

THE BRIDGE

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

Volume 24, Number 1
September 2013

Women Building
Better Communities



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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.



**October General
 Membership Meeting
 October 8, 2013
 Social 6 p.m. - Meeting 7 p.m.
 The Addison - Boca Raton**



LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

The JLBR has kicked off its 42nd year of promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women and improving the community through effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. This League year, *The Bridge* will be focusing on the community impact being made by our active and sustaining members, our provisional members and the JLBR's community partners. JLBR has worked with community leaders, League leaders past and present and representatives of nonprofits in our service area to identify the issues of greatest concern to those whom we provide assistance. As a result, JLBR has identified hunger, child welfare and the need of our nonprofit community for support and the training of volunteers as the issues currently affecting our service area that we will be focusing our time, talents and resources on improving.

This year our Community Issues Council consists of three issue-based committees. The first, C.H.O.W. which stands for Conquering Hunger Our Way is dedicated to addressing the serious issue of hunger in our service area. The second, the Child Welfare Committee, continues JLBR's long history of dedication to the children of our community as it works to identify the problems affecting child welfare in our community and develop and implement programs such as the Diaper Bank and self esteem awareness programs aimed at addressing these problems. The third issue-based committee, Non-Profit Support and Training, provides training through various programs at the Vegso Community Resource Center and Done In a Day volunteers who fulfill the needs of our nonprofit community partners. This committee also advocates for our League's and community's issues of concern at the State Public Affairs Committee.

In this issue, we are pleased to highlight some of the ways CHOW is addressing the issue of hunger in our service area and improving food security in our community by improving food availability, access and use through food collections, backpack programs and partnerships with nonprofits committed to addressing the issue of hunger as it affects our service area. The Community Garden is now part of CHOW and is preparing to celebrate its grand opening on October 5, 2013 and planning for Harvest in the Garden, celebrating the opening of the Downtown Boca Raton Library on October 19, 2013.

You can also read about the hard work and efforts of the members of the Public Issues and Advocacy Committee who traveled to Washington, D.C. in May to advocate for the League state initiatives of human trafficking, hunger and literacy. In conjunction with representatives of leagues from across the

state, these JLBR members continued the development of relationships and partnerships with our community leaders and representatives. This issue also includes an overview of the volunteer needs being fulfilled through Done In a Day volunteers at numerous nonprofits in our service area.

This is a very exciting time for the JLBR as we continue moving forward to tackle the pressing issues of hunger, child welfare, and the need for nonprofit support in our community. I am honored to serve as Editor of *The Bridge* this year and look forward to highlighting the many initiatives and achievements of our members and community partners and supporters in *The Bridge* throughout this league year.

COMMUNITY CORNER

Each issue I would like to dedicate this corner to highlighting the impact or contribution of a JLBR community supporter.



Garrett Boone,
The Container Store &
Crystal McMillin

The Container Store, Inc. is not only the store to go to for all of the latest gadgets and systems to organize your life. The Container Store supports our organization, the Junior League of Boca Raton. As one of our newest community supporter, The Container Store shares in JLBR's mission to promote voluntarism, develop the potential of women and improve the community through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. This mission cannot be accomplished without the support and financial contributions of our Community Partners and supporters.

On June 13, 2013, The Container Store, Inc. celebrated the grand opening of its Boca Raton location at Town Center Mall by hosting an event benefiting the JLBR. Members were provided with a sneak peek at the new store and an opportunity to buy all of the tools necessary to help organize our members' busy lives and schedules. Not only did The Container Store throw a fabulous party for our member, they donated \$13,000 of the proceeds from their opening weekend sales to the JLBR. We look forward to continuing to work with The Container Store, Inc. to address the needs of our community.

Alicia Laufer
Editor, *The Bridge*



PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

LET'S MAKE IT MEANINGFUL TOGETHER!

However, we cannot rest on our laurels. There is still a lot of work to be done. We have seen the needs in our community as we have worked to select new focus areas of hunger, child welfare and nonprofit support for our community impact.

There is an African proverb that says, "You are only given the gift of today. Use this gift." In our busy lives, the way we use the gift of each day must be carefully considered. It is incredibly important to fill each day with the most meaningful of commitments. When I consider the Junior League of Boca Raton, an organization which represents this type of commitment for our nearly 700 members, I am proud of the meaning we make each day.

When I look out at the Boca Raton community, our infrastructure masks some of the problems that reside alongside us. We are "a City for All Seasons," yet under that facade our community still needs work. The 40 plus year history of the Junior League of Boca Raton speaks to this directly. We have recognized those needs in our community and addressed them.

In the 1970s and 1980s, we founded and supported the Boca Raton Historical Society and the Boca Raton Children's Museum. In the 1990s, we helped provide safe, clean and affordable housing combined with social services and support programs for low income farm workers at In The Pines, Inc. And in the 2000s, we broke ground on and opened the Vegso Community Resource Center, our headquarters and a centralized Resource Center to serve all of the South Palm Beach County nonprofit organizations. I am glad that there is an organization like ours making lasting change. We have made meaningful impact and I am proud of this work.



September is Hunger Action Month, and the Junior League of Boca Raton is taking remarkable strides to address the issue of hunger in our community. Our CHOW (Conquering Hunger Our Way) committee will make a meaningful impact on the issue of hunger in Boca Raton. This

will be a multi-year effort that will require strong community partnerships and a well-trained membership. It will also provide countless experiential learning opportunities for our members to become female civic and community leaders of the future. I am confident that this work of building the women leaders of tomorrow while conquering hunger will represent another of our proudest moments.

I am excited for our journey over the next year toward making Boca Raton even better. Let's make it meaningful together.

In community spirit,

Crystal McMillin

Crystal McMillin
President 2013-2014

SAVE THE DATE FOR 2013-2014 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

October 8, 2013 - General Membership Meeting, The Addison, Boca Raton

November 12, 2013 - General Membership Meeting - Cottage Meetings, Various Locations TBA

January 14, 2014 - General Membership Meeting - Honoring Sustaining Members, The Addison, Boca Raton

February 11, 2014 - General Membership Meeting - Cottage Meetings, Various Locations TBA

March 11, 2014 - General Membership Meeting, The Addison, Boca Raton

April 8, 2014 - General Membership Meeting, The Addison, Boca Raton

May 13, 2014 - General Membership Meeting, To be Revealed . . .

JUNIOR LEAGUE OF BOCA RATON

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Lynn Holcomb, Honorary Chair

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Special thanks to these lovely sustainers for chairing this event.

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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 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.

VOLUNTEERS: GIVING TODAY FOR A BETTER TOMORROW



WHAT THE CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE IS UP TO THIS YEAR!

by *Melissa Montes*

Child Welfare Chairs Victoria Matthews and Renata Sans de Negri are very excited that the 2013-2014 Child Welfare year has kicked off. The first of the events on this committee's aggressive list was the Diaper Distribution Day, which was held July 20, 2013. More than ten agencies picked up 17,000 diapers and the committee expects to distribute as many as 25,000 diapers the third Saturday of every month. The Junior League of Boca Raton (JLBR) Diaper Bank was formed to support the underserved in our community by providing diapers in an effort to ease the need to go without other basic needs like food, electricity or child care to provide their children with diapers. In its second year, the Diaper Bank has been a great success.

The Child Welfare Committee is also supported by the subcommittee Nonprofit Partners. Non Profit Partner's committee is chaired by Melissa Montes and focuses on providing support and assistance to Florence Fuller, In The Pines, Inc. and Spirit of Giving. One of the exciting changes to the placements this year will be that Spirit of Giving, In The Pines, Inc. and Florence Fuller committee members will be able to float across all three projects assisting where needed and having a part in all three projects achieving their goals throughout the year.



Spirit of Giving (SOG) will continue to support the Spirit of Giving Network's (SOGN) Holiday Gift Drive Task Force and committee members will coordinate, manage, and market the Holiday Gift Drive in the community. This effort includes producing ornaments, securing organizations to take and fulfill the ornaments, sorting received gifts, and helping to distribute gifts to member agencies. Exciting changes this year include the launch of the new SOG website which has many features geared to making participation in the holiday drive as convenient as possible. The new site will allow donors the ability to make donations online as well as shop for the gift requests of the children with the ease of a click. The Spirit of Giving committee will also participate in issue driven projects, decided on by SOGN executive director and member agencies as well as other SOGN activities related to the League.

Florence Fuller, the child development center committed to providing quality childcare to serve economically disadvan-

tagged families, will continue to create and execute events to enhance literacy at FF's Preschool, After school, and Summer/Holiday educational/development programs. Events at Florence will continue to include the popular events like the Pen Pal Program between East and West Campus Kids, where each campus group reads the same book and then writes to their pen pal once a week about what they have read and learned. The JLBR provides books and supplies for this initiative. Family Reading Nights will also continue. These quarterly trainings are for parents of the children of Florence Fuller. The JLBR and Palm Beach County Literacy Coalition teach parents how to develop a literacy rich home. The Florence Fuller committee facilitates the event, as well as provides dinner, raffle prizes and the childcare during the event. Other events include Weekly Storytelling classes, and a Summer Camp Program. The committee will also contribute by purchasing books and holding book drives.

The In The Pines Committee (ITP) will work with the goal to better the lives and communities of the residents living on the premises of In The Pines, Inc. North and South in Western Delray Beach and promote community awareness of the ITP organization. The committee will assist In The Pines, Inc. with educational activities, as well as securing donations and assisting the expansion of the Children's Homework Help Program (providing additional programs for after school enrichment, etc.). They will also provide support to the families through bilingual literacy trainings, adult literacy classes, arts enrichment classes, and information on immigration issues and scholarship needs. The committee will also work to continue previously held events that encourage promoting bonding between parents and children, health and fitness, combating hunger and culture exposure. These special events will include a back to school bash, mother and daughter spa day, mother and son cooking class, father and daughter dance, health fair at Boca Raton Regional, mother and daughter movie night, and Holiday in a Box.

The Child Welfare committee will also be working on the development of the JLBR's new Self Esteem initiative with dedicated research to determine the most effective ways to promote self-esteem to the young and under served in our community. The committee has plans to lie out an aggressive strategy to be carried out next year.

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DOUBLE THE IMPACT - DOUBLE THE FUN, THE GARDEN AND CHOW BECOME ONE!

by Nikki Stelzer

This League year the Community Garden and CHOW (Conquering Hunger Our Way) are teaming up and aligning their missions to deliver a greater impact in our community.

HAPPENINGS

Opening Day of the Community Garden will be Saturday, October 5, 2013.

JOINT INITIATIVES

Harvest in the Garden: CHOW and the Community Garden will be hosting a joint event in partnership with the grand Opening of the Downtown Boca Raton Library on Saturday, October 19, 2013.

Spring Fling Garden Event – Date TBD

CHOW INITIATIVES

CONQUERING HUNGER: CHOW partnered with our Junior League Community Support Fund to sponsor the Sunrise Park Elementary Summer Camp Discovery. Camp Discovery was held at Boca Raton's Sunrise Park Elementary School and was exclusively for lower income K-2nd grade students. It was led by six Palm Beach County School teachers ensuring the camp is rich in education, specifically learning English as a second language. Together we provided 40 campers breakfast, lunch, and snacks daily from July 15 - August 1, 2013.

As part of Hunger Awareness Month, CHOW participated in the Feed My Community Food Drive on September 9-15, 2013, by holding an Instant Payback at the September General Membership Meeting (GMM). The Feed My Community Food event was the largest food collection drive ever in South Palm Beach County.

CHOW will continue to support the existing Boca Helping Hands Backpack Program by providing weekly DIAD shifts every Thursday from September 2013 through May 2014.

CHOW has decided to sponsor Del Prado Elementary School's new Backpack Program. We will be providing 150 children with a backpack full of snacks for the weekend. The program will begin September 2013 through May 2014. Not only will we be providing funding for the food, we will also be

providing the volunteer power to fill the backpacks every Wednesday for 38 weeks.

CHOW will be hosting Sandwich Days twice a month which provides our local partners in need with 560 sandwiches every month for 12 months! That's 6,720 healthy after school snacks per year! We will also be continuing "Thanksgiving in a Box" and "Holiday in a Box" collections which will provide holiday meals for more than 200 families of four. Also, to be continued is the Boca Helping Hands Family Dinner night DIAD shifts. CHOW is also participating in pantry packing days for two local nonprofit organizations. The first is held at Ruth Rale/Jacobson Family Food Pantry on 10 various Mondays and three Sundays throughout the 2013 year. The second packing day takes place every Wednesday at the Farmworkers Coordinating Council of Palm Beach County.

In addition, CHOW will be aiding in the United States Postal Service's "Stamp Out Hunger" drive, as well as many other food collection and food recovery programs

EDUCATION INITIATIVES: Six Week Cooking Matters Program: CHOW will be partnering with Child Welfare and In The Pines, Inc. to host a six week "Cooking Matters Program" for children and adults. Cooking Matters is a "Share Our Strength" program that empowers families with the skills, knowledge and confidence to prepare healthy affordable meals. With the help of culinary and nutrition experts, participants learn to shop smarter, make healthier food choices, and cook delicious meals.

CHOW also plans to host individual cooking and couponing classes with other local organizations in need.

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Kirsten Stephenson and Yvette Drucker outside Senator Bill Nelson's Office

GOING FEDERAL!

by Kirsten Stephenson

After establishing warm, strong bonds with our current state legislators, Junior League of Boca Raton (JLBR) has escalated to forging lasting relationships with our federal leaders.

On Wednesday, May 15, 2013, Yvette Drucker (Secretary of the Junior Leagues of Florida's State Public Affairs Committee, past JLBR Public Affairs Chair and current Non-Profit Support Chair) and Kirsten Stephenson (Past Chair of Florida's State Public Affairs Committee (SPAC) and current advisor, as well as past Public Affairs Chair and past V.P. of Planning) landed in Reagan National Airport early in the morning, and took a cab to our nation's Capitol to join Leaguers from all over the country.

The Association of Junior Leagues International (AJLI) inspired goal: to expand our influence from the state legislative arena to the federal stage. Meeting with representatives from the offices of Marco Rubio to Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, these ladies educated Washington on JLBR's current successes in Boca Raton, and also advocated for such League state initiatives as Human Trafficking, Literacy and Hunger.

Having previously met with and prepared for this event with such

Leagues as Miami and the Palm Beaches, Yvette and Kirsten often times shared these meetings with those Leagues, as well as other Leagues throughout Florida. Other offices visited included Senator Bill Nelson, Congresswoman Lois Frankel, and Congressman Ted Deutch.

Junior Leagues were enthusiastically received at the federal offices, and legislators who were already familiar with many of the works of the Junior Leagues in Florida were excited to learn about specific local and state initiatives, and how those initiatives dovetailed with their own local projects. Typically, meetings ended with the all familiar question from JLBR, 'Are there challenges that you see in your district that are not being met and would fit with JLBR's own mission?' The responses were rich and varied, and provided JLBR with potential issues to research in the future.

The goal was to expand JLBR's, as well as, all Leagues' sphere of influence from an advocacy perspective. A subtle added benefit was to further forge relationships between, and shared goals with other Leagues not only within our state, but more specifically, in the southern portion of our state. Kadie Black, a lobbyist within the Foster Care industry and member of the Junior League of

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Miami, along with Yvette of JLBR were instrumental in securing some of our key appointments.

The long day culminated with a sharing of advocacy experiences and inspiration from the day as a prelude to the annual AJLI conference at the Hyatt in downtown D.C. with attendance including Leagues from all over the United States.

With Yvette's leadership legacy of having established strong state ties resulting in significant inroads with our state legislators and established relationships in our Capitol, JLBR's Public Affairs Committee has as one of its goals this year under Erica Reuter's leadership to reinforce our bonds with our city officials. This rounds out the trifecta of federal, state, and local advocacy.

We have come a long way, and continue to strive for those wonderfully synchronistic opportunities that benefit us all in making our small area of paradise just that much better. And it has been such a pleasure.



Kirsten Stephenson (far left) and Yvette Drucker (third from right) with Leaguers from across Florida



Junior Leaguers from South Florida with Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen



Florida's State Public Affairs Committee former chair and current advisor Kirsten Stephenson and Florida's State Public Affairs Secretary Yvette Drucker with Lois Frankel

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PROFILING OUR NEW PRESIDENT

by Shawn Sherlock & Jamie Brodarick

Tell us a little bit about yourself? In my professional life, I am an Audit Senior Manager and C.P.A. for Grant Thornton LLP with more than 13 years of public accounting experience. Grant Thornton LLP is the U.S. member firm of Grant Thornton International Ltd., one of the six global audit, tax and advisory organizations. I've provided services for both publicly traded and privately held entities. I've overseen numerous due diligence engagements assisting my clients with mergers and acquisitions. I've also spent a significant amount of time on large, national and international audits. I am the Fort Lauderdale and Miami Office Champion for Women at Grant Thornton.

Tell us about your family: I've been married to my husband Scott for nine years. We have a 16-month-old daughter, Catherine Grace, and a pug named Rocky.

How long have you been part of the Junior League of Boca Raton (JLBR)? I've been in the League since 2005 serving in such roles as V.P. of Fund Development, V.P. of Finance, and V.P. of Community.

What inspired you to become President of the Junior League of Boca Raton (JLBR)? The Junior League is such an amazing organization, and I'm honored to be the President. Our members are my inspiration. Leading a group of 700 wonderful women is inspiring to me.

What will you bring to the position? I bring my experiences from the business world that has taught me organizational skills, project management, and working with different clients at the same time.

What placements did you select that best prepared you for your new role as President? Woman Volunteer of the Year (WVOY), Membership Development and being on the board for four years as V.P. of Fund Development, V.P. of Finance, V.P. of Community, and President-Elect.

What is your vision for the New Year? When I developed the cottage meeting question last February, "What could make your Junior League experience more meaningful?," our members overwhelmingly told us they wanted to feel more connected to each other and they wanted to understand what their impact in the Junior League was.

My Presidential speech at last May's Dinner Meeting

focused on meaningful membership and developing the potential of women from our mission of PDI (promoting volunteerism, developing the potential of women and improving the community). From this I developed the tag line: **"Let's Make It Meaningful Together!"** I hope to focus on meaningful membership and also developing the potential of women.

How have you seen the League evolve over the years? I think our League continues to get better each year. I'm never concerned that our volunteer positions turn over every year because with each new year, our leadership brings a fresh set of ideas of how to improve what we do.

What has been your most memorable moment with the League thus far? After the JLBR Diaper Bank was developed, I was there for the delivery of our first major shipment of more than 100,000 diapers donated by the National Diaper Bank Network. It was wonderful to see all of our hard work of setting up the Diaper Bank pay off with such a large donation!



What advice would you give to someone who wants to join the League? Please join! I tell prospective new members that our members are some of the most dynamic, caring and intelligent women you will meet!

What are you most passionate about? I'm most passionate about my family, my husband, my daughter and our dog, but I'm also passionate about my career and volunteering.

What are your hobbies? There's not much time for hobbies this year, but I love to run and watch college basketball!

What do you love about this community the most? Of course, the weather! Seriously though, I think Boca sometimes gets an unfair reputation of being a community with only older residents. Boca really is a young community, and I love that the League recruits new members each year to help improve our community.

Tell us something we don't already know about you that others may think is interesting? I was a college athlete. I played basketball.



MEET THE BOARD

by Jaclyn Worsdale



Crystal McMillin, President. After serving on the board for three years, I decided I would love to be President of the Junior League of Boca Raton (JLBR) so I applied to be President-Elect! I love that we are an organization exclusively for women and that one of the parts of our mission is to develop the potential of women. I think women need more organizations like ours. I'm sure the League will continue getting better each year. I'm so impressed with the group of young leaders we have in the League right now. My favorite position was serving as the Chair of the Small Community Projects committee. My committee helped develop the Diaper Bank! I love that the League is a training opportunity for our members. If you were at the May Dinner Meeting to hear my incoming Presidential speech, you found out that I grew up in a town of only 200 people in Kansas!



Andrea Garcia, President-Elect. I chose this position as I am looking forward to becoming president next year and I am using this as training. My vision of becoming President started when I was just a provisional and I have been in awe of every President ever since. I am extremely passionate about the League and I love that it empowers women in so many different ways while making a huge impact in our community. I am using this year as a learning experience as I plan ahead for 2014-2015. I want to see JLBR make an even bigger impact on hunger, child welfare and nonprofit support in the next five years. My favorite position was co-chair of membership development in 2010-2011 because I got so much enjoyment out of watching the provisionals enjoy their year. The one thing that I would like to see change is the age requirement lowered to age 22 because we are missing the opportunity to recruit women from our three local universities. You will be surprised to know that I have been white water rafting in the Swiss Alps, paraglided off a mountain and sky dived from 12,500 feet.



Florence Kizza, V.P. Communications. This will be my 4th straight year in a row on the Communications Council. I have seen it from a few different angles and am excited to see how all the aspects of Communications come together. I truly love that all of these women are passion-

ate, whether it's about a particular cause, issue, organization, or about making a difference in our community as a whole. For me it's hard to pick a favorite committee that I have served on. I have met great people, had new experiences, and learned different things about me in all of my placements. For me the great thing about the League is that if you see something you want change - try it! Make it happen! The League's great for that! One fun fact is that I love to travel and more often than not you'll find me away on some weekend adventure.



Kellie Mejia, V.P. Community Issues. I chose this position because community has been my passion since I joined the League nine years ago. I have held several positions on Community and felt this was a natural next step to take. I love the work we are doing in our community and that we develop the potential of women while doing our work. With the move to issue-based community service I really see the League being the "go-to" organization for getting services in place that affects women and children in our community. I have chaired the Vegso Community Resource Center and Public Affairs Committee each three times and these both continue to be my passion. I feel that while there are minor things I want to see the JLBR improve upon. I think that we have tackled some very amazing changes in the last year. One fun fact about me is that I love Elvis Presley.



Kirsten Stanley, V.P. Finance. I chose this position because last year I served on this position as well and spent as much time learning the duties of V.P. Finance as I spent performing the duties. I felt that in order for me to be effective I wanted to continue in the same position for a second year. I deeply value the friendships that have resulted from my League membership. I feel that the League is constantly evolving but it stays true to its mission - promoting volunteerism, developing the potential of women and improving the community. In five years I want to see the League still focused on these three pillars of its mission. I truly enjoy serving on the board and find it very rewarding. One thing that I would like to change is to have fewer meetings because there are some weeks when I want a "free" Tuesday night. One thing most people do not know about me is that I have a master electrician's license.



Samantha Vassallo, V.P. Fund Development. I chose this position because I am passionate about the money the JLBR raises as it provides wonderful assistance to our community through the issues we support and the training we provide. Each year I find incredible opportunities to learn

new skills, gain new experiences and develop lifelong friendships. I love the energy of JLBR and found that my first leadership training at ODI was fantastic and instilled in me a lasting love of the Junior League. My Presidential year always holds a special place in my heart and I believe that each year the JLBR will tackle new challenges and continue to grow and evolve. Most people do not know that in college, I got my license to be a radio deejay and used to make commercials for the radio station and was even offered my own show!



Terri Williams, V.P. Personnel. I self-nominated myself because I like interacting with the members and ensuring that all members have a healthy, active and meaningful experience within the League. I truly love the diversity within the League and that we have a "flex-fit" for our members allowing

them to participate at a level that works for them. I want to see the League membership continue to grow and that we continue to address critical issues within the community. My favorite position was my two years on Nominating Placement because I was able to establish long term relationships with my advisees and assist them with their growth within the League. If there was one thing I could change about JLBR are our requirements and that we move in the direction of a point's system adding more flexibility for our dedicated members. Every time I go to the beach I cannot stop collecting sea shells and will even tell myself to walk by and leave the shells in the sand only to turn around and pick them up.



Meghan Shea, V.P. Planning. I chose this position because I am a planner by nature and am a planner in the professional world as well. I believe that as long as you have a good plan you can accomplish anything and it doesn't matter who comes up with the plan as long as there is one and you

can jump on board and help in any way. I love the League because I truly enjoy meeting like-minded women and finds that it's hard to meet people as you get older because we are no longer in a situation to spend time with a varied group of people. I really like that age doesn't determine who your friends are and the common interests and goals start to put you together with people you can spend quality time with. I would love to see the League as the "go to" organization in South Florida for the issues we address. My favorite committee was DIAD because it allowed me to see the direct impact the JLBR has on the community and reaching out to organizations and letting them know about us and the help that we offered. One thing that I find is that the League can be a little cliquish and I found that by working as many different

DIAD shifts that I could I was able to meet so many more people. I love to needlepoint whenever I can and I make really good homemade cookies!



Melissa Whelchel, Community Issues Research Chair. I wanted to serve on the board because I had a desire to learn more about Board structure in an effort to achieve a long-term goal of breaking the "Glass Ceiling" and sitting on corporate boards. Women make up only 12% of

board rooms across the U.S. I also learn so much every year from the other wonderful women who sit on our JL Board and Council. One of my favorite memories of being in the League was sitting at the winning Chandelier table at the Woman Volunteer of the Year Luncheon event a few years back. The VIP bags were amazing! I am the manager of Population & Corporate Health at Boca Raton Regional Hospital and live with my husband Jay, 4-year-old son Jack, 2-year-old daughter Vivian, and our Chocolate Lab Brandy.



Jamie Sauer, Nominating Placement Chair. I have served on Nominating Placement for a little while and have truly enjoyed empowering, encouraging and mentoring women and find it to be a true joy to help women in JLBR help the entire community. I love the JLBR's mission -

promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women, and improving the community. I also really appreciate the leaders and their support for all our members. I feel that in five years the JLBR will still help the community as it has been for more than 40 years. I have really enjoyed serving on the Board this year - even though we've only just begun. My favorite placement was co-chair of Kids in Distress where I really enjoyed helping children who are in foster care. The JLBR truly made a difference for so many children and families at Kids in Distress. I think that most of the changes that I have wanted to see in the League have already happened or are being worked on now! There are always improvements that can be made to any organization, and I think the JLBR is really good at listening to new ideas and implementing suggestions that can improve our organization. I am a third generation South Floridian which makes my sons 4th generation!



Jennifer Barner, PR Marketing Chair. I

chose this position because after holding the same position last year I realized that I truly enjoyed it and I love that I get to work with amazing women while getting exposed to many facets of the League. I love how passionate League members are about helping our community and find it truly inspiring and continually make me want to be a better person. I want to see the League's membership grow in the next five years as well the League making an even bigger impact within our community. One thing that I would like to see change is that

instead of a President serving for one year I would like to see the President serve two years. One fun fact about me is that I was a thespian in high school and wanted to play "Annie" on Broadway.



Sherry Winter, Training Chair. I was excited to chair the Training Committee in its second year and build upon the ground-work that last year's committee established. For me it's an honor to serve on the Board of Directors with such a talented and amazing group of women. I love what the JLBR accomplishes each and every year to benefit our community. In five years I see the League becoming more driven and passionate about our issue-based initiatives. My favorite position held was when I was on Membership Development for two years and enjoyed building relationships with the Provisionals each year. As an Advisor, I felt that I was an integral part of developing the League, and had the opportunity to make a difference. One thing I would change is the board positions to two-year terms, with the intent of increasing productivity and consistency. One fun fact about me is that I just bought a summer home in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin.



Maggie Dickenson, Recording Secretary. (Non-voting member) I was honored to be asked to be in this position this year. I have served on the board in two other capacities in the past and I am happy to be in this supporting role this year. I love that the League serves as a place where so many

women can impact our community in their own way. In five years I hope that the League continues to grow and expand thereby inspiring more members to give back here in South Florida. My favorite committee was when I was a Nominating/Placement advisor. I really enjoyed finding the perfect fit for each woman in the League by matching their skills and interests to different roles. Most people might not know that I lived outside Florence, Italy my junior year in college. I loved it and hope to return to Italy possibly next year and show my husband all my favorite spots!



Nancy Dockerty, Sustaining Advisor. The sustaining advisor position is selected by the president, and I am thrilled to work with Crystal. She will make an excellent President; the League is in good hands. My favorite League memory is the first time I did a DIAD shift with the Literacy Coalition and worked with Adults that were learning to read, I was inspired by their courage and determination! Being a member gives you the opportunity to learn so much about the needs in our community, and provides you access to really get involved hands on and help affect change. I see the League in continuing our mission, and providing the best volunteers for our community. My favorite position in the League was President. It was a wonderful experience; I was much honored to have had that opportunity. One of the things I love to do is taking old designer things and "re-purposing" them, from my zsa zsa pillows to my table designed with old Louis Vuitton handbags. My favorite vacation spot is Nantucket - it's so cute and I always have a blast with the Dockerty's.



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Are You a Friend?

by Wanda Harrold

Junior League of Boca Raton (JLBR) Endowment is seeking new friendships! If you believe in your JLBR's mission and the JLBR Endowment, please consider becoming a "Friend of Endowment!" Show your support by joining "Friends of Endowment" for only a \$75 annual contribution! All members will be posted in *The Bridge*!

Friends of Endowment

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------|
| Marta Batmasian | Lisa Miller |
| Robin Deyo | Lisa Mulhall |
| Caron Dockerty | Carole Putman |
| Susan Diener | Jackie Reeves |
| Elysa Elk | Jamie Snyder |
| Mary Cheryl Hargrove | Kirsten Stanley |
| Wanda Harrold | Laura Stoltz |
| Rita Haskins | Catherine Toomey |
| Linda McElwee | Tina Towery |

Another new item to highlight is our ENDOWMENT NOTE CARDS! Are you ever at a loss of what to give that special someone who has "everything" or need a meaningful gift or want to express a heartfelt thank you? The JLBR Endowment note cards are the perfect way to show your commitment to our community while gifting that special someone! For a minimum purchase of \$25 a JLBR Endowment note card will be given to you to personalize with your own signature and either mailed or hand delivered – your choice!

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Cards are available with a gift to the JLBR Endowment! Formal IRS letter will also go out.

To become a "Friend of Endowment" member or to purchase an Endowment Note Card, please contact the JLBR office at 561-620-2553.

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WOMAN VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR LUNCHEON

by Linda Gunn Paton



Co-Chairs Linda Gunn Paton and Jan Kucera

What does 26 mean? You can interpret it many different ways:

- The number of miles in a marathon rounded down
- The atomic number of iron
- The letter "Z" is the 26th and last letter of the English alphabet.

For the Junior League of Boca Raton it can only mean one thing! We are celebrating the 26th year of our Woman Volunteer of the Year Luncheon. Our theme this year is Volunteers: Giving Today for a Better Tomorrow. This year we want to go back to the roots of the luncheon and showcase the wonderful women who make our community an amazing place to live.

The Luncheon kicked off on Wednesday, July 17, 2013, at the Dubliner in Mizner Park. Those on hand enjoyed a delicious array of Irish fare and fun while we chatted about the upcoming events!

Our next event was on Thursday, September 12, 2013, at the Red Door Spa in Fort Lauderdale. Attendees enjoyed mini spa treatments as they sampled martinis from Blue Martini and enjoyed yummy bites from Capital Grille. We will be hosted this event with the Junior League of Greater Fort Lauderdale.



JLBK President Crystal McMillin, Honorary Chair, Lynn Holcomb, and V.P. and General Manager, Neiman Marcus, Patty Soltis

Lynn Holcomb, a Junior League sustaining member, has graciously accepted the position to serve as our Honorary Chair for this spectacular event! Also joining us will be Jan Savarick and The Boca Raton Regional Hospital, as our featured sponsor, they will again be judging our incredible women to search for the winner! This fabulous luncheon will feature our Fashion Show partner, Neiman Marcus, as they show off chic

fall fashions on the runway.

This year's luncheon will be held on Friday, November 8, 2013, at the newly renovated Boca West Country Club. Ticket prices will range from \$95 to \$125 to \$200 for the runway seats. Ticket prices will include drinks (yes, adult beverages are included) and a delicious luncheon served with white glove service. Drinks and our famous auction, both Chinese and Silent will begin promptly at 10:30 a.m.



Co-Chair Linda Gunn Paton, 2012 WVOY Recipient, Debbie Abrams

As 29 women are showcased on stage, the afternoon is sure to be filled with fun and surprises. Our Master of Ceremonies will be the magnificent CEO of the YMCA, Dick Pollock. Dick will highlight our incredible women and bring you closer to them as they are all deserving of this award.

We hope to see you at the luncheon; you won't want to miss all we have in store for you. Tickets are available online at www.jlbr.org.

Questions? Please contact Jan Kucera 561-573-0636 or Linda Gunn Paton 561-452-3415, this year's Co-Chairs of the event.



WVOY Sponsor, Dr. Maria Rendon, Dr. Andrea Chen, and Fern Cole

DONE IN A DAY OPPORTUNITIES ABOUND!

by Gina Griffin



Some things may slow down for the League in the summer-time, but not Done In A Day (DIAD) opportunities! Between the beginning of June and the end of July, a staggering 250 DIAD volunteer hours were available for our members.



Volunteers for In Jacob's Shoes prepared shoes to be donated at this year's Back to School Bash Junior League of Boca Raton (JLBR) Community Garden volunteers aided with the "official" closing of the garden for the summer. Members

also helped staff the Vegso Community Resource Center (VCRC) and had the opportunity to count diapers for our amazing Diaper Bank.

Conquering Hunger Our Way (CHOW), a League committee dedicated to addressing the issue of hunger in our community and is co-chaired this year by Margi Cross and Nikki Stelzer. CHOW has already provided almost 100 of the available DIAD hours assisting numerous nonprofits in our service area including Farmworkers Coordinating Council of Palm Beach County, Ruth Rales Jewish Family Service, Caring Kitchen, In The Pines, Inc. and Boca Helping Hands.

- Members assisted the Farmworker Coordinating Council of Palm Beach County by sorting food, stocking shelves, making client pantry bags, and organizing miscellaneous donated items for clients. The Farmworker Coordinating Council of Palm Beach County's mission is to promote self-sufficiency and improve the quality of life of migrant and seasonal farm-

workers through education, advocacy, and access to services.

- Ruth Rales Jewish Family Service volunteers packed donated food into grocery bags for distribution to clients. Ruth Rales Jewish Family Service offers help, hope and humanity through a comprehensive range of programs and services which include food and financial assistance, senior services, counseling and mental health services.

- Sandwich Day volunteers made sandwiches for children in the after school programs of the Caring Kitchen, In The Pines, Inc. and Boca Helping Hands.



If you know of a nonprofit organization in our service area that the League might be able to help through volunteer hours, please email co-chairs Kim Sapashe and Gina Griffin at diad@jlbr.org.





2012-2013 A YEAR IN REVIEW

by Alicia Laufer

On May 14, 2013 at the Junior League of Boca Raton's general membership meeting, the 2012-2013 League year was brought to a close. The members celebrated the accomplishments achieved under the leadership of its 2012-2013 President Jackie Reeves and as the gavel was passed to incoming President, Crystal McMillin, looked forward to the League's potential impact in 2013-2014.

It was an opportunity for all in attendance to celebrate the accomplishments of the League as a whole as well the individual achievements of many of its leaders and members. Nominating Placement presented years of service awards.

Awards for five years of service were presented to Kristen Coleman, Marion Godin, Elizabeth Grace, Nancy Griffin, Marjorie Hollman, Lara Hussey, Florence Kizza, Kristine Kuntz, Bridget Langford, Melissa Montes, Shannon Moriarity, Karen Muzi, Carolyn North, Alicia Peck, Sara Ritzler, Meghan Shea, Whitney Terry, Alissa Waldman, Melissa Whelchel, Janel Williams, Terri Williams, and Sherry Winter.

Ten years of service awards were presented to Kim Anglemeyer, Lizzy Bush, Lara Carter, Mary Glynn Cullinan, Nicole Dion, Sarah Doyle, Emily Echeverria, Vivian Koppelman, Laura McMullen, Carrie O'Day, Sidney O'Neill, Denise O'Sullivan, Kathy Potts, Debbie Prevor, Loretta

Rauenhorst, Alice Smith, Kirsten Stanley, Reagan Such, Samantha Vassallo, and Kim Whelchel. Fifteen years of service awards were presented to Mary Ann DeShields, Denise Elia, Linda Gunn, Lesley Hackett, Wanda Harrold, Anne Henderson, Brenda Lusher, Anna Morgan, Tracey Rossi, Laura Stoltz, and Kristin Vietz.

Twenty years of service awards were presented to Susan Mersch, Sheila Aucamp, Christina Biagiotti, Sherrill Clement, Tamra Constantine, Jacqueline Cvinar, Patricia Kirsch, and Cindy Krebsbach.

Special recognition was given to several members who were presented with the annual awards.

JLBR'S ANNUAL 2012-2013 AWARDS



TORCH AWARD
BRIDGET LANGFORD
CUSTODIA OLIVIERI



OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD
MAGGIE DICKENSON
STARBURST AWARD
MEGHAN SHEA



FOUNDER'S AWARD
ANNE GRIGSBY



SUSTAINERS OF THE YEAR AWARD
SHARON RINEHIMER
NANCY WOODBURY



PAPARAZZI AWARD
JENNIFER BARNER
LIFESAVER AWARD
WENDY ORENLAND

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SUSTAINER SCOOP

by LouAnn Such

Welcome back to a brave new world of YOUNG Sustaining Members, especially our new FEARLESS leader, Nancy Dockerty. Nancy was president of the League two years ago and is now Sustaining Advisor to the Board, works full time, has a charming, tiny white dog named Hercules and is one of the most energetic people I know. So now we will have new events, new ideas, new young chairs, and keep the popular old ones (event and chairs.)

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING: Tuesday, October 8, 2013, 6 p.m., hour to meet and greet, 7 p.m., meeting begins. There is always a group of Sustaining members who sit together, and you learn what is happening this year and what issues the League is concentrating on in the 2013-2014 year. The meetings are back at the Addison on Camino Real, very easy to find and park.

WOMAN VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR LUNCHEON: November 8, 2013, at Boca West Country Club. Honorary Chair is Lynn Holcomb and Junior League of Boca Raton's (JLBR) nominee is Kristin Calder. Other Junior League members who are nominees from different non-profit organiza-

tions are Nancy Dockerty, Karen Bice, and Peggy Jones. It should be interesting and refreshing to try out a brand-new location. Mary Lavalle usually puts together two tables, so if you would like to join us call Mary at 561-391-6642.

WOMEN OF GRACE LUNCHEON: November 13, 2013, at Mar-a-Lago. Sustaining member, Michelle Rubin is an Honoree and she can give you more information if you would like to attend. Call Michelle at 561-218-2400.

VALENTINE LUNCHEON, Friday, February 14, 2013 will be hosted by Lisa Warren, Michelle Duffy and Jami Guttenberg. Details to follow.

MAGAZINE CLUB will continue the very erudite study of current news in one of our most educational publications, People Magazine. Check with Jami Guttenberg if you are interested.

FLOWER ARRANGING will again be held in the spring, thanks to Jan Jones.

New to the scene will be a **FASHION EVENT** hosted by

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Debbie Kellogg. All of these groups and more will be announced in our Sustainer email each month as they come up.

OLD BAGS LUNCHEON: Back by popular demand, Linda Eckelson, Sue Wicker and Juana Franklin have agreed to do another "Old Bags" luncheon, so start saving your best, most resalable purses for this event which will be our last luncheon of the year. We will let you know when and where to bring them later on in the year.

STITCH CRAFT will ride again! The craft group is being revamped and will begin meeting the second (2nd) Wednesday of the month; 10:30 a.m. at sustaining member Johanna Felberbaum's shop *Stitch Craft* on Federal Highway in Boca Raton. That will always be the day and time, unless there is a class scheduled, so mark your calendars and bring your projects. Johanna is interested in teaching a red embroidery class, more information to follow and there will be a bin of painted canvases for your choosing free of charge. If anyone has additional canvases, they would like to contribute, let Mary Lavallo know at mlaval7@aol.com or 561-391-6642. Stitching is not the only thing we do, so all projects are welcome.

NEW SUSTAINING MEMBERS: Please be sure to welcome the ladies joining our "supreme ranking" of Sustaining Member: Kim Anglemeyer; Tammy Balogh; CC Benedict-Esser; Christina Biava; Kate Carey; Michelle Coggiola; Mary Glynn Cullinan; Melinda DeHoff; Nicole Dion; Nancy Dockerty; Emily Echeverria; Marya Gill; Greta Gillis, Jennifer

Harper; Leslie Jackson; Derinda Lewis; Emily McMullin; Carrie Monier; Cynthia O'Neill; Denise O'Sullivan; Kathy Potts; Lana Rosenzweig, Reagan Such, Mary Beth Tate; and Alissa Waldman.

Want to give back for all those great Sustainer advisers that taught you so much during your Active years? Volunteer to be one!

2013-2014 ROLE OF A SUSTAINING ADVISOR: The role of the sustaining advisor is as unique as a fingerprint. The talents of the advisor and the needs of the committee will change depending on the advisor, committee leaders, and the current committee work. However, the overall purpose of having sustaining advisors is to keep the sustaining members actively involved in JLBR while at the same time providing the leaders of our League with mentorship from the sustaining members.

If you have an interest or questions, please email Nominating Placement Chair Jamie Sauer (jamiesauer@bellsouth.net) or Chair-Elect Jenn Gene (jennsnewemail@gmail.com).

Have I raised your excitement level at all towards attending this year's events? We really are going to have a new and improved year of fun and games! Just keep looking at the Sustaining member's emails to see what pops up each month! I promise you will find at least one event that you will want to attend, especially if you bring a friend. In fact, if you find a "happening" that we should include in our activities call Nancy Dockerty at (561) 706-1797.

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Bulletin Board

CONGRATULATIONS

The Junior League of Boca Raton extends its sincere wishes to the following member and her spouse/boyfriend on their news:

Meredith Durinski and **Michael Westheimer** were married on April 13th in Boca Raton.

Jennifer Barner and **Tony Nawrocki** were engaged on April 16th.

Alli Floeting and **Steve Chanin** were married on April 27th in Palm Beach.

Dana Lubowitz and **Jared Zimmerman** were married on May 18.

Laura Nowadly and **Matt Kendrall** were married on June 22 at the Flagler Museum, Palm Beach.

Linda Gunn and **Doug Paton** were married on June 22 at the Delray Beach Club.

Kristen Ross and **Mike Majhess** were engaged on June 22.

Meghan (Meg) Whelan and **Joel Fielder** were married on July 12th in Gloucester, Massachusetts.

Jennifer Shesser and **Dr. Anthony Dardano** were married on September 5, 2013.

LITTLE LEAGUERS

The Junior League of Boca Raton would like to congratulate the following members on the arrival of their little leaguers:

Kelli and **Brandon McLeod** on the birth of their son, **Channing Hayes**, on May 28th.

Allison Lane and husband **Johnny Claussen** welcomed daughter, **Lane Ashley**, born on July 11th, 8 lbs. 6 oz., 21 in.

Bridget and **John Langford** on the birth of their son, **Eric Robert**, born on August 2nd, 10 lbs. 9 oz.

Gina and **Patrick Griffin** on the birth of their son, **Patrick Lewis Samuel**, born on August 12th, 8 lbs. 12 oz., 21 in.

OCTOBER 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Board Meeting	2	3	4	5
6	7	8 GMM	9 Lord & Taylor Grand Opening	10	11	12
13	14 Columbus Day	15 Provisional Meeting	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31 Halloween		



September 2013

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

NOVEMBER 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 Daylight Savings Time Ends	4	5 JLBR Board	6	7	8 WVOY Luncheon	9
10	11 Veterans Day	12 Cottage Meetings (GMM)	13	14	15	16
17	18	19 Provisional Meeting	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28 Thanksgiving Day	29	30

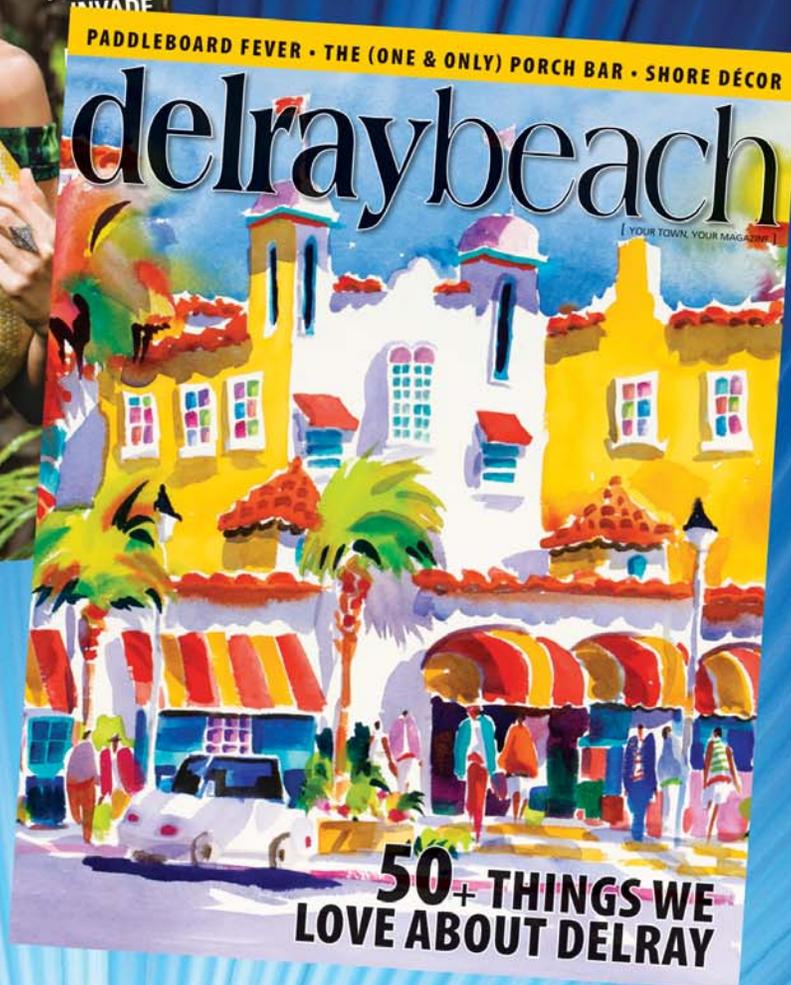
December 2013

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				



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