

# THE BRIDGE

THE MAGAZINE OF THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF BOCA RATON, INC.

Volume 24, Number 3  
February 2014

Women Building  
Better Communities



☀ VOLUNTEERING 101 ☀

☀ COME VISIT IN THE PINES ☀

☀ COOKING FOR FUN ☀

☀ VISION, ACTION, LEADING WITH A CHILD'S HEART ☀

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The Communication Bridge between the Junior League of Boca Raton, its Membership and our Community.

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The Junior League of Boca Raton, 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 Boca Raton, Inc. and the Association of Junior Leagues International, Inc. reach out to women of all races, religions, and national origins who demonstrate an interest in and commitment to voluntarism.



**FLAVORS**  
March 13, 2014  
at The  
Sonoma House

*Presented by the Junior League of Boca Raton*



## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

"It's easy to make a buck. It's a lot tougher to make a difference."

Tom Brokaw said it. A wise man indeed. And making a difference, you can bet, is at the top of the list of priorities for most Junior Leaguers. In this issue of the Bridge, read how many of our awe-inspiring women are spending their time giving back. Turn to [Page 7](#), and find out how you too can volunteer. Check out [Page 6](#) and see the many faces of women in our community making a difference and giving back!

Volunteering was instilled in me by my Aunt Kelly when I was around 12. A fearless, empowering and hardworking Southern Belle she was. A super woman who, while raising three wonderful children and holding down a FT high level position, ALWAYS took the time to give back to those in need. I'll never forget my first day as a volunteer at the Lighthouse Shelter in Downtown Atlanta. I met a wonderful mother named Pam and her 2-year-old son Cory. Cory came in with nothing but a soiled diaper, no shirt, no shoes. Pam had run away in the middle of the night from her abusive husband. She came to the shelter desperate, disheveled and in dire need of support. No sooner had Pam come in that Lighthouse staffers worked to find Pam and Cory food, a shelter, money and the love she needed to turn her life around. I'll never forget the impact that day. It was from that day on I knew volunteering was in my blood.

While prepping to write this, I did a little scooping around to find, that a recent Gallup survey on volunteering in the U.S.A. found that 52% of volunteers do it because they like doing something useful and helping others. Another 38% said they enjoy doing volunteer work and feeling good about themselves. Still other studies have shown a relationship between volunteering and increased self-esteem, with volunteers reporting both greater personal empowerment and better health. Doing for others may stimulate the release of endorphins, which has been linked to improve nervous and immune system functions, too.

Did you know that almost 5,000 DIAD hours, or more than 300 shifts, have been made available to our membership this

### BULLETIN BOARD

Congratulations to Jennifer Yuil and her husband Michael Steinberg, on the birth of their son, **Edward Alejandro Yuil-Steinberg**, December 2, 2013, 7 lbs. 20 in.

year alone? What's stopping you from jumping in and getting those endorphins stimulated? Turn to [Page 7](#) for a list of the many opportunities out there you can volunteer for. [Page 8](#) also shows us how a small group of women is making a difference over at In the Pines. You can read all about the latest from our dire hard ladies with the Spirit of Giving on [Page 12](#). And yes, for those cooking enthusiasts, turn to [Page 14](#) to reach how Flavors of Boca founder, Georgiene Laffey is giving back and showing families at the Pines how to prepare healthy wholesome meals on a budget. Great tips Georgiene!



Once again, there are many wonderful stories in these Bridge pages. Many ways you can give back. I want to wrap this up with a quick thank you to my aunt for inspiring me to always try and give back where you can and when you can. I don't even think she realizes today the impact she had on me at such an early age. I hope she does by reading this today. I have since passed on the volunteer torch to my son Aiden as well. We love hitting all of the local beach cleanups and food drives. His favorite is taking care of his garden over at the Community Garden and delivering the food to those in need. He now plans to pass the volunteer love off to his younger 15-month-old brother down the road as well. It makes me proud! Oh and if you are wondering, last I heard, Pam and Cory were doing fantastic. Ironically, Pam went on to be a volunteer herself at that same shelter. While I have not heard from her in years, I am fairly confident, thanks to the wonderful volunteers she befriended years ago, she is doing fine.

If you'd like to share your story, feedback or contribute in any way to an upcoming issue, please don't hesitate to reach out to Bridge Staff.

As always, thank you for your readership!

Shawn Sherlock  
Assistant Editor



## PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE - JLBR GIVING BACK

Dear friends:

*We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give ~ Winston Churchill*

As a member of the Junior League of Boca Raton, I believe in giving back to the community in which I live. Every day I see the Junior League of Boca Raton members giving back to our fellow members, our League and our community. Since the beginning of the League year, our nearly 700 members have collectively:

- Made and donated more than 2,600 sandwiches to after school programs
- Collected and donated more than 4,800 pounds of food to food bank
- Packaged and donated more than 3,300 food backpacks to schools
- Collected and donated nearly 125,000 diapers to families in need
- Given more than \$12,000 in grant funds to local nonprofits
- Planned and hosted nonprofit trainings for more than 200 attendees at the VCRC

In addition, our members have volunteered more than 14,000 hours so far this year. The Junior League of Boca Raton's impact in the issues of hunger, child welfare and nonprofit support can be seen every day in our community. We are proud that our contributions, leadership and volunteer efforts help to create a stronger Boca Raton.

Our wonderful headquarters and nonprofit resource center, the Vegso Community Resource Center, is celebrating its 10-year anniversary this year. Our building, with its grant library and non profit training and meeting space, allows us to serve and make an impact in our community every day.

All of our members feel voluntarism in their hearts and they feel it passionately. The JLBR believes in voluntarism. We believe in action. We believe in improving our community.

To our members - Thank you all for your service and dedication to the Junior League of Boca Raton. Each of you is instrumental in maintaining the amazing legacy that our organization continues to leave in the Boca Raton community.

In community spirit,

Crystal McMillin  
President 2013-2014

## 2014-2015 JLBR ANNUAL DUES

On behalf of the JLBR Board of Directors, thank you for your continued assistance and hard work in support of the JLBR's mission. As part of our membership requirements, it is time to collect dues for the 2014-2015 fiscal year. It is imperative that all dues are collected within the timeframes outlined in the bylaws. To assist you, here are a few important dates for you to take into consideration.

### IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

- Dues are due **MARCH 1, 2014**. Dues include AJLI annual per capita dues. Dues must be paid in full no later than **APRIL 1, 2014**, or a late fee of \$10 will apply (unless a financial hardship plan has been arranged by **MARCH 1st** with the VP of Finance - see 4th bullet point). Members that do not pay their dues within the timelines in the bylaws will be recommended to be removed from membership.

- If you are considering resigning or transferring to another league, please submit a written request to the Junior League's office by **MARCH 1st** requesting the change.
- If you have any questions regarding your membership status, please contact your Nominating Placement Advisor.
- A member, who, due to a financial hardship cannot pay the amounts within the timeframes outlined, must make alternative payment plans with the VP of Finance, Kirsten Stanley at (561) 702-7351 or [kstanley@outlook.com](mailto:kstanley@outlook.com). The request must be made prior to **MARCH 1st**. The plan allows for four monthly payments beginning **MARCH 1st**.

### REMITTING PAYMENT:

1. By Mail OR
2. Go to the JLBR's website: [www.jlbr.org/dues](http://www.jlbr.org/dues). On the "JLBR Store" you will find a link to pay dues.

# JUNIOR LEAGUE MEMBERS VOLUNTEERING IN THE COMMUNITY





## VOLUNTEERING 101

by Gina Griffin

Done-In-A-Day Shifts are two or four-hour opportunities for League members to make a difference in our community. Shifts are categorized under Child Welfare, Non-Profit Support, Hunger and Nutrition, Training, and Recruiting.

Internal shifts are organized by League members and have served so far this year: Boca Helping Hands, Caring Kitchen, CHOW, Del Prado Elementary School, Diaper Bank, Boca Raton Community Garden, Farmworker Coordinating Council, In the Pines, Spirit of Giving Network, and the Vegso Community Resource Center (VCRC).

External shifts are provided to qualified agencies, which include to date: Achievement Centers for Children and Families, American Association of Caregiving Youth, Arthur R. Marshall Foundation, Best Foot Forward Foundation, Boca Raton Regional Hospital, Daggerwing Nature Center, Delray Beach Public Library, Delray Beach Historical Society, George Snow Scholarship Fund, Gold Coast Down Syndrome Organization, Habitat for Humanity of South Palm Beach County, In Jacbo's Shoes, Kids In Distress, Milagro Center, One Blood, Palm Beach County Literacy Coalition, Project Linus, Ruth Rales Jewish Family Service, Schepens Eye Research Institute, and Twin Palms Center for the Disabled.

Almost 5,000 DIAD hours, or over 300 shifts, have been made available to our membership this year. How well are you representing the League as a DIAD volunteer? Here are our "Top Ten Volunteering To Do's".

1. Be dependable. People are counting on you, so show up on time and do your best!
2. Have a good attitude and be friendly. A smile can go a long way.
3. Keep an open mind. The shift may not be what you expected, but you have a chance to experience something new.
4. Be flexible. Things change. Go with the flow.
5. Show respect. Listen during instructions and put your cell phone away.
6. Be cooperative. Work as a team and use the opportunity to get to know your fellow members.
7. Be humble. Just be happy knowing that you're making a difference.
8. Take initiative. Not all shifts are perfectly organized; you may need to figure out where you are needed.
9. Know that you count! It's easy to think, "If I don't show up, there will be other volunteers to do the work." That's not true, especially when other volunteers have the same thought process and leave the shift short-handed.

10. Keep your commitment. If you sign-up for a shift, don't cancel a few days prior. This doesn't allow the committee or the organization much time to recruit members to fill your vacancy.

*The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others. - Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi*



**Linnea Powers, future homeowner, Stephanie Tunis, and Heather Rask working on a Habitat for Humanity build in November.**



**Colleen Orbegoso, Gina Griffin, John Marshall (Founder of the Arthur R. Marshall Foundation for The Everglades), Jennifer Marangos, Tony Medel, and Val Ulicny collected cypress seeds.**



**Melissa Bonaros, Jamie Brodarick, Sean Mallee, and Alexandra Drpic at October's Daggerwing Nature Center DIAD.**

## TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF FIRST IN 2014!

Join me in Costa Rica for a life-changing retreat. I'm thrilled to be teaching this retreat with the amazing James Finley (check him out at [www.contemplativeway.org](http://www.contemplativeway.org)). Looking forward to seeing you in March. *Remember, this is all about YOU!*

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## COME VISIT IN THE PINES!

by Alexis Forman

Have you been out to visit the In the Pines (ITP) community lately? If not, you've been missing out on a lot of great activities involving some well-deserving and appreciative families.



This year's activities started on November 9th; with a fun-filled day of Thanksgiving-themed festivities we called "In the Pines Gives Thanks."

There was a large turn out that day, with more than 40 children gathered at the recreation center of ITP South. The directors of ITP planned many fun activities that included, hearing the story of Thanksgiving, decorating cupcakes, making cards expressing their gratitude for their moms, teachers, or family members, creating a leaf garland of all the things they were thankful for, and making turkey hats.

Even though all the arts and crafts were a blast, the highlight and excitement of the day came when the two handmade piñatas were lifted into the sky on the basketball court and the children all took turns trying to break them open. You could imagine the frenzy when the piñata finally broke and they were able to reap the reward of candy!

And what made this day even more special was the fact that the ten DIAD volunteers that were helping the ITP committee were all from the incoming provisional class. The ITP committee is so happy that they got to experience ITP first hand and hope they enjoyed bonding with the kids.

The second activity of the year was a cooking class, held on December 17th which was a great bonding experience between the moms and children. Margi Cross Co-Chair of CHOW helped organize the class, held by Georgiene Laffey, a private chef and nutritionist. Georgiene's motto is "Cooking should be fun!", and boy, did she deliver! She played her favorite holiday music, showed the moms and kids how to make her family-friendly holiday recipes, and even brought her daughter Avery

along to show how much fun it can be to cook as a family.

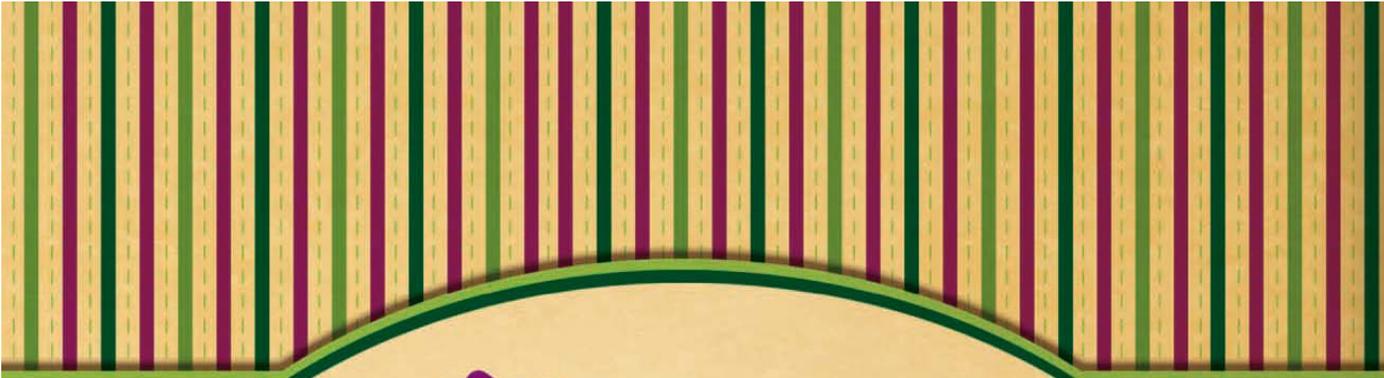
First they made a meat and cheese pinwheel that everyone could snack on before preparing the rest of the goodies. Then came the chocolate-covered bananas on a stick that would get frozen for a sweet treat later. The main course was a tradition from Georgiene's family—a stuffed pizza roll that could be taken home and eaten for dinner the next night. Georgiene even brought an extra-special treat for the kids—cookies that they could decorate with frosting and sprinkles!



The best part of being involved with the families of ITP is the appreciation the moms and kids show; they truly enjoy the activities we organize for them and cannot thank us enough for all the fun opportunities. If these activities sound like something you'd like to be a part of, keep an eye out for upcoming DIAD shifts posted in Closerware and sign up to help make great memories with the children of ITP.

To keep up with all the fun happenings at ITP, please ["like" Farmworker Children's Council, Inc. on Facebook.](#)





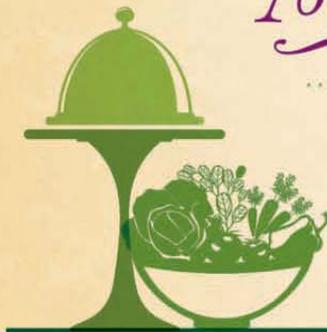
# Flavors

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*From the Farm to Your Fork*

THE SONOMA HOUSE  
March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2014

[www.flavors2014.com](http://www.flavors2014.com)



JUNIOR LEAGUE OF  
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*Women building better communities*



The Junior League of Boca Raton qualifies as a charitable organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. A portion of the proceeds from Flavors will go to support C.H.O.W.'s (Conquering Hunger Our Way) community initiatives such as weekend backpacks for children who are food insecure, The Boca Raton Community Garden, food drives, food recovery, cooking and nutrition education and community awareness. C.H.O.W. is the Junior League of Boca Raton's committee that addresses issues of hunger plaguing our community. A copy of the official registration, no. CH2459, and financial information may be obtained from the division of consumer services by calling toll free 1-800-435-7352 within the state. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval, or recommendation by the state.



## SONOMA HOUSE HOSTING FLAVORS 2014

by Laura Kendall



After 12 years of successful tasting events, the JLBR is excited to announce that Flavors 2014 will be held in a new location, The Sonoma House, located in downtown Boca Raton just north of Mizner Park.

The Sonoma House is a beautiful, California-style villa owned by restaurateur Dennis Max, partner Fred Stampone, and Executive Chef Patrick Broadhead, who are committed to staying true to the character of the property by using locally-sourced ingredients and freshly prepared menus.

The philosophy of the team at The Sonoma House lends itself well to this year's Flavors event, which is themed From the Farm to your Fork. The event will focus on flavors that are local, fresh, sustainable, and nutritious, and will feature the best restaurants in Boca Raton and the surrounding area.

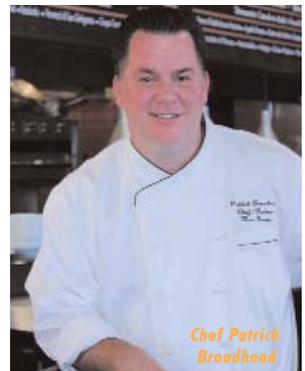
The event, which is expected to draw between 300-400 guests, will not only offer tastings of local foods, but also craft beers, wines, and liquors. Live music will provide entertainment and dancing, and guests will enjoy visiting each restaurant booth, as well as vendor booths in the Flavors marketplace, featuring local businesses. As in previous years, a silent auction, which will include fabulous packages put together by participating chefs, is sure to delight all attendees.

While Flavors 2014 will be a departure from the Chocolate Decadence from years past, Flavors will feature a Decadent Chocolate Lounge, showcasing the best chocolate and dessert Boca Raton has to offer.

Executive Chef Patrick Broadhead leads the team of participating chefs as the

Chef Chair for Flavors 2014. He is committed to working with other local chefs to promote Flavors and the JLBR, as well as to bring the best flavors possible to the guests on the day of the event.

Other sponsors for Flavors 2014 include Boca Raton Magazine, Cendyn, the Geo Group, the Rendon Center, and Rosemurgy Properties. All monies raised will benefit the Junior League of Boca Raton's programs and community initiatives, which include CHOW, the Community Garden, Kids in the Kitchen, Florence Fuller, and the Spirit of Giving Network, among others.



Chef Patrick Broadhead

Tickets are \$75, which includes an open bar and unlimited tastings. To purchase tickets or to learn more about the event, please visit [www.flavors2014.com](http://www.flavors2014.com).

Special thanks to our hardworking Flavors Leadership Stephanie Economos (co-chair), Laura Kendall (co-chair), Custodia Olivieri (chair-elect), Shanna St. John (sustaining advisor), Marjorie Hollman (treasurer), and committee members Kristen Albanese, Kaci Frost, Anna McNellen, Melissa Novak, Lauren Puleo, Alana St. John, and Fernanda Yanez.



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# THE SPIRIT OF GIVING CELEBRATES ITS 12<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

by Melissa Montes

Spirit of Giving celebrated its 12th year of making holiday wishes come true and another successful Holiday Gift drive by giving gifts to close to 4,000 of the community's under served children this December. In partnership with the Junior League of Boca Raton, this community-wide holiday gift drive and distribution serves youth from ages 1-18 served by close to 40 nonprofit organizations. The annual gift drive works in partnership with hundreds of supporters, businesses, churches, service groups and volunteers. This well-known holiday gift drive also celebrated a milestone in adding a website to the mix that allowed donors to select gifts for children and make donations with the simple click of a mouse. Another exciting addition this year was a toy fundraiser at Boston's in Delray where the Funkably Playboys played a rocking set and many brought toys for the drive.

Karen Krumholtz, Executive Director of the Spirit of Giving Network, worked hand in hand with the JLBR Spirit of Giving Committee to garner community partners, donations and volunteers. This process began back in September when Spirit of Giving began to gather the children's wish lists from

community organizations. The children filled out a gift tag with their gift wish for up to \$30. Each tag has a bar code, which was started by the JLBR a few years ago, to track the ornament and ensure that each child receives his or her selected gift. The tags are then placed on trees around town at churches, schools, banks and other community partner locations. The gift tags are then selected by generous donors who fulfill the gift wishes by purchasing the requested items. This year's popular gifts included skateboards, boogie boards, mp3 players, baby Einstein, Leap Frogs and many more gifts. As with previous years, gift cards were most popular with the 13 and up set.

Close to 100 volunteers helped collect and sort gifts this year. After several arranged pickups, the volunteers sorted gifts at the Lynn Financial Center which has served as home base for gift sorting for the past couple years. Volunteers worked 2-4 hour shifts where they meticulously checked the gift tags with attached gifts to make certain that each child received the gift they requested. Gifts were then put in Spirit of Giving bags and prepared to be picked up or dropped off to the correct



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agency. The volunteers then made the gift sorting shifts fun with holiday music, snacks and bringing along spouses and children to help with the shifts.

The Spirit of Giving committee was overwhelmed with the

willingness to help and generosity from Junior League members on other committees who went above and beyond signing up for a DIAD shift and really got involved with the drive. To learn more about the Spirit of Giving Drive please visit [www.spiritofgiving.com](http://www.spiritofgiving.com).



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# COOKING FOR FUN WITH GEORGIÈNE LAFFEY

by Nicole Stelzer



Barbara Haider, Founder of One Love One Community Foundation, Inc. & Georgiène Laffey, Owner of Cooking for Fun.

CHOW's nutrition education initiative focuses on teaching low-income families that utilize benefits Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) how to prepare healthy wholesome meals on a budget.

CHOW is always looking for new, fun ways to bring nutrition education and culinary experiences to the community we serve.

CHOW stumbled upon a Cooking for Fun table at Flavors of Boca and

began chatting with founder, Georgiène Laffey. *"I loved Georgiène's energy and enthusiasm for cooking and teaching and knew she would be a perfect fit for CHOW."* – Margi Cross, CHOW Co-Chair

CHOW has been partnering with Georgiène to teach one day cooking classes at In the Pines and most recently collaborated on hosting a six-week cooking program. This program was delivered to 30 teen girls attending One Love-One Community Foundation, Inc.'s after school mentoring program for girls at Carver Middle School in Delray Beach. A large number (75%) of these girls are first generation residents from Haiti that were displaced because of the earthquake in 2010. With Georgiène they are learning value life skills such as nutrition and cooking basics on a budget.

## ABOUT GEORGIÈNE AND COOKING FOR FUN:

Great cooking isn't about recipes—it's about fun and being comfortable in the kitchen. It's about thinking like a cook, making something from nothing and watching the smiles on the faces of your family when they create and eat together. From Thai to Italian, my classes let you explore a world of cuisines and disciplines. We work together in a fun, hands-on approach.

My family was into cooking growing up so I've always enjoyed being in the kitchen and the opportunity it offered to have people gather around while preparing favorite and new dishes. My love of teaching, with a Bachelors Degree in Education, and passion for cooking led me to attend many classes at New York University (NYU) Culinary School and provided the ground work for my Cooking for Fun classes.

## INTERVIEW WITH GEORGIÈNE:

**Why is cooking your passion?** Eating is a necessity . . . you have no choice but to eat to survive so why not look at cooking as a means to survive but have fun doing it . . . I love being in the kitchen, chopping, stirring, baking . . . being with my family and friends creating great food . . .

**What do you hope the girls at Carver will take away from your class?** I hope that they run to my class each Thursday . . . knowing they are going to learn a fun recipe that they can take home to make with their family. A recipe that can be altered to their liking with the ingredients they have in their kitchen.

**How has being a teacher helped you combine cooking and learning/teaching?** Teaching cooking is not hard if you are passionate and compassionate with your students . . . I engage each student having them participate in the preparing of the food. This interaction gives them a sense of accomplishment and pride in the outcome of the dish.

**What was your favorite part of the class?** I took great pride and joy when the girls set the table so beautifully and placed their kitchen's dish on the long dining table to share. They were so happy and pleased with all the terrific food they created. They repeatedly thanked me, which in turn I thanked them for their attention and interest in my cooking class.



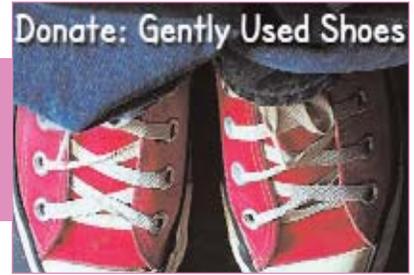
## WHAT JLBR MEMBERS ARE SAYING ABOUT COOKING FOR FUN:

*"My daughter and I had a blast and she asked why the class was only six weeks, she wanted it longer!"* - Francesca

*"Thank you for letting me be a part of this! So far it has been one of my favorite volunteer opportunities!"* - Sarah

# VISION, ACTION, LEADING WITH A CHILD'S HEART

by Sherry Winter



with an idea and did something about it. She has inspired kids around the country to create their own "S.T.E.P."s to make a difference in the world we live in. She is a determined young girl on a mission to improve the quality of life on Earth. Her entire focus is living responsibly locally, raising awareness nationally, and giving back globally. She has done just that, all with passion, excellence, and focus. She inspires and leads youth and adults to make a difference.

Olivia was recently contacted by FedEx Corporate to work with their management team on designing a model for their employees, promoting volunteerism.

The JLBR Training Committee was proud to host such an amazing young lady!

On Saturday, December 14th, the Training Committee hosted a very special guest speaker, Olivia Russo-Hood, at the VCRC. Twelve-year-old Olivia is the founder of Save the Earth Projects, or S.T.E.P. for short.

S.T.E.P. is a youth social entrepreneurship idea organizing social change. Participants recognize social problems and then organize, create, and/or manage a social venture to make change. Corporate businesses typically focus on profit and return, whereas social enterprises also measure the returns to society.

Currently, Olivia joins with peers across the nation in partnership with a variety of organizations as an effort to raise awareness about local, national and global issues, while also maintaining a goal of helping to raise funds for local charities. Neither she nor any of the S.T.E.P. participants profit financially from these projects.

What makes Olivia's vision so unique is that in Sept 2009, when she was just 7 years old, her family's house, possessions and entire community were destroyed in a presidentially declared FEMA disaster (flood). Despite the challenges she and her family faced, Olivia learned about social responsibility and she began thinking big about giving back.

In just one year Olivia has collected thousands of pairs of shoes benefiting numerous charities across the world through her project "Leave a GOOD Footprint" Campaign and is launching her follow up campaign, S.T.E.P. UP to the Plate - which is an initiative to plant community and home gardens to teach kids about healthy eating, sustainable farming, and feeding the local community who hunger.

"Vision, Action, Leading with a Child's Heart." Olivia set out



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# SANTA COMES TO FLORENCE FULLER

by Melissa Montes

Santa Claus came to town for almost 100 of the Florence Fuller West Boca Raton campus kids on Wednesday, December 18th. The fun afternoon party was a hit with the kids of Florence Fuller! Kids of all ages decorated holiday sugar cookies with icing, sprinkles and candies and enjoyed their cookies with chocolate milk and juice donated by Costco.

After decorating and enjoying their holiday cookies, the children patiently waited for their turn with Santa. Santa Claus then read a story to the kids in an emphatic voice that captivated the kids. After the stories and a loud round of "thank you Santa's" the kids lined up to receive their Christmas gift from the Spirit of Giving Holiday drive. Santa called each of the kids up and let them sit on his lap while they received their gift. This was a huge hit with the kids – many of which gave Santa a huge hug and thank you.

After the gifts were given, the Florence Fuller kids were taken to the final station of the holiday party where they were given the craft supplies to make a thank you card for Santa and the Spirit of Giving organization for their gift. The children made beautiful cards and a few rushed over to show Santa. One of the biggest smiles of the day was from Santa who received

both a thank you card and a cookie from a little girl who decorated her cookie for Santa instead of herself. It truly was an "awe" worthy moment. Florence Fuller's teachers and aids were very appreciative and said the party was a huge success and the Florence Fuller's teachers and aids were very appreciative and said the party was a huge success. The Florence Fuller committee was thrilled to be a part of making the holiday brighter for the Florence Fuller children and their families. Florence Fuller's committee is already thinking of ideas for the 2014 party and working with Spirit of Giving again to make the holidays bright.



**Florence Fuller Child Development Center Mission:** A child development center committed to providing quality childcare to serve economically disadvantaged families. The Center is dedicated to serving children and families from low-income households, so that the children can start their education on par with those from more economic advantages. The children receiving services are ethnically diverse families with an average annual household income of \$18,000.

**JLBR Florence Fuller (FF) Committee Purpose:** Reading is the foundation for all academic learning. Students need strong reading skills in order to learn in all other school subjects. Reading proficiency, for low income and disadvantaged children is a critical problem. Across the U.S., 88% of African-American and 86% of Hispanic 4th graders do not read at grade level. Children raised in poverty, with limited proficiency in English, or from homes where little reading takes place are especially at-risk. To make a difference for the FF students falling behind and to prevent the younger ones from ever being in that position, JLBR will launch an intensive Literacy Enhancement component to FF's Preschool, After-school, and Summer/Holiday educational/development programs.

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# JLBR'S NEWEST EDUCATION COORDINATOR

by Terri Williams



**Barbara Wooden** will be coordinating all of our nonprofit training, education, and overseeing the Grant Library. She has enjoyed a career that has spanned the fields of Marketing, Advertising, Public Relations and Finance. Barbara received her Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from the University of Miami. Immediately upon graduation she joined the corporate staff of Burger King Corporation in their

Public Relations Department.

Shortly after, she opened the Atlanta Regional Marketing office for Wendy's International and headed the Field Marketing Department for AFC Enterprises, parent company at the time for Church's Chicken, Popeye's Chicken and Biscuit, Cinnabon and Seattle Coffee.

Barbara returned to South Florida's Delray Beach after several corporate stints across the U.S. and overseas. She then obtained her stockbrokers and insurance licenses going on to work for Ameriprise as a Financial Advisor and U.M. She then decided to develop her own aquaculture company called Agape Marine Ventures.

Barbara currently devotes time to charitable ventures such as Family Promise of the Palm Beaches, Wayside and Cason United Methodist Church where she acts a chairman of the Trustees. She feels that the Junior League of Boca Raton is exactly where she is meant to be today.

After graduation, Barbara joined the corporate Marketing and Advertising staff of McDonald's Corporation in Chicago.

Please stop in and say hello to Barbara the next time you are at the VCRC!



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# NEW CLASS - NEW SPARK

by Kirsten Stephenson

Every year, Junior Leagues across the country take on a group of potential new members and spend the next nine months training them to be professional and effective volunteers in the community and successful members in their League. After designing award winning curriculums over the years to best aid in this transition for our new members, Junior League of Boca Raton (JLBR) decided to try something different this year: splitting the training year into two parts: a class in the fall, and a class in the spring. To make up for the missing time, a weekend retreat each semester was proposed to intensely educate new members on our projects and our internal structure. Our fall class graduated 34 members (impressively out of 34 new members that initially signed on), and our spring class welcomed 43 new members on Friday night, January 10, 2014.

Friday night started at 6:30 p.m. with the Membership Development committee - led by Co-Chairs Jennifer Brackett and Monique Shide - welcoming ladies into our Vegso Community Resource Center (VCRC) headquarters. These potential new members ranged from professionals in the community and homemakers, to already established professional volunteers in organizations around our community. Fingerprinting and photos were taken before our League president, Crystal McMillin, spoke to the group. Then former provisional Shana Ostrovitz spoke about her experiences with JLBR during her training program and answered questions about

what our new members should expect. Various activities followed, wrapping up before 8 p.m.

The next morning our new members (provisionals) arrived at 9a.m. for breakfast before being educated by board members who spoke one after the other about how JLBR is organized. Vice Presidents of Community, Personnel, Fund Development, Planning, and Communications and PR/Marketing Chair highlighted their respective responsibilities prior to lunch, and training on Closerware followed - Closerware being our internet engine for managing JLBR's information and processes.

Following lunch, Super Saturday commenced as provisional members boarded the bus to take them to our community garden, Boca Helping Hands (where our ladies were promptly put to work), the Children's Museum, and Florence Fuller, where we received a warm welcome and presentation by Elyn Okrent, their CEO. These organizations - like so many others in our community - were products of the Junior League of Boca Raton.

Co-Chairs Jennifer Brackett and Monique Shide, and Membership Development committee (Jessica Romano, Kirsten Coleman, Tracy Sussman, Megan Rask, Liz Gaukroger and Kirsten Stephenson) warmly welcomes this dynamic group of women that comprises the spring provisional class, and looks forward to many years to come of volunteering and to bettering our community - as well as growing ourselves as women and leaders.



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# WILL WISHES FROM ENDOWMENT

by Sue Diener

Did you know that more than 41 percent of baby boomers (born 1946 to 1964) and 71 percent of people under the age of 34 don't have wills? A recent survey cited procrastination as the main reason, followed by feelings that it was unnecessary or too expensive. Well, who wants to think about death, particularly your own? Drafting a will is considered a morose task, so an astounding number of Americans never get around to it.



Guilty, I was one of those individuals who didn't want to think about drafting a will. It wasn't until my husband and I were taking our first trip without our oldest son that we decided to clarify our wishes in writing. The process was very easy and it

certainly gave us a piece of mind especially in regards to the well-being of our son.

We all have those "need to do eventually but not today" lists. Eat more fruits and vegetables. Exercise 30 minutes a day. Organize the closets. Take a computer class. And while we normally think maybe next week or next month when these mental reminders go off in our brain, now may just be the time to actually make an effort to get one or two of these items moved into the "let's do soon" list. A new year always seems to inspire those well-intended resolutions and get us moving on things we should have done a long time ago. Before you get too ambitious and your list gets too lofty, why not pencil in "write a will" at the top? Believe it or not, getting your will done this year might turn out to be the most important resolution you can make. Need convincing?

Here's why you should have a will. First and foremost, think about your children. You've made a lifelong commitment to love and nurture them, but you can only carry out your wishes while you are living and breathing. Second, you need to know that without a will, your assets will be divided up without any input from you. You don't want to leave your money's fate to chance. Lastly, estate taxes will consume a significant portion of the money you leave behind. Both the federal and state government gets a piece of your fortune, and when your estate ends up in probate court because you didn't leave a will, the amount taken out will be even greater because of legal fees. Since you probably didn't work and save for years

just to benefit the government and the legal system, get your will written already!

Congratulations if you have actually drafted a will and crossed that task off your list. However, has it been a while since it was executed or has there been any life changes that might make you consider updating it? After nearly twenty years, my husband and I decided it was about time to update our wills. Noting that our second son was only listed as "future children" was a sure sign it needed updating. While revising our wills we learned that after our families were taken care of we could easily include gifts of any size to organizations that have been important to us like the Junior League of Boca Raton.

Making a legacy gift to the Junior League we felt was a wonderful way to continue a lifetime of support for an organization that we believe in. And because gifts grow through the years, virtually any amount will have a magnified effect on the League's ability to provide important services to the community.

Don't be one of the 70 percent of Americans who never get around to penning the most important legal document; plan to spell out your wishes in a will today. Remember your will is more than just a piece of paper. It is a valuable gift to your family, friends and community.

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## SUSTAINER SCOOP

by LouAnn Such

Welcome to the new and eclectic version of the Scoop that will take us hither and yon. (What did I just say?) In other words, we are going to hear about different projects we as Sustainers are doing. If you want to mention one of your projects, just let me know for our next article. We have such differing age groups now that Nancy Dockerty has taken over. (We were getting a little old and dated.) Therefore we need to see what kind of volunteer jobs might be of interest.

THANK YOU to **KRISTIN VIETS** for the HIGH TEA in Palm Beach where we all dressed up with our high tea hats and gloves and pearls . . . well, some of us did. We all acted like social ladies and politely chatted as we had tea and tiny sandwiches, tiny cakes, etc. Actually we had an enjoyable afternoon doing something totally different from our usual lunch and shopping. Thank you, KRISTIN.

THANK YOU to **JAMI GUTTENBERG**, **LISA WARREN** and **MICHELLE DUFFY** for an innovative VALENTINE LUNCHEON, "Vino Van Gogh," where we had a great lunch, wine and were able to show our creative side in painting a ceramic

piece of our choosing. What a great way to change things up. Jami and Michelle came up with such a great new luncheon idea. Thank you again.

**FLOWER ARRANGING:** Friday, March 14th, 1:00 p.m. at the Vegso Community Resource Center (the League office.) Cost is \$20 for a huge amount of flowers and a representative from Whole Foods who will teach us. Once again our artistic abilities are put to the test as we learn in just two hours how to make the perfect arrangement. You need to bring you own vase and a sharp knife or scissors to cut stems. I can honestly say that I have attended every year and have come home with an impressive piece each time. Contact Jan Jones 561-738-0500 or 203-545-9020 to let her know that you are coming so we can have the right amount of flowers. Pay by a check made out to Junior League of Boca Raton.

**OLD BAGS LUNCHEON** will be held at the Waterstone Resort and Marina (the old Bridge Hotel on East Camino Real). It will be on Wednesday, April 30th. The cost is \$45 and does not include valet parking which if you choose to use

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will be an extra \$5. We will have gently used purses in a silent auction format for attendees to bid on. We would like anyone having these gently used purses to donate them to our cause. They can do so by dropping them off at the League office. There is a bag in the foyer for this purpose. Please contact Linda Eckelson at 561-495-8198 if you can't get to the office to drop off your bags. Further questions email Juana Franklin, juanafranklin@bellsouth.net or Linda Eckelson, leckelson@bellsouth.net. This is a great fund raiser so do bring in your purses, definitely plan to attend and be happy that Linda, Juana and Sue Wicker are willing to organize this luncheon again.

Now I digress. As I mentioned, we are going to learn about different activities that Sustainers are involved in within the community.



**BOCA HELPING HANDS:** Announcement Letter from Charity Navigator: (Charity Navigator is America's premiere charity evaluator which gives donors complete confidence in their choice of charities)

"Based on the most recent information available, we have issued a new rating for your organization. We are proud to announce Boca Helping Hands has earned our eighth consecutive 4-star rating. Receiving four out of a possible four stars indicates that your organization adheres to good governance and other best practices that minimize the chance of unethical activities and consistently executes its mission in a fiscally responsible way. Only 1% of the charities we rate have received at least eight consecutive 4-star evaluations, indicating that Boca Helping Hands outperforms most other charities in America. This 'exceptional' designation from Charity Navigator differentiates Boca Helping Hands from its peers and demonstrates to the public it is worthy of their trust."

A "Four Star Rating" means that Boca Helping Hands uses its contributions in an efficient, appropriate and ethical manner. It furthermore acknowledges that Boca Helping Hands adheres to the highest standards of organizational governance, accountability and transparency. In short, it means that a contributor can have complete confidence that his/her donation will be used to help people . . . and not have the bulk of the

donation go to overhead and expenses. In fact 90 cents of every dollar goes to those in need who come to Boca Helping Hands. Very impressive! If you don't want to volunteer on a regular basis, there is an auxiliary group called Heart and Spirit that can help with special projects such as mailings and fund raisers. For only \$35 a year, you will be informed of all Boca Helping Hands activities and projects. We are having a wine tasting in February, and would love to have you come. Please call LouAnn Such 561-271-3118 or Karen Swedenborg, director of development at 561-716-4336 or Karen@bocahelpinghands.org.



**Boca Raton Historical Society**

**BOCA HISTORICAL SOCIETY** is having its 12th annual BOCA BACCHANAL, March 28th through 30th, bringing the best in food and wine together for a spectacular three-day event. Top chefs from all over the United States will be serving delicious delicacies inspired by the menus of their renowned restaurants. Friday night consists of six private dinners. Saturday night is held at the Boca Resort and Club with all of the chefs and vintners there plus a great auction. Sunday's event is held by the Mizner amphitheater. Twenty to thirty of Boca's best restaurants as well as the outstanding vintners from all over the world will be there for tastings. Contact the Boca Historical Society for further information and tickets. 561-395-6766 or visit [www.bocabacchanal.com](http://www.bocabacchanal.com)



**IMPACT 100:** Get to Know Impact 100 Palm Beach County - one of the newest nonprofit funding sources for our South County region. Founded and supported by many JLBR active and sustaining members, Impact 100 champions "the power of women giving as one."

The goal of Impact 100 is to fund new, innovative activities that impact the community by bringing individual women together and making a singular impact. The organization is based upon the model of other Impact 100s across the United States, and is comprised of philanthropically inclined women who seek to make a positive impact on the community.

. . . continued on page 24

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As a charitable fund of the Community Foundation for Palm Beach and Martin Counties, the organization facilitates this by awarding at least one \$100,000 high impact grant to a nonprofit in one of the following focus areas: Arts & Culture, Education, Environment, Family, and Health & Wellness. The grant recipient(s) are selected by a vote of all Impact 100 Palm Beach County members at its annual meeting after a thorough proposal review process.

The number of grants awarded each year depends upon the number of members. During its inaugural year of 2012, 148 women embraced the opportunity to impact the community and each donated \$1000, enabling Impact 100 to award one \$100,000 grant plus four \$12,000 to each of the other finalists. In its second year, Impact 100 was 220 women strong and awarded \$220,000 in grants to five nonprofit organizations.

On April 10th, 2014, Impact 100 Palm Beach County will hold its annual meeting and exceed half a million dollars as it distributes grants for its third year. You are invited to join Impact 100 in making a significant impact in the lives of others. Once a member, the only requirement is to cast a vote, either in person at the annual meeting or by absentee ballot – no

additional volunteer work is necessary, unless the member chooses to be more involved.

There is still time to join Impact 100 for 2014—or come join us on April 10th from 6 - 9 p.m. at the Wold Center at Lynn University to observe the process. To join, or to learn more about Impact 100 Palm Beach County, visit [Impact100PBC.org](http://Impact100PBC.org) or contact Susan Diener [esdiener@aol.com](mailto:esdiener@aol.com), Cindy Krebsbach [cakrebsbach@aol.com](mailto:cakrebsbach@aol.com) or Lisa Mulhall [newck@aol.com](mailto:newck@aol.com).

I hope you have learned a bit about three major organizations in which many of our Sustainers are actively involved. Joyce DeVita is president of the Boca Historical Society and seemingly devotes half of her waking hours to that group. LouAnn Such (that's me) has run the Boca Helping Hand fundraisers for the last three years. Lisa Mulhall and Cindy Krebsbach have almost single handedly started and continued Impact 100. Please let me know what organization you are in that should be mentioned to our 350 Sustainers which might be of interest to them. After all, you can only go out to lunch, shop, Play Bridge, or play tennis so many times. Then again, some of you are thinking, I am just fine with what I do. Don't lecture me.



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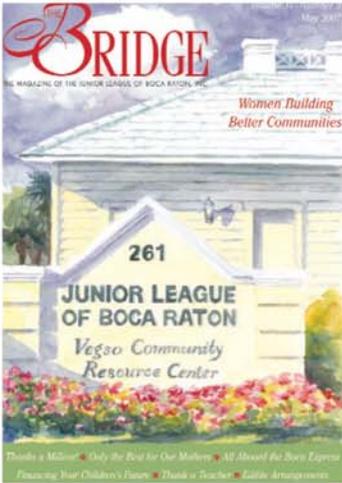
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<b>Cover:</b> Full page, back inside	8.5" x 11" (Full Bleed)	\$400	\$375	\$350
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