home. Participants in the class receive a brand-new slow cooker donated by the Junior League, as well as a bag of groceries to prepare a nutritious meal for their family. We also help AFFB with food sorting and bag stuffing events to help ensure children and families in our community have nutritious food available. The Junior League has also teamed up with other established non-profits, including Easter Seals, Harvest House, Boys and Girls Club, Suncoast Center for Independent Living, Sarasota School for Arts and Sciences, Tiny Hands Foundation, and Cysis. By collaborating with these organizations, we have been able to host slow cooker classes, coordinate food sorting events, create sustainable gardens, and build snack pantries throughout Sarasota County.

As area students prepared to go back to school in August, Junior League volunteers helped fill 1,800 backpacks with the snacks and various other school supplies at the Tiny Hand Backpack Brigade. As a League, we were also able to donate healthy snack pouches to each child's backpack.

During the holiday season, we continued our work with the Tiny Hands Foundation at the Holiday Basket Brigade. The League donated 6,000 freshly-baked dinner rolls that were added to baskets with donations from other community organizations to provide tasty and nourishing meals for community members. The events served 1,000 families who were able to receive a basket for the holiday season

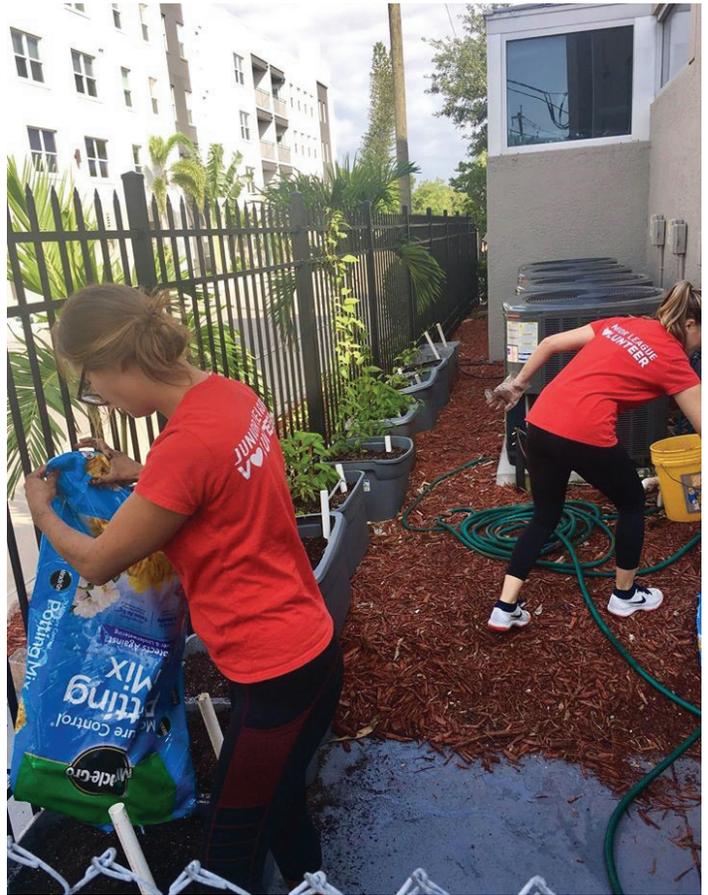


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FOCUSING ON SUSTAINABILITY

Hunger Outreach has entered the final year as a signature initiative, so the committee decided that a sustainable project should be a primary goal. By partnering with Sarasota School for the Arts and Sciences (SSAS), Hunger Outreach committee members and League volunteers were able to create rooftop garden boxes and expand the SSAS fresh produce initiative. We built 32 gardens for produce that will be harvested and packaged by SSAS students who participate in Garden Club. Fresh fruit and produce, such as kale, tomatoes, bib lettuce, is then handed out to approximately 20 low income families on a weekly basis. The League also plans to plant a fruit tree that, in addition to the garden boxes, will be used year after year to provide produce for families in need.



DONE IN A DAY (DIAD)

Chairs: Jen Masters, Leigh Daley

Committee: Amanda Bajorek, Andrea DiVita, Jennet Espinosa, Peggy Fainelli, Victoria Kasdan, Daniela Kirvin, Cheryl Korwin, Allison Lauderdale, Jessica Middleton, Allie Miller, Kayla Olsen, Melissa Perrin, Natasha Selvaraj, Lauren Torres



The DIAD Committee has had an incredibly busy start to the League year! Thanks to our fellow league members and our outstanding committee members, we have already completed an array of projects benefiting our community this year including helping children, families, Hurricane Dorian victims in the Bahamas, and our beautiful Sarasota County.

September 17

Led by our committee members Kayla Olsen and Cheryl Korwin, during our September GMM League Members generously donated baby items to Florida Suncoast for the Northern Bahamas for the Hurricane Dorian relief. Much needed baby items including diapers, baby wipes, and infant formula were transported to those in need in the Northern Bahamas.



October 15

During our October GMM, DIAD held an underwear donation drive to help The Twig Cares Foundation. League members donated over 35 Packages of new underwear for children who are currently in foster care and who visit their store monthly in Venice. The Twig Cares encourages and inspires the lives of children in foster care by not only meeting their needs but empowering them with the tools and resources to succeed. Committee members Melissa Perrin and Peggy Fainelli led the donation drive.
Done in a Day (DIAD) Events

November 22

Mayors Feed The Hungry - We had a busy day helping the JLS Sustainers Annual Mayors Feed the Hungry food Thanksgiving Drive event at Ed Smith Stadium. JLS Volunteers spent the beautiful day sorting through hundreds of boxes of canned goods and other items that were donated from all over Sarasota County. Over 30 non-profit organizations that operate food pantries received the food, free of charge, for the upcoming holiday season

December 14

Florida Center for Early Child Education Preschool Potty Makeover - Jessica Middleton and Lauren Torres did an incredible job leading DIAD'S preschool potty makeover. League members and their families spent the morning giving The Starfish Academy a bathroom makeover, including a fresh coat of paint, fun stencils and new signs.

September 21

Keep Sarasota County Beautiful Event - KSCB is a county-wide beautification program that initiates community clean up projects to keep our community clean. JLS volunteers spent the morning cleaning up our local Centennial Park and Boat Ramp. This successful clean up was lead by our committee member Lauren Torres.



November 16

Adopt-A-Road Cleanup - Led by our committee member, Natasha Selvaraj, ten League members participated in cleaning up our JLS adopted roads Pineapple and Palm Avenue in our first clean up this year. Over four bags of trash and recyclables were collected and removed from our beautiful city!



COMMUNITY GRANTS

Chair: Ashley Harris, Alicia Piro Bousman

Committee: C.J. Bartlett, Jessica Feather, Mandy Fox, Candice Henry, Lauren Henry, Debbi Terek

JLS gave grants to eight deserving, local non-profit organizations this year. The Grants Committee distributed \$40,000 in community grants to organizations whose projects will affect at least one of our following priority categories: women, families, children and hunger initiatives.

The League received 70 grant proposals, with requests for hundreds of thousands of dollars in programming funds, so the field was highly competitive. Each application was carefully and critically reviewed under a rigorous multilevel review from our committee.

Grant recipients are:



Continued ...



**The Florida Center for Early Childhood
Grant: \$4,000 for their program, Expanding Abilities Through Outdoor Play**

Funds from the Junior League of Sarasota grant will provide support to children with developmental disabilities who attend the organization's Starfish Academy Preschool or receive out-patient therapy. This request will impact approximately 500 children under age nine who receive services at the agency's Sarasota and North Port locations. The funds will be used to improve the outdoor play environment through the purchase of equipment specially selected for children with developmental delays and/or disabilities.



**Florida Studio Theatre
Grant: \$4,000 for their Extended Residency Workshops at Wilkinson Elementary**

FST wants to make theatre affordable and accessible to as many people as possible by creating a public forum for the issues of our day that will foster positive change in our community and beyond. This program will allow children to participate in workshops, perform in a program, and perform on tour in schools throughout Sarasota County.



**Selah Freedom
Grant: \$8,000 for their Human Trafficking Prevention in Sarasota**

Human Trafficking Prevention in Sarasota will facilitate at least ten group sessions over a five month period consisting of a variety of prevention workshops. Ultimately, 100-150 students will participate in the sessions.



**Healthy Teens
Grant: \$3,000 for the Teen Health Educators in Newtown program**

Funds from the grant will allow Healthy Teens to expand the agency's premier project, the Teen Health Educator Program, to Newtown in Sarasota. A select group of 25 youth leaders will be trained to deliver critical health information in a relatable, relevant and medically accurate format. The Teen Health Educators provide education/prevention information to highly vulnerable youth, such as homeless/shelter teens, migrant

farmworker youth, and other minority teen populations in order to reduce high risk behaviors, including dating violence, teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted illnesses.



Guardian Angels of SW FL, INC.
Grant: \$10,000 for their Foster Family Home Improvement/Upgrade

Since 2013, the foster home has been home to over 75 children. As one would expect, the home has experienced a great deal of wear and tear due to the large number of children residing there. With the upgrades provided by the grant, homes will be more cost effective, efficient and easier to maintain and clean.



Mental Health Community Centers
Grant: \$1000 for their Kitchen Overhaul Project

They will update three of their locations with newer kitchen equipment used for cooking and meal preparation. This update will provide opportunities to MHCCI's Wellness Center's members to learn new skills, practice them in a safe and sanitary environment, apply them to their self-directed

recovery managing their severe and/or persistent mental illness symptoms to remain stable in their home, reduce hospitalizations and crises while increasing their quality of life.



Girl Scouts Camp Honi Hanta Improvements
Grant: \$5,000

The overall project contains three components: the purchase and installation of a shade structure at the archery range, the creation of a disc golf course, and the replacement of the ice maker in the camp's main lodge. To highlight one, archery is a time-honored tradition in Girl Scouting, and one of the most popular activities at Camp Honi Hanta, where 5,500 girls visit each year. The installation of a 10'X30' cantilevered shade structure over the shooting line and waiting area will provide

much-needed protection from the sun's heat and UV rays. Girl Scouts is installing a beautiful plaque at the structure to honor JLS.



The Sarasota Ballet
Grant: \$5,000 for their Dance – The Next Generation Project (DNG)

Dance – The Next Generation (DNG) is a transformational free ten-year after-school program designed for low income at-risk students. DNG has three objectives: 1) introduce them to life skills and self-discipline inherent in the study of dance, enabling them to achieve academic and personal goals; 2) foster artistic sensitivity and social interaction leading to self-confidence and the ability to relate to the world with awareness, tolerance and understanding; 3) ensure students graduate from high school. 100% of students

who graduate from DNG graduate from high school. This grant will provide healthy and nutritious snacks to participants in this program.

STATE PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE (SPAC)

Chairs: Jamie Kattrein, Kerri Deatherage

Committee: Morgan Tiefenthal, Taylor Collins, Clare Arguedas, Nicole Peterson

Geared up for an impact at the FL SPAC Summer Conference in Tampa

In July, SPAC members attended the statewide SPAC Conference to learn more about the policy process from fellow SPAC Members and state legislators. These conferences help inform our SPAC Committee about pressing issues and how to engage our league to make a difference!

Hosted the 2nd Annual Fall Training: The SPAC Impact

On November 9, over 30 Junior League members and their guests gathered at Girls, Inc. to learn more about statewide policies that passed last year, as well as hot issue topics up for discussion this year. Attendees learned about safety measures being taken in our schools, the texting and driving law, bills that impact human trafficking and mental health, and a statewide initiative called "Get the Lead Out" - a push to ensure that lead is not in our students' drinking water. After learning about a range of issues, attendees had a chance to write a postcard to their legislators to advocate for issues that were meaningful to them. Everyone who came reported that it was a good use of their time and that they would attend another event just like it. SPAC has been hard at work making sure these opportunities keep coming!



The SPAC committee held its 2nd Annual Fall Training, The SPAC Impact, on November 9. Over 30 JLS members and guests learned about recent policies, how they impact our community, and how to advocate for a stronger Sarasota!

Policy and Practice Lunches: A Community Affair

The fourth Thursday of every month means that the Junior League Headquarters is packed with a room full of women who are passionate about community issues—and how to influence them in a positive way. Introduced last year, Policy and Practice Lunches highlight issues relevant to the JL mission so that members have the opportunity to dive into the details. While last year focused on women in the League who work to influence systems every day, this year features various non-profit organizations that work with people and communities impacted by various systems. In October, we heard from Teen Court, a non-profit organization founded by the Junior League of Sarasota. Heather Todd, Executive Director, and Katy McBrayer Lynch, board member and former client, shared its mission, their services, and how far they have come since inception. In November, Tonia Hutchinson, Program Director of Safe Children Coalition, updated members on youth in foster care.



In November's Policy and Practice Lunch, attendees learned about the Foster Care system from the Safe Children Coalition



To kick off a year of learning, SPAC invited Teen Court to share how far it's come since JLS helped to start the organization. Attendees learned about juvenile justice in Sarasota, and how Teen Court saves hundreds of futures every year.

The following is our lineup for 2020 speakers:

January 23rd – Dr. Myra McPherson will be delivered the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) assessment and shared information on trauma and its impact on our youth.

February 13th - Sarasota County Schools Police Chief Tim Enos will be discussed school safety in Sarasota County.

April 23rd – Deborah Giacolone, Supervisor of Mental and Behavioral Health Services in Sarasota County Schools, will be discussing how funds from the Marjorie Stoneman Douglas Public Safety Act provide mental health services to our students.

Tiger Bay

There is so much going on in Sarasota, and there is no better organization than Tiger Bay to help share about issues our community faces every day. Tiger Bay is a non-partisan political organization that was formed to foster understanding of public issues. Through monthly luncheons with public discourse and the free exchange of ideas, they promote community understanding of current political and social issues. This year, SPAC joined Tiger Bay as a member, meaning we reserve a table for Junior League members each month. We encourage anyone who is interested to join us for lunch and lively discussion about issues that are important to you. Invitations are shared through Facebook, and we are thrilled to have a full table every month!



A full table of Junior League women at Tiger Bay's forum on women in politics.

Legislative Breakfast: Save the Date!

SPAC is pleased to share that we will be hosting the 2nd Annual Legislative Breakfast on April 9 at the Sarasota Yacht Club from 7:30 – 10:00am. We will be hearing from elected officials about recent policies and legislative updates that affect our community every day. Be on the lookout for our social media polls that will help inform our topics and questions. See you there!



FOR THE NEXT
THREE YEARS AS
VOTED ON BY THE
MEMBERSHIP AT
THE FEBRUARY GMM,
THE LEAGUE'S
SIGNATURE FOCUS
WILL BE
“AGING OUT OF
FOSTER CARE”,
WITH A PLANNING
YEAR IN 2020–2021.

MEMBERSHIP OUTREACH

Chair: Shelby Marsh; **Vice Chair:** Ashley Pollio
Committee: Shannon Baker, Emily Meinke, Ann Marie Timm, Angela Wentz

The Membership Outreach Committee had a fantastic time working together last summer, focusing our efforts on reaching out to women interested in joining the Junior League of Sarasota. JLS provides so many opportunities for women, so we highlighted our organization's strengths and achievements. Expanding leadership skills, serving the community, and meeting like-minded people are all common threads among the women looking to join JLS, and we are always grateful and excited for prospective members.



July Beach Clean-Up at Siesta Key

Partnering with Sarasota County Parks and Recreation, we hosted a family-friendly beach clean-up for prospective members and invited Actives to attend as well. So many women and their families came to keep our beach clean, while showcasing voluntarism to our prospective members. It was a wonderful morning and successful event.



The committee was hard at work last summer as we planned and executed two socials and prepared applications for prospective members. We could not showcase League benefits without the help of our general membership, so we appreciate their involvement in our efforts.

June Meet & Greet at Art Ovation

We welcomed prospective members to join us at Art Ovation. Women filled the room with smiles and excitement to learn more about what the Junior League of Sarasota has to offer. Both Active and prospective members came together to meet new women and find out more about our wonderful League.



Applications will open in the Summer of 2020 and will be considered on a first-come first-served basis. If you know anyone interested in joining the League, contact us at membershipoutreach@jlsarasota.org, or find our interest form by clicking here: [jlsarasota.org](https://www.jlsarasota.org).

Keep your eye out for a Spring Meet-and-Greet event as we are in the process of planning one for prospective members. We are excited to continue the year of encouraging women in our community to join our continuous efforts to make a difference in Sarasota.

NEW MEMBER EDUCATION

Chairs: Julia Braren, Bridget Bustamante

Committee: Aimee Sicora, Ariane Beauchamp, Ashley Klearman, Rebecca Murphy, Shelby Marsh, Michelle Halbman

Meet our New Members

The 2019-2020 New Member Class is an amazing, diverse group of 42 women.

| | | |
|----------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| <i>Emily Beachler</i> | WELCOME 2019 - 2020 NEW MEMBER CLASS | <i>Alyssa Simons</i> |
| <i>Jodi Caldarea</i> | | <i>Melanie Slusar</i> |
| <i>Marlene Dodge</i> | | <i>Danni Solowsky</i> |
| <i>Brittney Ellis</i> | | <i>Shauna Stobbs-Bultema</i> |
| <i>Sarah Firstenberger</i> | | <i>Susie Toale</i> |
| <i>Shannon French</i> | <i>Jordana Klein</i> | <i>Lynnea Peters</i> |
| <i>Nicole Fromer</i> | <i>Lisa Klein Weintraub</i> | <i>Jaynie Peterson</i> |
| <i>Erika Gress</i> | <i>Kelsea Koenreich</i> | <i>Kait Plocharsky</i> |
| <i>Angelina Gress</i> | <i>Katy Kopstad</i> | <i>Christina Preissner</i> |
| <i>Vicki Haddow</i> | <i>Kari-Jo Koshes</i> | <i>Leah Reda-Cross</i> |
| <i>Taura Hammil</i> | <i>Kaitlyn Kramer</i> | <i>Sara Reisinger</i> |
| <i>Madeline Heath</i> | <i>Eryn LaLonde</i> | <i>Jade Rivera-Smith</i> |
| <i>Paige Jones</i> | <i>Kayla Murphy</i> | <i>Stephanie Seacat</i> |
| <i>Carrie Kashawlic</i> | <i>Kayla Olin</i> | <i>Holly Sharpe</i> |
| | | <i>Kasey Vandegrift</i> |
| | | <i>Angela Vaughn</i> |
| | | <i>Bianca Ventura</i> |
| | | <i>Jessica Walker</i> |
| | | <i>Rebecca Walther</i> |
| | | <i>Shelley Watson</i> |
| | | <i>Lauren Weems</i> |
| | | <i>Gina White</i> |
| | | <i>Marti Wolszczak</i> |



Continued ...

New Member Meetings

Monthly meetings teach New Members about the various councils and committees within the League and highlight our numerous community partners. We kicked off the year in September at Girls, Inc. where New Members learned about this extraordinary organization and longtime partner of the League. October's meeting at the Child Protection Center included a full tour of the facility and a successful Done-in-Meeting (DIAM) of donated hygiene products. In November, New Members celebrated Friendsgiving at the home of Melissa Howard with a DIAM canned food drive for All Faiths Food Bank. At the December meeting at Tidewell Hospice, New Members prepared for the New Member Project and also heard from the Community Council. Their DIAM was a holiday gift drive for Children First. To prepare New Members to serve on a committee during their first Active year, we organized mini-groups, each tasked with something different every month, like a DIAM, Hospitality, or Social Media posts



New Member Project

During the Trolley Tour stop at JLS Headquarters, the New Member class voted to do its project at the new Tidewell Hospice in Lakewood Ranch. The program is moving into its own space and could use help sprucing up the Teddy Bear Library and dining room/family room. The program is free of charge for children, teens, and their caregivers in Sarasota and Manatee counties, who have lost a parent, sibling, or another significant person in their life. Participants are broken into age-appropriate support groups (little, ages 3-7; Middles, ages 8-12; teens and adults) facilitated by a licensed mental health professional and at least one volunteer. Participants can stay in the program as long as they would like and are supported with a safe place to talk about their lost loved ones and tools to help them cope with and process their feelings. Ultimately, this program shows them they are not alone in their grief.

Trolley Tour

The New Member class enjoyed a fun and educational trolley tour in mid-October, learning about the Junior League of Sarasota's history and the important role we have played in various initiatives including Historic Spanish Point, the county's first wheel-chair accessible playground at Twin Lakes Park, and the Safe Place and Rape Crisis Center. Additionally, League President Alicia Chalmers and EVP Ella Lewis took New Members on a tour of our very own League Headquarters. We started and ended this year's tour at the Circus Arts Conservatory. Participants got to see the New Member Project of the 2017 JLS class and tour the newly renovated Sailor Circus. The weather was perfect and everyone enjoyed the time to bond while hearing about the League's legacy in Sarasota



Welcome, little New Members!

We welcomed the newest "Little Leaguer" December 1, 2019. Chair Julia Braren had her first child Kellena Grace at 9:27 am at 6lb 13oz 20.5 in. On December 10th, Bridget Bustamante posted her gender reveal of a little boy due in April 2020. Congratulations to our fantastic New Member Education Chairs!



HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

Chairs: Ariane Beauchamp, Veronica Clinton
Committee: Kimberly Wortz, Renee Wyatt, Arlene Buckmaster

The Hospitality Committee has had a wonderful start to the 2019-2020 year with well-attended socials and successful set-up at the General Membership Meetings.

Welcome Back Social - August 20, 2019

Always a wonderful event, the Welcome Back Social at Art Ovation allowed members to catch up after the summer. We had a great time kicking off the 2019-2020 League Year with a champagne toast, light bites, and both new and old faces of the League.



September Yoga Social September 25, 2019

In September, many League members, along with friends and family came and enjoyed an hour yoga class at Pineapple Yoga Studio. The class consisted of fun, relaxation, and many laughs!



**Haunted Trolley Tour
October 11, 2019**

Junior League members and friends enjoyed the Haunted Trolley Tour around Sarasota, delving into the city's history.

**Wine Down Wednesday
November 6, 2019**

The Grand Cru Wine Bar social was a great way for League members and spouses to get together. We enjoyed wine, friends, and great conversations.



**Off the Handle Cycle Social
December 7, 2019**

In December, members enjoyed a 45 minute cycle class at Off the Handle Cycle Studio. This class challenged us but was well worth the effort to enjoy mimosas at the end!



Holiday Social - December 17, 2019

We had a brief GMM announcing our new President-Elect and EVP-Elect for the 2020-2021 League year, before enjoying lite bites and beverages to toast the holiday season.

Thank you to everyone who has come out to our socials this year. The Hospitality Committee loves hosting events and it is always so wonderful to see our members enjoying themselves. We are looking forward to many more fun events during 2020!!



A MAGICAL HOLIDAY EVENING DANCING UNDER THE STARS

Co-Chairs: Lisa Beckstein & Cindy Kaiser

Hostess: Katherine Harris

Event Committee Members: Amy Sankes, Anne Toale, Barbara Wall-Magee, Beth Cannata, Beth Fox, Bev Fisher, Bonnie Lancaster, Britt Riner, Candice Henry, Cindy Black, Debbie Shapiro, Erin Christy, Erin Duggan, Karee Valek, Kimberly Duplissey, Lauren Henry, Lisa Budstick, Lynn Larson, Kelly Liebel, Maryl Henry, Michelle Crabtree, Renee Ryckman, Sarah Lodge, Tracy Seider, Wendy Hopkins

Host Committee Members: Alison Thurau, Anita Holec, Cady Ferguson, Fran Nitschke, Jan Young, Jane Nutter Johnson, Jen Maglio, Marcia McLaughlin, Marilyn Kessler, Nancy Hogue, Renee Eppard, Shirley Ritchey, Susan Gilmore-Clarke, Tody Pillsbury

Total Funds Raised: \$24,000.

It Was a Night to Remember!

Despite the on-again, off-again threat of rain all day, a full moon brushed the clouds away to allow 230 guests a Magical Holiday Evening Dancing Under the Stars! And dance they did! The band, Soul Survivor, generously underwritten by our hosts Katherine Harris and Richard Ware, led us through musical decades. Starting with the smooth sounds of Sinatra, the dance floor soon boogied to a seventies disco beat, ultimately leading everyone to wave and bounce to the Uptown Funk of Bruno Mars.

Guests arrived at Cap Joie by entering a gated courtyard to discover a glowing Cinderella's carriage led by two reindeer and surrounded by sparkling cherry trees. After being offered a glass of champagne, provided as a gift from Paul Mattison, Mattison's Catering Company, guests were eager to wait on the red carpet for the opportunity to be photographed in the beaming buggy!

Patrons arrived earlier and made their way to the rooftop for a nighttime view of Sarasota Bay and the changing lights of Ringling Bridge. The golden tables on the lawn below hinted at the exciting evening ahead.

Everyone was genuinely amazed at the beauty of the venue. Not only was the house authentically designed and furnished in 18th century French style, but every room was bursting with festive holiday décor. The grand entry with a double staircase was topped with greenery, flowers and lights all

thoughtfully placed by League volunteers. The salon featured a 20 foot tall Christmas tree and two bedecked fireplaces. The library displayed a fun collection of nutcrackers while also featuring peacock-themed trees and garland. Whimsical toys and fun figurines were featured in the game room. And the main dining room, with its white snow and silver ice theme, provided a delicious display of bite-sized desserts all lovingly provided by committee members.

Guests enjoyed a vast array of delectables such as baby lamb chops, seared sea scallops, smoked salmon bruschetta and herb crusted chicken brochette. Another option for the palate was the abundant charcuterie display in the game room, which included a premium antipasto display, gourmet cheeses, seasonal berries and baked brie.

Floral displays of roses and peonies were abundant throughout the home. And League volunteers created the table centerpieces of pine and magnolia leaves with assorted white flowers and gold accents.

League member Christine Thomas, Christine Nicole Photography, did a fantastic job photographing the event, taking care to make sure everyone appeared at her best!

Holiday Committee members not only enjoyed the party as guests, but also managed the entire event by working shifts at the check-in table, entry, elevator, and handling set-up/breakdown as well.

Special kudos to Kimberly Duplissey for coordinating the catering, Lynn Larson for managing reservations, Karee Valek for coordinating desserts, Erin Christy for printing and mailing, Lauren Henry for invitation design, and Marilyn Kessler, Bonnie Femac, Marcia McLaughin, Sandy Pringle, Wendy Hopkins, Tody Pillsbury and Sarah Lodge for above-and-beyond help with decorating which spanned several days. And also Julie Stewart for being a super helper during the actual event.

All in all, it was a truly magical event unlike any other the League has ever had the opportunity to create. Proceeds from the party benefit both the JLS Endowment Fund and the general operating fund. Planned and executed in only 8 ½ weeks, the committee did a fabulous job working with Katherine to pull off a truly memorable magical evening, Dancing Under the Stars!

Our Sincere Appreciation for the Support of
Katherine Harris & Richard Ware
Christine Nicole Photography
Mattison's Catering Company
An Anonymous Donor

And Our Patrons: Gail Welch, Darlene Abney, Barbara & Jim Barrett, Lisa & Bruce Beckstein, Mary & David Benfer, Lisa, John & Daniel Budstick, Maureen & Richard Carnevale, Alicia Chalmers, Freedom & Howard Chasolen, Susan Gilmore-Clarke & Timothy Clarke, Kim & James Cornetet, Michelle Crabtree, Renee & Walt Eppard, Belle & Dan Fangmeyer, Karen Fessel, Beverly Fisher, Jessica Gorman, Anita & Sidney Holec, Jane Nutter Johnson & RC Johnson, Cindy & Jeff Kaiser, Marilyn Keyes, Sheila Lirtzman, Marcia & Dick McLaughlin, Jessica & Scott Middleton, Ann Moran, Brinda & Gary Pola, Pamela & Tom Reilly, Courtney & Charlie Shrem, Nancy & Richard Sneed, Alison Thureau, Jessica & Samuel Walker, Kim Wheeler, Kathy Yu.







Photos courtesy of Christine Nicole Photography





Photos courtesy of Christine Nicole Photography





Photos courtesy of Christine Nicole Photography

SUSTAINERS ANNUAL FALL MEETING & LUNCHEON - ARRANGEMENTS COMMITTEE

Chair: Sharon Rolle

Committee: Diane Muhlfeld, Joan Campo-Liga, Donna Mateer



Event was “sold out” with 118 members in attendance!

Sustainer Vice President Lisa Beckstein welcomed Sustainers at the Annual Fall Meeting and Luncheon held at Bird Key Yacht Club on November 4, which had the highest attendance of a Sustainer luncheon meeting in recent years. Much thanks goes to Sustainer Arrangements Chair Sharon Rolle for making the event such a success.

President Alicia Chalmers and EVP Ella Lewis shared updates about the JLS Hunger Outreach signature initiative, as well as current member research that will help determine the next signature focus.

Special guest was The Honorable Katherine Harris, also a JLS Sustainer, who graciously opened her bayfront home for the Dancing Under the Stars fundraiser party on December 13. Katherine shared fascinating background about the meticulous research that went into the design and construction of her home, Cap Joie, which is

modeled after the Rodin Museum in Paris.

Many guests who are new to Sarasota and Florida learned of several of Katherine’s accomplishments which include: representing our district in the Florida Senate, being elected Florida Secretary of State and serving two terms as Congresswoman in the United States House of Representatives. She is also a past chair of the Holiday Tour of Homes!

New Sustainers who have recently transferred to Sarasota were asked to stand and be recognized, as were all the past Presidents in attendance, several of whom served in other Leagues. Attendees also had the opportunity to sign up for various Interest Groups and Clusters.





SARASOTA ALUMNAE SUSTAINERS (SAS)

Co-Chairs: Michelle Crabtree, Maryl Henry

Committee: Marti Albritton, Cindy Black, Bonnie Lancaster, Robin Serbin, Lisa Taylor

Fall Social Inspired Creation of Dancing Under the Stars!

The Sarasota Alumnae Sustainers (SAS) group is only in its second year, but has proven to be very popular. For the annual fall social, 75 women enjoyed a wonderful event at the beautiful bayfront home of The Honorable Katherine Harris. Guests enjoyed wine, a colorful sunset view over the bay, and a full tour of the 18th century French design home. In the main dining room there was a bountiful display of food, all provided by SAS Committee Members. The event was so festive and proved to be such a success, that Katherine immediately offered to host a holiday party fundraiser to support JLS -- which is now on the books as one of the most beautiful and successful events ever hosted by the League!



SAS Committee Members with hostess Katherine Harris



Liza Leonard, Lynn Larson, Donna Dugan, Beth Fox at the SAS Fall Social



SAS Fall Social 2019

SUSTAINER INTEREST GROUPS

Chair: Jan Young

Committee (individual Interest Group Chairs): Melinda Adams, Georgia Anderson, Beth Branch, Maureen Buchholz, Gretchen Bullock, Martha Caesar, Joan Campo-Liga, Gwen Chamberlain, Vanderlyn Downing, Barbara Fulton, Susan Hunter, Jane Kolling, Mary Martino, Connie Mereness, Sandy Phelps, Brinda Pola, Martha Rogers, Sharon Rolle, Nancy Sneed, Judy Taylor, Jennifer Vett, Barbara Wall-Magee, Kim Wheeler, Carol Williams



Sustainers In the Middle enjoy a tour at the Elling Eide Center for Chinese Studies

New Groups Have Been Formed!

One of the greatest benefits of being a JLS Sustainer is the opportunity to join one of our 22 Interest Groups -- small, theme-specific, social groups that meet periodically throughout the year. In addition to a social component, some groups are for specific interests such as flowers, the arts, traveling, movies and books. Because the four book clubs were filled to capacity, we are fortunate that a recent fifth book club was added, Livres. And because feedback from the Summer Sustainer Survey indicated a desire for a group with a more cultural component, we now have Encore! which will include outings to various cultural/performance events. For more information, or to request a complete listing of the current Interest Groups, click here to contact Jan Young: jczant@yahoo.com.





Susan Herriott and Melba Jimenez at the Melange Holiday Luncheon



Snowbirds Neille Wilson, Maureen Buchholz, Paula Slicker, Bonnie Femec, Ann Larrabee at the Sandpipers Luncheon



Sheila Lirtzman and Bev Fisher of the Traveling Women Group make plans at the Field Club



Sustainers Nancy Sneed, Susie Klingeman, Anka Eshak, Fran Kitschke at the Sandpipers Luncheon



Beach Babes Do Lunch at Bijou Cafe

DONE IN A DAY (DIAD)

Chair: Wendy Hopkins

Committee: Nancy Bailey, Barbara Bell, Linda Blanding, Gwen Chamberlain, Laurie Colombo, Julia Cox, Tamara Currey, Emily Jennings, Ann Larrabee, Cynn timer Smyth, Cindy Stuhley, Marilyn Wagmiller, Neille Wilson

Sustainers have completed four Done in a Day activities so far, and have several more planned for the new year. In October, 11 Sustainer volunteers sorted clothing at Mothers Helping Mothers. In November, 27 Sustainers and friends participated in sorting food at the Mayor's Feed the Hungry campaign at Ed Smith Stadium to benefit All Faiths Food Bank. At the November 4 Sustainer Fall Meeting, Sustainers collected toiletries and other personal hygiene items to be added to the Actives' drive for SPARCC and the South County Food Pantry. And in December, 12 Sustainers volunteered as hostesses at the Gingerbread Festival for the Girl Scouts of the Gulf Coast.



Sustainer DIAD Mothers Helping Mothers Oct 2019



*Melinda Adams, Kim Cornetet,
Wendy Hopkins, Tody Pillsbury*



Feed the hungry assembly line

**WOMEN
BUILDING
BETTER
COMMUNITIES**

NEW SARASOTA SUSTAINERS

Chair: Maureen Carnevale

Committee: Vonnie Abele, Melinda Adams, Georgia Anderson, Gwen Chamberlain, Kay Chandler, Joanie Evans, Aurilla (Dee Dee) Fusco, Maryl Henry, Sue Hoffman, Allison Kellogg, Jane Kolling, Coleen Kordas, Sandy Pringle, Letia Short, Marjie Skalet, Cindy Stuhley, Anne Toale, Barbara Wall-Magee, Neille Wilson, Jan Young, Amy Zumwalt

The purpose of this committee is to welcome and orient new Sarasota Sustainers who have transferred from other Leagues. Formerly known as the Transfers Committee, the committee has evolved to also include new Sustainers who were recently Active members of JLS. Each committee member serves as a mentor/liaison for 3-4 women. A fall orientation took place, as well as a second one in January, as new Sustainer members are constantly moving to Sarasota County. Everyone was invited to a beach outing held at Lido Beach in November and had so much fun that another beach outing will be planned.



New Sarasota Sustainers at Lido Beach



New Sarasota Sustainers Orientation



CORRECTION: In the Summer 2019 SandScript we published that Debbie Shapiro received the Sustainer Community Service Award. Here is the correct photo with Debbie & Amy Sankes.