

HOTLINE

NEWS FOR MEMBERS *of* THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF ATLANTA

SPECIAL EDITION 2010



L-R: Audra Dial, JLA President-Elect and Susannah Balish, JLA President

Dear Junior League of Atlanta Members...

Members of the Junior League of Atlanta are smart, savvy, and resourceful women. Their online systems should be the same...and beginning February 2, they will be!

We have developed a sleek, new and improved public website, and an enhanced members-only (myJLA) website offering you rich features and benefits.

Our **new public website** showcases a modern visual design with up-to-date content that helps lift our overall brand and increase awareness about what the League is doing in our community. It also provides easy-to-access information for current and potential members, our community partners, sponsors, media and the community-at-large. Our new site reflects who we are today, and highlights the projects and events we are focused on.

Our **new members-only website** is a feature-rich and powerful tool, providing you with access to the real-time information you want and need. myJLA features enhanced, customizable capabilities that provide you with the opportunity to independently access information. It also provides behind-the-scenes process improvements resulting in greater efficiencies and less time on manual activities! This new myJLA website allows us to leverage the power of technology and information, resulting in a stronger and smarter organization for this new decade.

For the new system to work successfully - **we need your help! We need you to update your personal information in the members-only website as soon as you can after February 2.** Updating your personal information is easy, just complete the four steps in the Update Checklist (found on page 2). It will only take a few minutes to complete, and doing so will ensure the success and accuracy of the new system. **With over 3,800 members, the League is depending upon you to help us!** If you complete your Update by February 16, you'll be eligible for exciting early completion prizes, including a meeting credit for our Active members!

By completing the Update Checklist, you are helping us lay a strong foundation for the new websites that will provide years of support to the JLA and our members. Thank you in advance for your help!

Happy New Year!
Susannah and Audra

“
Our enhanced public
and myJLA websites
are key ways in which
we are *improving the*
effectiveness of our
resources.”

myJLA Update CHECKLIST

Please complete your Update as soon as possible after February 2, and if you complete your Update by February 16, you'll be eligible for exciting early completion prizes, including a meeting credit for our Active members!

1—Go to www.jlatlanta.org and Login.

Look for the red Member Login button in the upper right corner of the home page. Click that red button and you will see a login screen. Login to the new site, using your AJLI number as both your username and your password. Your AJLI number is a 6-digit number assigned to you from the Association of Junior Leagues International. It can be found directly above your name in the address label on your Hotline. You will also receive a customized, secure email with your AJLI number on February 2.

2—Change your username and password.

Once logged in, follow the prompts on your home page to change your username and password to one of your own design. The username and password you create will give you access to myJLA moving forward.

3—Complete your profile information.

Follow the prompts on your home page to complete your Profile information. Your Profile information contains your personal information, placement, groups, and responsibilities. Some information may already be in your Profile. Please check this info for accuracy and make changes as needed. Please be sure to add all of the information that may be missing. **If there is an error that you cannot correct, please let HQ know via email at receptionist@jlatlanta.org.*

4—Upload your photo.

Follow the prompts on your home page to upload your photo for the online directory. Your headshot should be a .jpg, .gif, or .png format. You can change your photo whenever you'd like.

OUR MISSION

The Junior League of Atlanta, 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.

What Better Way for the JLA to Ring in the Next Decade....Introducing an Incredibly Flexible and Powerful Information Management Tool!

The new websites that are launching February 2 provide a strong foundation to support our efforts to increase the effectiveness of our resources. They offer just the tools we need in order to empower our members and increase the benefits of JLA membership, and to keep the public up to speed on our organization.

Through our public website we've enhanced our image to reflect the impactful organization we are! Through our members-only (myJLA) website, we've provided members with access to more tools and information!

Change isn't always easy, but at least in the JLA you can always count on some fun! Here are some ways that you can benefit from the transition to the new websites:

>> Complete your simple, 4-step Update Checklist by February 16 and be eligible to receive awards!

- Active members receive **A Meeting Credit***!
- Sustainer members are entered into a drawing to win a host of prizes, including: **tickets to the Tour of Kitchens**, race entries for **Shamrock-n-Roll**, limited-edition **JLA custom platters**, and **Cookbooks!**
- Provisional, Transfer, and Active members are also eligible for a drawing of **JLA goodie bags!**

>> Swing by the **"New Website Meet and Greet Social!"** on **Saturday, February 6 from 12 - 3 p.m. at HQ**. Receive a personal tour of the new websites while enjoying snacks and refreshments. Catch up with old friends, and make new ones! Your attendance gives you an entry for a drawing to win prizes! Complete your Update Checklist and be eligible for the early completion awards!

**To be eligible for early completion awards, members must complete the 4 steps of the Update Checklist, including photo approval. Members may complete the checklist through February 16 at midnight to be eligible. The Meeting Credit for Actives is applied toward 2009-2010 League year member responsibilities.*

Questions and Answers!

>> Will our current website go down as we prepare for the new website?

Yes, our public website and myJLA will be down from January 25 - February 1 in preparation for the new websites.

>> I don't know my AJLI number, and I need it to log into the new system. Where do I find it?

You can find your 6-digit AJLI number right above your name in your address on this Hotline, or any other Hotline. You will also receive an email February 2, which will include your AJLI number. You can also contact HQ for your AJLI number.

>> Do I use my AJLI number as both my username and my password when I log in?

Yes, so it is important that you change your username and password immediately to make your profile secure.

>> Why do you need me to check my information in myJLA?

During the transition from our old website to the new website, data could be lost. We want to make sure that we have accurate information about you so that the impact to our members is minimal. We also want you to be able to get to know other members easily. Additionally, having your information allows us to make sure we are providing information and programs that will appeal to you. Please be sure to update any of your missing information.

Updating your employment is also very important too. When we solicit sponsorships, it allows us to know how many of our members work for different companies which can aid in our fundraising efforts.

>> Why am I required to upload a picture in myJLA?

Having a professional picture of yourself attached to your profile helps our members get to know each other. For security purposes, a League staff member will approve all profile pictures before they are posted. Photos should be in .jpg, .gif, or .png format.

>> What is going to happen to my information?

As with our old members-only website, all data and information provided is for Junior League purposes only. Included in the new website are security measures in place to protect your personal information.

>> Who do I call if I have a problem?

Call HQ with any questions or concerns at 404-261-7799.

NEW BENEFITS

Some benefits you'll discover with the new myJLA:

- >> Easy access to the information you want, when you want it
- >> Fresh, current information
- >> Online member directory with robust search functions
- >> Tools for our fundraisers that will drive efficiencies
- >> Process improvements and automation
- >> Greater volunteer empowerment

The new public website is sure to make you proud to be a JLA member! It features:

- >> An elegant and innovative visual design
- >> Rich and compelling content
- >> A strong web presence that reflects our brand and tells the powerful story of the JLA

SPECIAL NOTE

Please note: The existing public and myJLA websites will be down from January 25 through February 1, 2010. Starting January 25 and running through February 1, you will not be able to access our websites. This outage is required in order to move to the new websites.

If you have any questions, please call HQ at 404-261-7799.

>> I'm an Active, and I completed my Update Checklist by February 16. When will I see my meeting credit?

Once your profile picture is approved, your meeting credit should show up immediately. The profile picture should be approved within 24 hours.

>> I'm a Sustainer, why should I complete the Update Checklist?

Much like our Active members, it is important for our Sustainers to update their profiles, so we can better cater our programs and information to you. It also allows you to reconnect and stay in better touch with all of your Junior League friends! Additionally, the new website offers Sustainer-specific news and features you won't want to miss.



Always a Party at Mary Hall Freedom House

WRITTEN BY HEATHER DIFIORE, PLACEMENT CHAIR

One of our favorite projects as volunteers at Mary Hall Freedom House is the monthly “Everybody’s Birthday” party!

In November, we hosted a Birthday Party for 12 children at the agency. The kids enjoyed making picture frames and jungle animals. Most of all they enjoyed the homemade cupcakes provided by League Member Beth Savage. After cupcakes and a big round of “Happy Birthday to Everybody,” the children took turns telling how old they are and then guessing the League members’ ages (not our favorite game, but the kids loved to see us squirm around the answers)!

In October, we had a great time organizing a Harvest Festival event which included fall crafts, games and yummy treats. In December we enjoyed a Happy Holidays Party, where we celebrated the season with the women and children at Mary Hall Freedom House by decorating stockings and enjoying homemade hot chocolate. We are always having parties at Mary Hall Freedom House – what could be more fun!

COMMUNITY OUTREACH CORNER

Participate in JLA Community Outreach Projects!

**Donate to our community in need of the basics.
Donations accepted at JLA and Nearly New
year-round for School Supplies, Food, Books,
Diapers/Wipes and Formula!**

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

FEBRUARY



- 2** New Websites Available
- 6** New Websites Meet & Greet Social
JLA Headquarters from 12 - 3 p.m.
- 15** Evening District Meetings at 6 p.m.
- 16** Day District Meetings at 9 a.m.

MARCH

- 4** Toast of the Tour Party
- 14** ShamRock ‘N Roll Road Race
Atlantic Station at 8 a.m.
- 20-21** Tour of Kitchens
- 22** General Membership Meeting
Ahavath Achim Synagogue at 6 p.m.

APRIL

- 13** Sustainer Luncheon
Atlanta Botanical Gardens

Registration Now Open for the 2010 ShamRock ‘N Roll Road Race

Online registration for the 2010 ShamRock ‘N Roll Road Race, March 14 at Atlantic Station, is now open. Visit the ShamRock website at www.shamrocknroll.org to find race information and a link to online registration at Active.com. The paper registration form is also available for download on the ShamRock website, complete with mailing instructions.

Please encourage your family, friends, coworkers and neighbors to sign up for the race, too. Dogs and strollers are welcome, so bring the whole crowd! To help spread the word, the ShamRock ‘N Roll committee is happy to provide you an e-mail template complete with race information. Just e-mail shamrock@jlatlanta.org with “Email template” in the subject line, and we will send you a message to forward on to those you would like to invite.

1916 Society Founding Members Inaugural Reception

Before the first General Membership Meeting of the new League year, **the 1916 Society Founding Members were treated to a private celebration in honor of their continued support and contributions to the JLA.** These distinguished members go above and beyond what is required. **Their generous gifts help close the gap between general membership dues and the remaining 60% of funding needed to further the JLA's mission of helping women and children in need.** Our donors ensure the JLA has the resources to train future leaders, provide assistance to our placements, offer impactful outreach opportunities, such as Kids in the Kitchen and ensure the success of our Early Childhood Education Initiative as well as other programs.

Hosted by the Junior League of Atlanta's Individual Giving Committee, 1916 Society Members and their guests enjoyed a catered buffet of desserts, and were each given a decorated bag of home-baked chocolate chip macadamia nut cookies from a recipe found in *True Grits*. This inaugural giving reception welcomed current President Susannah Balish and recent Savannah chapter transfer Julie Elliott, Director of Development of the Mary Hall Freedom House. Julie shared brief remarks regarding the mission of the Mary Hall Freedom House and the necessity for quality early learning opportunities for all of Atlanta's children. In recognition of their significant gift, all 1916 Society Members were asked to sign copies of the classic children's book, "Harold and the Purple Crayon." These signed copies were presented on behalf of the 1916 Society to Julie Elliott to distribute to the children of MHFH to keep as their own.

Congratulations to the Individual Giving Committee for coordinating such a beautiful event to inaugurate this important giving society!



Scenes from the 1916 Society Reception

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MARRIAGES

Kelly Jean Petix married Robert Scott Read on December 4, 2009

BIRTHS

Beth and David Okun welcomed their daughter, Mae Lynn Okun, on January 30, 2009

Board Brief [November 09]

>> CNAC presented findings from its study of the GA Department of Early Care and Learning's Resource Coordinator program. Recommendations of future League involvement with DECAL and the Resource Coordinator Program were presented from the Outreach Council. The Resource Coordinators will take part in the Child Watch Bus Tour this coming Spring.

>> The Board approved the Public Stands, brought forth by the Community Outreach Council. The JLA Public Stands is an internal document that enables the Legislative Committee to act quickly on Legislative issues relating to the League's areas of interest.

>> As a result of a complete evaluation of JLA technology needs, Internal Operations has determined that a new member management system is necessary. IO has also done a full review of all IT contracts as part of the evaluation process and expects the need for a revision of the current year's IT budget.

>> An additional board meeting was called on November 17, in which the board approved a revised IT budget for 2009-10.



Membership CORNER

I'm Having Trouble Completing my Placement Hours - What Should I Do? Can I Change My Placement?

Can you believe that we are almost half way through the 2009-2010 Junior League year? It is time to check in with the status of your 50 hour placement commitment.

Are you on track with fulfilling your 50 hours for the year? Is your placement fitting your interests in the League? Has your schedule changed and now you are finding it difficult to complete your placement hours? We understand that work and home schedules can sometimes present a challenge to completing your hours.

If you are having trouble completing your hours, speak to your placement chair about options available to you within that placement. If there are not alternate options within your existing placement that work with your schedule, you can ask to change your placement. E-mail placements@jlatlanta.org for a list of available placements. There are many placement opportunities that would greatly benefit from your volunteer hours.

Our priority is to fill spaces in community placements first in order to honor our commitment to those agencies. In addition, if you have already fulfilled your placement commitment for the year and want to do more you can e-mail placements@jlatlanta.org for additional opportunities!

Please remember that after March 1 Nearly New is the only placement accepting new members.

Discover 14 Spectacular Kitchens at the 2010 JLA Tour of Kitchens

See some of Atlanta's most spectacular kitchens created by Atlanta's most renowned and celebrated designers at **The Junior League of Atlanta, Inc.'s 2010 Tour of Kitchens**. The event will be held Saturday, March 20, 2010, from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. and Sunday, March 21, 2010, from 11 a.m. until 5 p.m. This Tour promises to be the most impressive to date with special appearances by several of Atlanta's most legendary chefs, as well as other entertaining special events and demonstrations.

The two-day self-guided tour features kitchens located in some of Atlanta's most esteemed neighborhoods including Buckhead, Ansley Park, Morningside, Midtown, Vinings, Sandy Springs and parts of Dunwoody. The Tour of Kitchens is the perfect resource for anyone looking to renovate, rejuvenate or simply dream about a fabulous designer kitchen.

The Toast of the Tour, the kick-off to the 13th Annual Tour of Kitchens, is Thursday, March 4th at the Atlanta Decorative Arts Center. This exclusive event, will feature food, a signature drink, lounge area, a silent auction and a glimpse into the latest trends in interior design by ADAC members.

It's not too late to purchase a Host Committee package for the Toast of the Tour party (*however, it is too late for your name to be printed on the invitation*). Packages are \$150 (each) and includes 2 tickets to both the Toast of the Tour Party and the Tour of Kitchens 2-day event, as well as a Swoozie's gift bag with goodies such as skin products, Café Pharr gift certificates, Lily Pulitzer office accessories, and items donated by both Swoozie's and Belk.

Find Your Niche With Us

Find Your Niche is a group within the league that focuses primarily on building relationships with other members. If you are new to the city or if you simply need a new hobby, we'd love to have you join us and meet some new friends.

Our niche groups include: Book Club, Expecting Moms & Newborn Babies, Fun for Tots, Movie Nights, Walking, Foodies, Wine Tastings and Job Hunting. You can contact the FYN Chair, Cori Snelson, for more information (corisnelson@hotmail.com). Please be sure to specify what group you're interested in, and she'll connect you with the right person! Come Find Your Niche with us – we'd love to have you!

Make a Difference: *Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children Committee Needs Your Help!*

Did YOU know?

- >> Georgia ranks 13th in the world in the commercial sexual exploitation of our children?
- >> 300-350 of Georgia's children are victimized each month?
- >> Our state laws now require state mandated reporters to report ANY sexual abuse involving a child?

The Junior League of Atlanta has a reputation for tackling tough problems and has made it a priority to end the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) in our community. The League Initiative Committee's CSEC Committee has partnered with A Future. Not A Past., the Governor's Office for Children and Families and the Barton Child Law and Policy Clinic to train committee members to present CSEC awareness training for Mandatory Reporters of child abuse.

With the recent change in the state law, mandatory reporters are now required to report suspected victims of child prostitution to child protective services. The CSEC awareness training, approved by the Governor's Office for Children and Families, includes the signs to look for, risk factors and resources available in the state for victims of sexual exploitation. This training is available to anyone that is required by law to report child abuse, including school personnel, social workers, medical personnel and law enforcement. We will be primarily conducting these trainings in schools and medical facilities throughout Metro Atlanta.

How can YOU help? We are asking our fellow League members to assist us in scheduling training by providing contact information for schools and medical facilities. Are you a teacher, counselor or social worker? We would love to present this training to your school district and colleagues. Do you have children in school? Please provide us contact information for the school's counselors and/or PTA. Are you in the PTA/PTO? We would be happy to speak at an upcoming meeting.

Help us eradicate sexual exploitation of children in our community by raising awareness and educating those that can identify children who are victims of commercial sexual exploitation.

To schedule training or to provide contact information for an organization that works with children, please e-mail Meghan Harrison at meghan.c.harrison@gmail.com or call 404-803-7423.



JLA Volunteers paint ornaments for the Ronald McDonald Houses

Ronald McDonald House *A Home Away from Home*

WRITTEN BY JESSICA THOMAS

The Ronald McDonald House is not only a place that is a home away from home, but it's a place of hope, and no one knows that more than me. I'm one of the League volunteers for the Ronald McDonald House on Peachtree Dunwoody Road near Children's Healthcare of Atlanta at Scottish Rite, Northside Hospital and St. Joseph's Hospital. And while I never stayed at the House, my parents did when I was 13-years-old and in a coma, close to death, so volunteering at the House is close to my heart. "Being able to stay somewhere that every need you have is fulfilled—whether it is dinner, laundry or just a shoulder to lean on is just amazing," says John Thomas, my father. "Staying at [RMH] gives you a peace of mind in the midst of the utter chaos of your child being in the hospital." And this is what I experience every time I volunteer at the House—there is just so much love and hope. Whether I'm spending time with the families or simply dropping off items that I have purchased for the House, I know that everyone is taken care of and I'm a small part of that.

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK



HOTLINE EDITOR: Stacie Sanders

HOTLINE is a members-only newsletter that keeps members up-to-date on the events, news, issues and achievements of the Junior League of Atlanta. The monthly newsletter, which is sent to members' homes, is published eight times throughout the year and works in conjunction with its sister publication, Hotline Highlights, a weekly e-mail newsletter.

JLA leadership, committee chairs and members can submit articles and announcements to the Hotline Editor for inclusion in the newsletter. All submissions are due to the Hotline Editor by the first day of the month in order to appear in the next month's issue and are subject to the editorial discretion of the Hotline Editor and internal communications committee.

Email submissions to hotline@jlatlanta.org. Be sure to include the word "Hotline" in the subject line of your message to ensure delivery.

The Junior League of Atlanta
~ Focus Areas ~

Women and Children at Risk
Education
Women's and Children's Health

2008-2012
Strategic Plan Goals

Transform communities by
empowering women and children
at risk to become self-reliant

~
Be the primary organization
that the community comes
to for trained volunteers

~
Improve the effectiveness
of the JLA's resources



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HOTLINE

SPECIAL EDITION 2010

New, Enhanced JLA Websites Coming February 2! *Time-Sensitive Information, Please Read!*

The JLA is launching a new public website, as well as an enhanced members-only myJLA website on February 2!

You'll notice that more information is available to you through these websites. Transparency within our organization is very important, especially with our large size. These new websites allow us to make information readily available, giving us the opportunity to leverage that information to create greater impact.

Read inside for important information about the launch of the new websites and what you need to do to be prepared. Please see key dates to your right.

>> January 25 – February 1: Existing public website and myJLA website will be unavailable

>> February 2: New public website and enhanced myJLA website launch!

>> February 2 – 16: Members completing their Update Checklists are eligible to receive early completion awards!

>> February 6, 12 - 3 p.m. at HQ 'New Website Meet and Greet' Social!: Swing by HQ between 12 and 3 p.m. to see friends, enjoy snacks and refreshments while catching up, and receive a hands-on tour of the new websites! Enter a drawing to receive prizes! Complete your Update Checklist, and you'll be eligible for the early completion awards!

>> February 16: Deadline to complete Update Checklist for early completion awards