

VISIONS

THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF GREENVILLE • SPRING 2011

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Ralph Waldo Emerson



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ON THE COVER: Young dancers from Salvation Army Girls and Boys Club by JLG Photographer Jennifer Rogers.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER



OUR MISSION

The Junior League of Greenville, Inc. is an organization of women committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women and improving communities through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. Its purpose is exclusively educational and charitable.

OUR REACHING OUT STATEMENT

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



Contributing to This Great Community

Welcome to the Junior League of Greenville's spring edition of VISIONS magazine! I don't know about you, but the fact everything is in bloom, the grass is green and birds are chirping are all welcome signs that our burdensome winter and unpredictable spring are over! I was raised in upstate New York, so I am not afraid of the cold, but my 30 years in the wonderful upstate have given me a low tolerance for grey skies and cold, damp weather. We are so blessed to live in an area where we experience 4 wonderful and uniquely beautiful seasons, and visitors leave here wanting more of all the good Greenville has to offer.

The Junior League of Greenville strives on a daily basis to contribute to our town's "wow" factor by infusing our volunteers into the very agencies that make Greenville so strong, and this issue of VISIONS magazine highlights some remarkable people and agencies. You will read about Minor Mickel Shaw (a past JLG President among other things!), who has served as an active role model for me since she invited me to serve on the United Way Board. She is one of many Junior League Sustainers who has continued her career of serving people long after her "active" days in our agency and has profoundly impacted the growth and success of our community. Another impressive woman (who I want to be when I grow up!) is Harriet Goldsmith. Harriet is one of three founders of the collective giving group Greenville Women Giving, and who has, as my Sustaining Advisor to the Board, brought invaluable balance and logical perspective to everything the 2010-2011 JLG Board has set out to accomplish. Both of these women, on a personal level, are down-to-earth, humble, unassuming and brilliant people and we are so fortunate, as a community, to reap the benefits of their impactful lives!

Another way Greenville is greatly impacted is by the strength and quality of many non-profit agencies. Being on the State Board of First Steps, I see counties across our state who are struggling on a daily

basis to be able to provide education basics to their neediest children without the help of agencies like the United Way, Greenville Women Giving or the Junior League. I would say that most counties do not have schools like the Meyer Center, a charter school which educates and supports children (and their families) with disabilities and special needs. The smaller counties in our state are finding it more and more difficult to attract and keep qualified teachers and health care professionals, and with our state's budget dwindling, are finding it harder and harder to provide much needed services. Greenville County is by no means immune to state mandated financial cuts or the increased need for non-profit services, but we do have the depth and ability to better combat the effects of our down-turned economy. We are a community who cares about all of its citizens, and the Junior League strives every day to fill needs, tackle social issues and provide volunteers to the very agencies that make Greenville so strong. So while you're enjoying this wonderful weather, go out there and lend a helping hand to someone in need! You will feel better, make someone else's day, and be contributing to this great community we call home!

Thank you!

Judith Aughtry
President, Junior League of Greenville
2010-2011

Judith and her husband Paul Clarence III (Bo) have two sons, David (12) and Robert (10). She is currently serving on the State Board of First Steps, the Board of Directors for the Meyer Center, Artisphere, Christ Church Episcopal School, United Way, Greenville Women Giving, and the Advisory Council for Greenville Hospital System and the SC Institute for Child Success.

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2010 - 2011 Board of Directors: Stephanie Morgan, Blair Zeimet, Ann Myers, Kristy Way, Harriet Goldsmith, Amie Owens, Courtney Atkinson, Judith Aughtry, and Leanne Jaskwhich. Not pictured: Ashley Bates, Heather Killgallon, and Cara Cornelius.

Seize the Opportunity

As we wrap up our Junior League year, we take time to reflect upon the past year. I am excited to see the new leadership team getting ready to begin their journey and can relate to those who are finishing up their Placement and feeling a bit panicked about the little time left to accomplish what they set out to achieve. The wonderful thing about the Junior League is that there are always more opportunities around the bend. Whether you are a new Provisional, old Active (me) or a Sustainer, you can make your place in our League in whichever direction you choose. Our Emeritus Sustainers are still enjoying spending time together as you will see in the photographs from our spring celebration. My favorite member of all time is Emeritus Sustainer Dot Webster. She is the best there is within the JLG!



Emeritus Member, Dot Webster.

As part of the leadership track within the Junior League of Greenville, our members are given the chance to attend training and conferences with the Association of Junior League International (AJLI). I loved attending AJLI conferences and learned so much from the sessions and the other women who were serving leadership roles within their Leagues. I hope you will enjoy reading about Delly Beekman, President of AJLI and what's going on with the Association. I've enjoyed getting to know Delly through the years at conferences and am thrilled that she is at the

helm at such a pivotal and ever-changing environment for all Junior Leagues.

While visiting with Minor Shaw for our interview in this issue, we both agreed that the Junior League gives our members the ability to learn new skills sets. The Junior League of Greenville gave me the opportunity to chair the Nearly New Shop committee. I didn't have any retail experience, but exhibited a love and passion for the Nearly New Shop. After that, I was asked to serve on our Board of Directors. It was my first community Board and an amazing learning experience. When the Nominating committee called to see what I would be interested in next, I told them I would like to be VISIONS editor. I have always enjoyed writing and wanted to learn how a magazine comes together. I can't think of any other place that gives members opportunities like the Junior League. I have a few other burning desires – rock star, astronaut, and seat filler at the Oscars, but so far these aren't Placements in the League. We do have our Junior League Singers featured in the issue along with pictures from our event, Oscar Night@America, so two out of three of my burning desires are not such a stretch.

When the young girls from the Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club danced at the February General Membership Meeting, our members were thrilled to see such joyful exuberance from these girls. I knew immediately that they needed to be featured on our cover. I feel a special kinship to these girls and I believe Walt Disney summed it up best – *All our dreams can come true, if we have the courage to pursue them.*

Once again, thank you Junior League of Greenville for providing opportunities to me and for allowing me to be part of such a wonderful organization.

Kimberly Cooley
Editor - VISIONS

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kimberly".

EDITOR'S LETTER



OUR VISION

The Junior League of Greenville, Inc. is committed to building a safe, healthy, nurturing community.

The Junior League of Greenville Initiates and participates in programs and partnerships that enhance the physical, emotional and educational well-being of children and families.





S
sus-tain'

1. to endure without failing or yielding
2. to uphold
3. to maintain
4. to keep alive



Best Seat in the House

Serving as the Sustainer Representative to the Board of the Junior League is definitely the “Best Seat in the House”. Representing the 800 Sustaining members (those who have fulfilled their Active membership requirements and who choose to remain League members in a vital and supportive role) has been an honor and a pleasure. The Junior League of 2011 is a highly effective organization committed to the Greenville Community and working to improve the quality of life for everyone. I am constantly amazed at the talented women who manage the many roles of their lives, including the Junior League. During the 24 years since my time as an Active, the League has met the challenges of the changing role of women, altered many of their programs to accommodate what is now a membership of women with careers, families and other obligations and continued to be an effective organization. I am pleased to say that there are some things that have not changed and perhaps the most important of these is Friendship! I have watched a Board, selected by a Nominating committee, come together to lead the Junior League – a group who did not necessarily know each other a year ago, and who today share a special bond and a respect for each other.

When the Junior League Singers recently celebrated 30+ years of practice and performance for groups in Greenville – nursing homes, hospitals, senior groups, etc., a reunion was held for all who had ever participated in the group – 100 League members over the last 30+ years – Sustainers who have continued to perform long after their Active membership years. There were memories to share and, special times to catch up on – some singers had not seen each other in years, but the overriding feeling of the day was Friendship!

When the Sustainers gathered in early to December to pack Holiday Gift Bags to be distributed by the Greenville County Cancer Society, it was a study in efficiency. Santa's elves could have learned from the



assembly line operation and League training. Bags were packed with nutritious treats, holiday cheer and each tied carefully with ribbons for those who would receive them. It was an efficient operation and again the feeling of the day was one of caring women who had come together to do for others and in that experience, old Friendships were shared and renewed and new Friendships made.

The Junior League is more than an organization; it is a group of women who share the commitment to “promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women, and to improving the community through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers” and who in the process of making a difference for others, discover a wonderful Friendship! It is my hope that in this busy world, women will continue to see the value of Junior League membership and join with us on this journey of commitment and Friendship.

Sincerely,
Harriet Goldsmith
Sustainer Representative
– Board of Directors 2010-2011

Harriet

Meyer Center for Special Children: A Community Gem

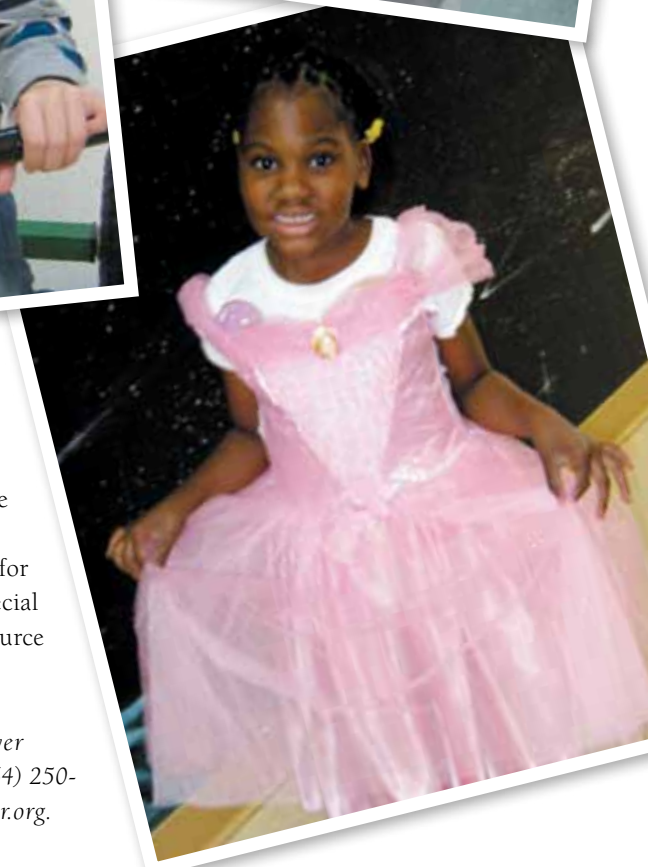
Written by Amy Malcomb

Located at 1132 Rutherford Road in Greenville is a fairly nondescript tannish-colored building. Many passersby might not give it a second glance. From the outside, it could appear to be a typical office building. But, inside the walls, you'll find one of the most special places in all of Greenville County. The sign outside reads, "Meyer Center for Special Children."

Serving the Upstate since 1954, the Meyer Center provides educational and rehabilitative services for preschool-aged children who have a variety of conditions like Down Syndrome, Cerebral Palsy, and Spina Bifida. It's founder, Dr. Leslie Meyer, was a forward-thinking pioneer. He understood before many that "early intervention" in the treatment and care of children born with special needs can help them achieve remarkable outcomes.

Over the decades, and after some name changes, the Meyer Center now serves over 175 children and is a DSS-licensed childcare provider, Medicaid rehabilitation facility and accredited South Carolina Charter School. Their vision statement is, "To enrich the lives of children with disabilities so they reach their maximum potential." This vision is quite personal for some of the staff. Assistant Director Barbara Martin feels working at the Meyer Center is a special calling for her. Barbara's daughter attended the school, and she says, "I could spend every minute of my life trying to give back enough to repay the staff for all they did for my child, and still, it would not cover it."

Yes, the clinicians and therapists that provide service at the Meyer Center are nothing less than extraordinary. These individuals who have answered a call to serve not only help the children, but play a substantial role in helping parents through a journey that can be terribly frightening. Just ask Junior League member Anna Maria



Cowart, whose son Maxwell is a Meyer Center student. Anna Maria is passionately grateful for the services provided to Maxwell and the love and support the Meyer Center has given her family. How fortunate for Upstate families of children with special needs to have such a wonderful resource available to them. ■

For more information about the Meyer Center, or to make a donation, call (864) 250-0005 or visit their website, meyercenter.org.



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“By the Light of the Silvery Moon” The Junior League Sings



Written by Beth Lee

Junior League Singers have been crooning love's tunes and warming the hearts of generations of residents in area nursing homes for 30 years. Overcoming fears of performing in public and weekly practices or performances, this group reaps their rewards through a simple touch of the hand, a light in the eyes, and soft grateful voices singing along to fondly remembered tunes from the past.

Continued on page 10



SINGERS *continued from page 9*

For some of us, the early years are defined by attending rehearsals with new babes in arms, carriers, strollers, whatever device-of-the-day allowed young mothers to be mobile. After 30 years of births, graduations, weddings, and often our own career demands, these babies are quite grown-up

now as many of the early singers are STILL attending weekly practices and performing two different programs of music over 30 times within any one year. At this point, the babes we occasionally bring to rehearsals are grandchildren, our own children are beginning to take care of us, and we perform in places where our own parents may reside.

After years of refining League Mission Statements, addressing the needs of an aging population, and having an impact in the community, Junior League Singers has truly captured the essence of what the Junior League is all about – *Developing the potential of women and improving the community through the effectiveness of trained volunteers.*

It doesn't get any better than this! ■

Dancing with the Heart

Written by Annie Yukish

Last fall, the Junior League of Greenville was asked to help provide dance gear to a group of young girls from the Salvation Army Boys & Girls Club who were practicing dance in play clothes and sneakers.



The Junior League's A Nearly New You (ANNY) committee and Sustaining Advisor Linda Pentaleri responded quickly to the request! One of the first things they did was contact Kay Betsch. Kay is a Junior League Sustainer and also the

Continued on page 12



A Nearly New You Chairman Annie Yukish (center) with girls from the Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club.



Original oil on canvas by artist, Craig Carlson

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Young dancers from the Salvation Army Boys & Girls Club.

DANCING continued from page 11

owner of The Sock Basket, a local dance-wear shop. Kay agreed to help provide these young ladies with “real” ballet shoes, and other retailers donated leotards, tights and skirts!

A small and impromptu event was held to provide the well-deserving young women with their new gear! Kay fitted each girl with her very own pair of ballet shoes, and it made them feel like bona fide ballerinas! It was fun to observe the girls with their bright eyes dancing and

laughing in front of the full-length mirrors at the Salvation Army Boys & Girls Club.

During the February Junior League General Membership Meeting held at Legacy Charter School, the dance troupe performed. It was heartwarming to see the ballerina’s shining smiles on the stage. ■

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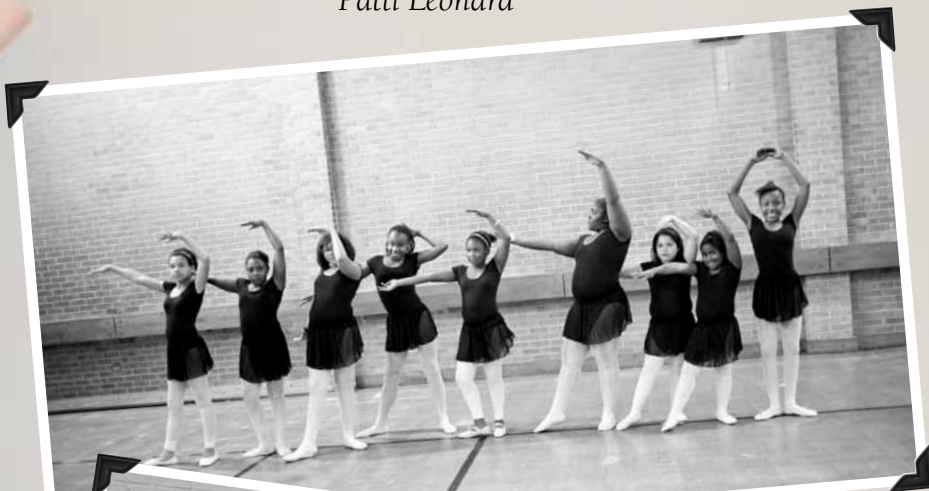
LETTER OF THANKS

A few days following the event, the ANNY committee received a letter of thanks from Patti Leonard, ballet instructor at the Boys & Girls Club:

I just couldn't stop thinking about you ladies last night. You entered our den of chaos without trepidation and worked diligently. I want to thank you a thousand times...for your time and your kindness.

Lots of love and thanks!

Patti Leonard



Coversation with JLG Sustainer, Minor Mickel Shaw



GSP Airport Commission Chairperson, Minor Shaw.

Written by Kimberly Cooley

Junior League of Greenville: First of all, congratulations are in order! You were recently named chair of the Greenville-Spartanburg Airport Commission following in the footsteps of Mr. Roger Milliken. I know this is an amazing honor to serve in this capacity with such a legacy attached to it.

Minor Shaw: It is very special! Mr. Milliken left a tremendous legacy. He made an impact on everything he touched. Everyone respected him and enjoyed being around him. He was an amazing person!

JLG: The arrival of Southwest Airlines is certainly one of the most exciting events that have occurred in the Upstate recently. Will you share the process that took place to secure Southwest Airlines?

MS: Well, it took over 13 years to attract Southwest! The Airport Commission and our staff knew we needed a low cost carrier. We thought the Southwest business model would work perfectly for the Greenville Spartanburg Airport (GSP). In the mean time, Independence Airlines did well at GSP. Their business model didn't work nationally, but they were very successful at GSP.

About 13 years ago, we went to Dallas to the Southwest headquarters to promote GSP. Also, our Executive Director, Gary Jackson, called on Southwest on a regular basis. After that, Southwest had a strategic planning team visit Greenville. They liked Greenville, but, right after their visit, 9/11 happened. Everything was put on hold by Southwest.

Southwest had to change like everyone else in response to the 9/11 crisis and the economy. They went into Philadelphia, a larger market. However, we kept in touch with Southwest and continued to send updates about GSP. We made sure that GSP would be ready for Southwest by working on our long range plan. As you know, Mr.

Milliken was a tremendous long range planner. GSP has a 50 year plan! We set up the airport environs zone which was very important. We built another parking lot and moved the rental care facility to a larger site. We tried to be prepared for growth!

Southwest has a great business model and they plan very well. About 3 years ago, we decided to try again to recruit Southwest. We had been actively working on this over the previous 5 years. We were able to get an appointment to meet at Southwest headquarters. They were very welcoming to our team from GSP. Before our appointment, we put together a video highlighting the Upstate. The Greenville Chamber was tremendous in helping us produce this video. Everyone pitched in. We made the presentation to Southwest and ironically, the head of the Southwest team was the same person who visited us 10 years ago. After the presentation, we heard that they were going to visit us again to see the changes in the Greenville-Spartanburg area.

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AND TO MEET OTHER WOMEN WITH
WHOM YOU WILL HAVE SO
MUCH IN COMMON.**

We put together a really wonderful two day visit in Greenville and Spartanburg. Even though it was low key, we invited the business community to join us at the Lazy Goat and Edwin McCain sang. The Southwest team stayed at the Westin and we used the downtown trolley to show everyone around. We worked with an airport consultant who helped us develop a presentation on Airport Catchment Areas and air passenger demand. It also showed where our passengers came from. We confirmed that we were experiencing approximately a 66% leakage from GSP, predominately to Charlotte and Atlanta. We felt like we had the population base to support Southwest service and the consultants substantiated this information.

The next day, we had lunch at the Drive stadium and a presentation at ICAR with many of the business community in attendance. That afternoon, we went to Spartanburg and toured USC Upstate, Converse College, and Wofford College. We had dinner at Milliken in the guest house. This is a wonderful facility and business people from Spartanburg joined us for dinner. The last day, we met at the airport to go over the numbers and conclude the visit. Shortly after that, they called us and said that it would be their recommendation that GSP should be on Southwest's list. However, it took eight more months to work on the details and secure Southwest's commitment.

Throughout the process, we had been working with all of the Chambers – Greenville, Spartanburg, and Anderson, city and county councils, GADC, the Convention and Visitor Bureaus, and the Upstate Alliance. Everyone had the same goal because it would make such a difference to the economic development of the region

to attract Southwest to GSP. Over 200 businesses sent letters to Southwest committing to use their services. Everyone knew we needed better and lower price fares at GSP so they all worked together to achieve that goal. It wasn't easy, but it was a lot of fun, it was exciting, and it was great teamwork!

JLG: What are you most excited about Southwest serving the Upstate?

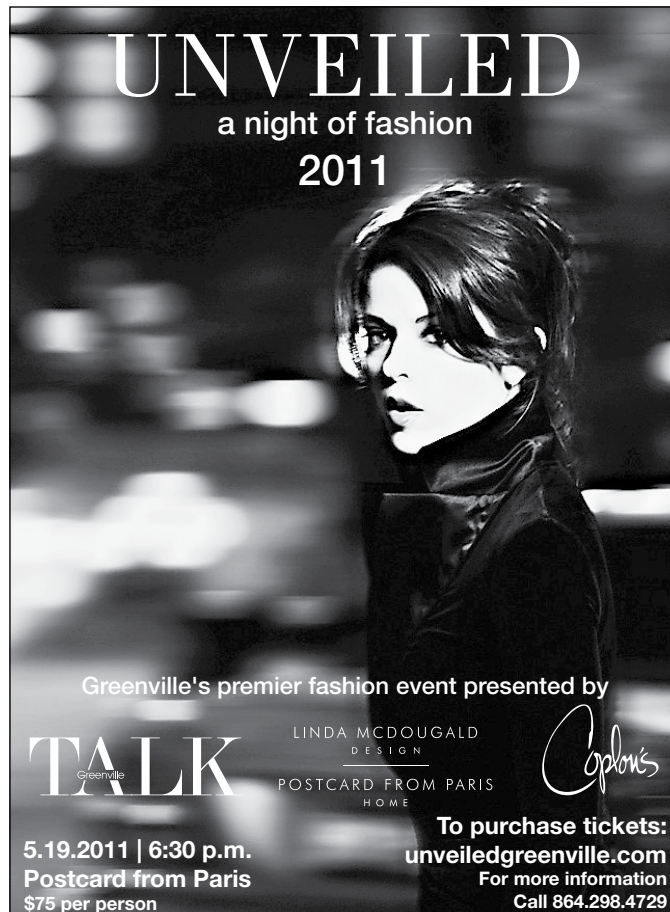
MS: I felt like this was something in which we could not afford to fail and that it was critical for the Upstate, economic development and certainly for the future of our airport. We have a really strong business community. But, we also need our leisure travelers to fly to and from GSP. The Upstate is a great place to visit and is becoming a destination.

JLG: With all of the opportunities to become involved in our community, how do you choose where to spend your time?

MS: I am involved in a lot of different things. Everything seems to intersect – education, economic development, arts, and human services. When I am involved in something, I am passionate about the issue. There are lots of things that I care about deeply.

One of the first jobs I had in the JLG was Chairman of the Community Research Committee. We researched issues and needs in the community. That is how the JLG got involved with Roper Mountain Science Center. Everything seems to overlap and lead into the next role.

Continued on page 16



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JLG: For many women, serving on the JLG Board of Directors is their first experience on a non profit Board. Why do you think the Junior League is a great entry into getting involved in the community?

MS: For me, it was a wonderful entry into the community. I began in Atlanta as a provisional, and then transferred to the Charleston and Chapel Hill/Durham Leagues. When we moved back to Greenville, I transferred into the JLG. I like being involved in the community. I became involved in the League with internal committees - public policy and community research. I began getting involved quickly outside of the JL with the United Way and the Community Foundation. Again, everything seemed to intersect. I was involved in the cookbook and I loved that. It was a lot fun. It was like running a small business and I learned a lot from that experience. Being on the JLG Board, I think, was my first Board position. It was a great training ground. For me, it was tremendously important.

JLG: In the early 80's, downtown Greenville was a very different place than it is now. You were serving in a leadership position in the JLG when the decision to relocate/refurbish HQ and the Nearly New Shop in downtown Greenville. Why did the JLG choose to move into downtown when so many businesses were moving out?

MS: Well, there was a tremendous effort to get more businesses to move downtown. The Hyatt had just opened in downtown Greenville about that time. The JLG needed a bigger Headquarters and larger Nearly New Shop. We wanted to make a statement of support by helping bring business downtown. We felt it was a great thing to do and we wanted to participate in the renaissance of downtown Greenville.

We renovated the space on a limited budget and gave the League much more visibility. At that time, a League member was always an ex-officio member on the Chamber of Commerce Board. The League was very visible in the community. We were involved in the beginning of Fall for Greenville. At that time, it was only one block long and successful



GSP Commission members Bill Barnet, Chairperson Minor Shaw, Valerie Miller, Leland Burch, and GSP Executive Director Dave Edwards.

from the very beginning. This was the first time many people from Greenville had set foot in the downtown area. The League did a Showhouse in the downtown on Main Street and then in the Hampton Pinckney area. So we were very focused on the downtown and tried to be good corporate citizens and help bring downtown "back".

It was easy for our NNS customers to get to us at that time since it was on the bus stop. We moved from W. Washington Street to the W. North Street location. Many of our customers came from the local downtown neighborhoods.

JLG: Training is a huge part of the Junior League. What skill set did you learn or enhance as a result of your membership in the Junior League of Greenville?

MS: The ability to do research on needs in the community is one that stands out. Working with different people, different points of views and opinions are just a few. The JLG was so effective in looking at community issues and bringing people together. At that time, the JLG was one of the only groups to do this while working with the Community Planning Council and the Community Foundation. The League was one of those groups which was looking at the needs in our community. The League was so effective in helping start organizations like the Ronald McDonald House, Pendleton Place, and Roper Mountain Science Center. We did the research and put the money into the project as well as the volunteers. I also had to

develop fundraising skills as well as presentation skills. I learned how to get up in front of crowds and large groups of people. You have to be able to make presentations effectively and get the point across. Those are certainly skills that I use now that the JL training gave me.

JLG: Anyone who was a member of the JLG during the time of "The Circus" has a funny story or a great memory. What is yours?

MS: It was so much fun and a lot of hard work. I remember Velda Hughes and Sallie White riding out on an elephant at the opening performance. There were these wonderful paper-mache decorations of animals and circus performers which were later sold at the silent auction. I still have a clown and trapeze artist swinging on a trapeze in my rec room at my home.

JLG: What words of wisdom would you give to a young woman who was contemplating joining the Junior League of Greenville?

MS: The League is a wonderful way to get to know the community and to meet other women with whom you will have so much in common. As a Transfer, you get to know your new community, meet new friends and learn so much that you never would have known about without the League. Your involvement in the League can lead to so many great opportunities! Certainly, it enhances your life! It has definitely enhanced mine! ■

U.S. News & WORLD REPORT

BEST
HOSPITALS

2010-11

Greenville Hospital System Ranks Among Nation's Best

Greenville Memorial Hospital (GMH), flagship hospital of Greenville Hospital System University Medical Center, again joined the ranks of top medical institutions in the 2010-11 *U.S. News & World Report* guide to *America's Best Hospitals*.

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GREENVILLE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL



An Evening Full of Hollywood Style

Written by Kerry Ellett

As one of 51 organizations around the country sanctioned by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, the Junior League of Greenville approached the ninth year of Oscar Night® America with a desire to create a stylish and unique event, all in an effort to raise funds to support the programs and projects of the Junior League of Greenville. In June of 2010, a committee of sixteen women began planning for what is the League's largest fundraising event of the year, which took place on February 27, 2011, coinciding with the actual award ceremony in California.

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Zen, an elegant event venue in downtown Greenville, agreed to be the location sponsor for this year's event. Zen was selected by the committee because of its fabulous style and location in the heart of the community that the League serves. In addition to an exciting location, this year's event provided guests with fabulous food, music by the Back 9, and a silent and live auction. Throughout the year, committee members worked with local businesses to secure auction items that included donations from Rick Erwin's Dining Group, The Reserve at Lake Keowee and even a diamond ring, generously provided by Hale's Jewelers.

On the evening of February 27th, all the planning came together. Guests were greeted on the red carpet by the flashes of



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local television cameras and were escorted into an elegant tent with the televised Oscar award ceremony displayed on the ceiling. Inside Zen, the glamour continued with tables laden with flowers and hors d'oeuvres, hair and makeup touchups by Studio 7, and even a VIP reception complete with swag bags.

Although it was an evening full of Hollywood style, all attendees recognized the event was for a good cause. Funds generated from the event will help support the Junior League's programs such as Kids in the Kitchen, A Nearly New You, Home Run for Healthy Kids® and Done In A Day, which all directly impact the Greenville community. Thanks to the support of this year's sponsors and attendees, the Junior League of Greenville looks forward to planning Oscar Night® American's tenth anniversary and the resources and benefits it will provide for the Greenville community in the future. ■

Envisioning a Bright Future for the Junior League



President elect Kristy Way, AJLI President Delly Beekman, and President elect Amie Owens at Winter Conference in New Orleans, LA.

The Association of Junior Leagues International, Inc. (AJLI) is a charitable nonprofit organization of women committed to promoting, voluntarism, developing the potential of women and improving communities through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. Today, there are over 160,000 Junior League members in 292 Junior Leagues in four countries – Canada, Mexico, the United Kingdom and the United States.

Written by Amie Owens

Junior League of Greenville: Why did you become a member of the Junior League?

Delly Beekman: My mother told me to! My husband and I had moved to the community where he had grown up, but I knew very few people and was home with our first son and pregnant with our second. Although my mother wasn't a member, she

had friends who were Transfers and had seen how effective the Junior League was in connecting them with a new community when they moved into town. She has always, and still continues, to give me sound advice, so I joined the Junior League.

JLG: What is one of your fondest Junior League memories?

DB: That is so difficult to answer after almost 34 years as a member! One of my fondest memories is actually a recent


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**Delly Beekman is serving as the
2010-2012 President of AJLI.
She is an Active member of the Junior
League of Monmouth County, NJ.**

experience. During my first term on the AJLI Board, members of the Board and staff attended the 1995 UN International Conference on Women in Beijing. Although I didn't go, I was profoundly moved by the stories they told when they returned about the work that women were doing in developing countries to change and improve their villages. Their stories resonated deeply with me and inspired my thinking about the potential of the Junior League as an international organization and the efforts of women to change their communities and the world.

This year I had the privilege of attending the bi-annual conference of IAVE (International Association for Volunteer Effort) with AJLI Executive Director, Susan Danish. It is an extraordinary meeting of 1,200 volunteers from around the world with people who volunteer or manage volunteers in many different fields – humanitarian relief, disaster rescue, environmental issues, social justice, social service work, etc. – as well as international corporations that encourage their employees to volunteer. Susan was invited to present two workshops and after each, we met women from many different countries – Nigeria, Kuwait, Taiwan, Singapore – who were so encouraged to know that an organization like the Junior League exists. It was an incredible experience, and I wish I could have taken every member with us!

JLG: How has the Junior League impacted your personal and professional life?

DB: I have met my very best friends through the Junior League, both in the JLMC and by serving on the AJLI Board with so many exceptional women. There is a group of us from my very first term on the Board in 1994-96 who still get together, including AJLI Fund Development trainer, Carol Scott. My life is so rich because of the opportunities I have to continue working with women of different ages, interests and backgrounds, most recently through the NJ Junior Leagues State Public Affairs Committee (SPAC). I have been able to take advantage of exceptional training and practice what I learned in a safe environment. I remember the first "mistake" I made as a Project Chair. It was handled discretely by the Community Vice President, and I learned from it and moved forward with my



South Carolina Junior League's President elects and President elect elects at Winter Conference in New Orleans, LA

responsibilities for the rest of the year.

Professionally, I ran our community leadership program, Leadership Shore, for ten years and was hired for that position because of my Junior League experience. I was also able to take advantage of my network of friends from the Junior League who either managed or had participated in similar programs in their communities to find out what worked, what they did differently, etc.

JLG: Tell us about the trip you took last summer with your sons.

DB: I can't believe you asked about that incredible experience!! I have four children and my two older sons planned a trip on the trans-Siberian railroad which morphed into a trip to Mongolia that eventually ended up as a trip to Tibet. As I told the delegates at Annual Conference, I love being in the mountains and had wanted to take a hike to K2 through Pakistan for several years. That route isn't the safest these days so I think my sons thought this would be comparable and invited me on their vacation. My sister lives in Singapore so she joined us.

We flew into Beijing, spent two days there and then took a two-day train across China to Lhasa, the capital of Tibet. As you know, Tibet is the highest place in the world so we remained in Lhasa for several days to adjust to the altitude and then set off for a series of visits to different historic Tibetan Buddhist monasteries, ending with an overnight in a tent with a Tibetan family at the base of Mt. Everest. We then

spent several days in Kathmandu and Delhi, and finally returned home.

The people in Tibet are wonderful and the young children smile and are eager to speak with visitors. Their practice of Tibetan Buddhism, their culture and the stunning, stark countryside are all intertwined and it is a fascinating, unforgettable place to visit. I think about it every day and find that everyone I meet who has been there has found it to be very special experience. We also had an endearing Tibetan guide who enjoyed sharing his culture, history and religion with us which made it even more memorable.

As you know, it is politically controversial as the Chinese invaded Tibet in 1959 and the Dalai Lama has been living in exile in Dharamsala, India since then. One has a very strong sense of being in an occupied country as the Chinese military presence is ubiquitous. The Dalai Lama asks that people who come to Tibet give witness to what they have seen.

JLG: What would you tell someone who is contemplating joining the Junior League?

DB: It is an exceptional experience that can really make a difference in her life and in her community. If a woman wants to continue to learn and grow in a supportive community of women and practice that learning to improve conditions in her community and the world, then she should consider joining. I think it is an ideal organization for young women

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today who have been educated as lifelong learners and have seen the impact of volunteer work through the service component required by so many schools. It is also a wonderful environment for women who might be more advanced in their careers and want to either use their professional skills or try something new. I met a League member who was an accountant by profession and the newsletter editor for the League...and loved discovering her natural talent for writing. I also visited a League where a young woman had joined, and had then recruited her mother and her aunt. At the time of my visit, both the mother and daughter were on the League's Board of Directors.

I do recommend that she attend an information session to determine if it's a good fit and the right time in her life to join the Junior League. As a volunteer organization, a League needs members who are dedicated to the Mission and able to fulfill their commitments. Although the League must be flexible in customizing each member's Placement from year to year depending on the position she holds and the demands of her life, the League has difficulty being effective if members aren't able to participate in the work they commit to doing.

There is a great quotation from an anonymous member about the League allowing a woman the opportunity to "draw out her essence and her best self" which is so true.

JLG: What do you think is the main misconception of Junior League members in our communities?

DB: Unfortunately, I think the Junior League is still frequently

perceived as a social club instead of a highly effective nonprofit organization of trained civic leaders. From talking with League leaders and seeing it first-hand in my own area, the media seems to cover more of the League's social events than our community impact. I was interviewed by the Wall Street Journal during my first week as AJLI president and the article began with a reference to the "pearls and white gloves social organization," language I had not mentioned in the interview.

JLG: What changes have you observed in Junior League members since you joined?

DB: The greatest change is the fact that such a large majority of our members are now working full-time outside the home so need more flexibility and don't have the concentrated periods of time to attend extra meetings and trainings that previous generations of members had.

JLG: How did you become interested in serving the Association beyond the Junior League of Monmouth County?

DB: Anyone who has attended AJLI leadership training, an ODI or a regional Junior League meeting has experienced the fantastic connection we have across the Association of sharing the same vision and Mission with women from other Junior Leagues in four countries. There is so much energy, passion, intellect and support among League members when they convene. I wanted to continue to be a part of that and to find a way to serve on behalf of all Junior Leagues.

JLG: What are the responsibilities of the President of the Association?

DB: It is an extraordinary privilege to serve as President of the Association. AJLI exists to add value to the Junior Leagues in their fulfillment of the Mission. I work closely with the Board and the Staff to insure that the Association fulfills that purpose; serve as Chair of the Board to provide strategic leadership for AJLI; oversee that the Board adheres to the integrity of its governance policies and process; and represent AJLI to our members and external world. Every Board member will concur that visiting Junior Leagues is one of the best aspects of serving on the AJLI Board. I have had a great opportunity to visit many Junior Leagues during my term as P-E and now as President because of our desire to share the Strategic Roadmap with every League member.

I want to encourage more members to consider applying for the AJLI Board of Directors and Nominating Committee and to watch for opportunities to serve on AJLI Task Forces with other League members. We have four task forces this year and look to continue that concept. We have found that connecting members in multiple ways and utilizing their strengths and skills to advance our Association is truly a value-added experience for AJLI and for the members themselves.

I certainly envision a bright future for the Junior Leagues, for Junior League members, and for our Association! ■





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Membership *That Lasts a Lifetime*

Written by Kristy Way

This year at the annual Emeritus Tea we honored two very deserving groups of women. First, we recognized our Emeritus Members. These women have turned eighty years old (or young). Most of these women joined the Junior League in Greenville in the 1940's or 1950's while some joined in other cities and transferred their membership to Greenville years later. They all share similar stories of volunteering for the community while raising families and making friends. We are sustained by their wisdom and guidance and are truly grateful for their service.

We also recognized a wonderful group called the Junior League Singers. The Junior League Singers have been together for thirty plus years and have practiced every week since they began. The Singers visit local assisted living centers and nursing homes to brighten their days. They are especially popular during the holiday season at times doing more than one concert a day! Some of the group has been there since day one, while others have come and gone and new members have joined. On this day, they hugged and laughed and were thrilled to pieces to be together. To have this special group of talented ladies together at the Tea made the event that much more special. They filled the room with beautiful music that made us smile and brought tears to our eyes.





Most women join the Junior League in their early twenties and sustain as early as when they are in their thirties. This means that most of our Emeritus Members have been members of the Junior League for over fifty years. I can only imagine all that they have seen through the years! The different fundraisers to benefit the community, the committees they served on and the friendships they made. Most of their League experiences were great stepping stones for careers and experiences in the future. All of them remember

how happy they were to have joined such a great organization. As I chatted with Emeritus Member, Dot Webster, she told me how she still has her invitation to join the Junior League and would love to share it with me. Being a scrapbooker I greatly appreciated this as I too save everything! Mrs. Webster made me realize that though she had been a Sustainer for a long time she still had a love for the Junior League and for our community which we all strive to improve through the use of trained volunteers.

So, why join the Junior League? After all there are so many places in this day and time to give your volunteer hours. My answer to this question is because of love. Love for the community, love for developing your potential and love for voluntarism. Whether it's a singing group that sparks your interest, working at the Nearly New Shop or tutoring in an after-school program with children who desperately need you, the Junior League has a place for you. As I saw at the Emeritus Tea, the benefits of membership truly can last a lifetime. ■



Junior League Membership: *Don't Leave Home Without It*

Transfer Chairman Heidi Burnette, Edward Easterling, and Transfer EA Easterling.

Written by Kathryn Freedman

The purpose of the Junior League of Greenville (JLG) is best summarized in our Mission Statement as we strive to develop the potential of women, improve the community, and promote voluntarism. The JLG shares this Mission Statement with its parent organization, the Association of Junior Leagues International (AJLI). When a woman becomes a member of the JLG, she also becomes a member of the AJLI. This membership creates a very unique opportunity--the ability to transfer membership should a member ever move to a new location. There are almost three hundred Junior League organizations across the United States, Canada, Mexico and the United Kingdom that belong to

the Association of Junior Leagues International. Any Active Member in good standing is able to transfer to one of these Leagues.

Some women may be hesitant to join the Junior League in their current community because they know that they will only be in the area for a short time. If you find yourself in this situation, there are countless more advantages than disadvantages to joining the League. By joining the Junior League, you may enjoy a period of Active membership, and if you are relocated for whatever reason, you can transfer your membership to the League in your new town. Transferring into the League allows you to quickly find friends with similar interests and also provides you with opportunities to get involved in worthwhile

projects. What better way to become familiar with a new community than by volunteering?

The Junior League offers many possibilities for all types of women and deciding to join this organization has affected my life in many ways. In July of 2001, my husband Allen and I moved to Charlottesville, Virginia so that he could start his anesthesia residency at the University of Virginia. I was familiar with the area, and I had a challenging new job. However, with a husband who worked all hours of the day and night, I needed something more to occupy my free time. Later that summer, I attended an informational meeting about the Junior League of Charlottesville (JLC). Joining the New Member (or Provisional) class of the JLC proved to

meet all my expectations and more.

In 2004, Allen completed his residency, and we chose to move to Greenville. The move was harder for me this time because I now had a 9 month-old baby, and we knew almost nothing about the City of Greenville. Transferring to the Junior League of Greenville gave me a feeling of stability during an otherwise tumultuous time. The League allowed me to meet new people and supplied me with a list of agencies eager for volunteers. These experiences helped me to form a connection to my new home.

While all Leagues share a common purpose within the AJLI, every League is unique. My sister-in-law, Christina, originally joined the Junior League of Greater Orlando. In my brother's profession, job advancement usually comes with relocation and Christina knew that joining the League could help her with these changes. A few years ago, Christina and Scott moved to New Jersey and Christina transferred into the Junior League of Morristown. She says that the biggest and most obvious difference between the two Leagues was their size. There were almost as many

active members in the entire Junior League of Morristown as there had been in just her Provisional class in the Junior League of Greater Orlando. Now as she and my brother prepare for an upcoming move to Ann Arbor, Michigan, she plans to transfer to the Junior League there.

I have really enjoyed getting to know all the new Transfers. This year has been a welcoming experience for me to begin my work in the Greenville community. I have already made some new friendships and I look forward to starting new relationships in my Placement next year!

EA Easterling

The process of transferring your Junior League membership is relatively easy. The AJLI has made the procedure even more

efficient in recent years by developing a new online system. Communication from your "new" League occurs quickly after they receive the information regarding your intent to transfer from your "old" League. During their first year, Transfers into the Junior League of Greenville have monthly meetings where they are able to socialize with other members. They learn all about the Junior League of Greenville and the agencies it supports. Transferring members may participate in any of the JLG fundraisers, including Home Run for Healthy Kids®, A Nearly New You events, and Oscar Night® America. They are able to work shifts at the Nearly New Shop and are encouraged to pursue all aspects of Active membership. The Transfer year is a time for these women to discover what areas interest them within the JLG.

The Junior League endows its members with an arsenal of skills. Creating trained volunteers, providing enduring friendships, and giving back to the community are all invaluable components to this organization. Perhaps an overlooked attribute of the League is that it can provide lifelong membership wherever your life may take you. ■

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We are actively seeking a diverse membership of women of all ages. Our membership includes a broad array of women who bring many different talents and perspectives to the community.

Who are we?

- **450+ Active members** – Our members are trained specifically for volunteer responsibilities in community projects, fundraising activities, education programs and administration. Collectively they volunteer more than 20,000 hours in the community each year
- **74%** work, either full or part time
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- **60%** have children
- **70+ Provisional members** – new members who are trained in leadership development, community awareness and volunteer service
- **800+ Sustaining members** – have fulfilled their obligations as an Active member

Provisional Training Course

All JLG members are required to complete the Provisional Training Course during their first year of membership. This course allows new members to get to know each other while gaining an understanding of how the JLG fulfills its Mission. A complete listing of Provisional Course requirements is available at www.jlgreenville.org under the "Join Us" section.

Application Process

The next Open House/Prospective Member Workshop will be held in early 2012. The Open House is a wonderful opportunity to get to know the JLG – who we are, and the many ways we have impacted and continue to impact the Greenville community. Please continue to check our website for up to date information.



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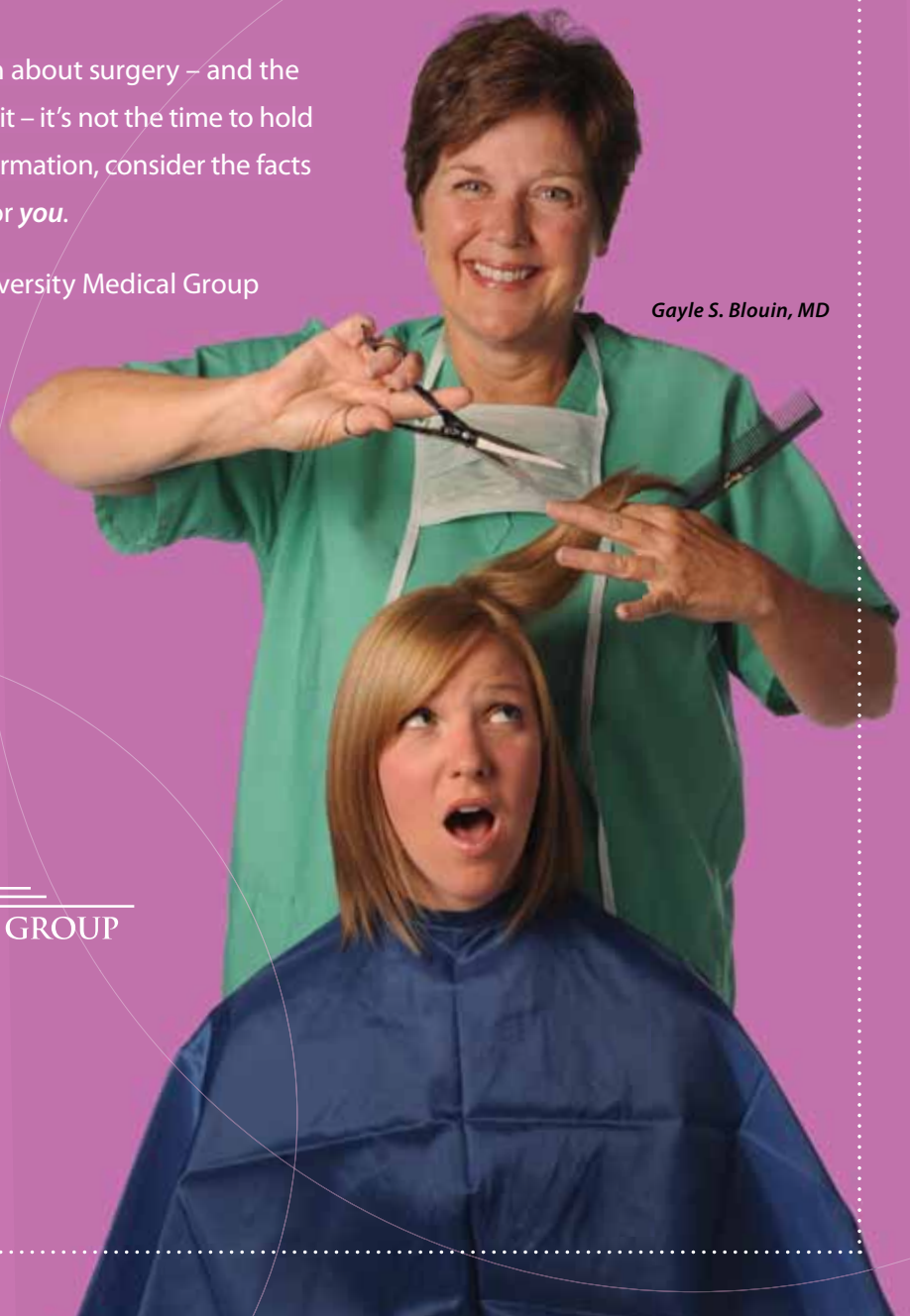
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