

the COMMENTATOR

Fall 2011

JUNIOR LEAGUE OF ABILENE

CHRISTMAS CAROUSEL 2011

It's all too easy to lament the commercialism of the holiday season with its emphasis on giving gifts. So, you may wonder why we chose "Gifts from Afar" as the theme for this year's 31st Christmas Carousel to be held November 3-6. There is a beautiful short story written by O Henry titled, "The Gift of the Magi," first published in December, 1905, which gives a unique perspective on the tradition of holiday gift giving.

A young, married couple—deeply in love and quite poor—ponder what to give each other for Christmas. Della's most prized possession is her beautiful long hair; for James it is his grandfather's pocket watch. In order to pay for a gift for the other, each makes a sacrifice. Della cuts and sells her hair to buy a chain for James's watch while James sells his watch to buy combs for Della's hair. Their gifts truly came from the soul as did the gifts of the three wise men who, long ago, brought gifts to a newborn baby in a manger on a cold December night.

With this spirit of gift giving in mind, we kick off our gala on Thursday, November 3rd with a preview event, **Party Under the Palms**. Join us and enjoy private shopping in an elegant setting, surprise entertainment, delicious food by Tru Blue Catering, a cash bar provided by Copper Creek and a silent auction filled with fabulous gifts for giving (you may find something to keep for yourself as well!).

On Friday, November 4th, bring your girlfriends for a day of fun including our spectacular fashion show, **Jewels of Fashion**, with clothing provided by our in-house merchants, local celebrity models and fabulous local talent. You'll also enjoy a lovely lunch and cash bar catered by the Natural Food Center.

Saturday morning begins with a twist on the traditional Santa Breakfast. Bring the kids as we **Journey to Lands Far Away** and discover Christmas traditions from different countries. Children will enjoy creating a tasty breakfast snack, a live performance by the Abilene Ballet Theatre, visiting with Santa and much more!



Our final event will be held Saturday night as we **Rock the Casbah!** This event will feature exquisite fashions from Neiman Marcus, a silent auction, an appetizer buffet, a cash bar and live music in Club Dubai by Rikki Rincon of Global Café, a professional disc jockey who's guaranteed to get you going on the dance floor!

In addition to our celebration events, you can shop Friday through Sunday at the **Moroccan Bazaar Market Hall** where you'll find a wonderful array of treasures for everyone on your list. As chair of this year's Junior League Christmas Carousel, I am grateful to all of the women who put in the many, many long hours required to bring this event to life. And, as always, I am thankful for all of you, the members of the JLA, who give of yourselves to make life better for so many in our community. You have all shown that giving from the heart is the greatest gift of all.

I look forward to seeing you November 3 – 6.

2011 CHRISTMAS CAROUSEL COMMITTEE

President
Megan Cheek

Carousel Chairman
Angela Tomlin

Assistant Chairman
Linda Stanley

Finance Director
Tera Gibson

Auction
Keena Porter

Cafe
Allicyn Evans
Paula Fiel

Concessions
Tiffany Sipe

Decorations
Jenna Dozier
Tracy Brandenberger

Events
Tiffany Loftin
Jessica McGaughey
Lindsay McGill

Marketing
Kristina Campos
Lesli Andrews

Merchants & Hospitality
Megan Bolls
Judy Lanman

Sponsorships
Sarah Lazarowitz
Jessica Owen

Style Show
Tracy Holmes
Lucy Vinson

T-shirts/Resale
Debbi Lehr
Christin Turner

Tickets
Stefani Jones
Joi Turner

Treasurer
Mindy Flowers



Angela Tomlin
2011 Christmas
Carousel Chair

2011 CHRISTMAS CAROUSEL MERCHANTS

Addi Cakes
Albany Chic
All of Us
Arbonne
Bargain Fair
Benny & June
Blanton Caldwell
Cardinal Company
Carrousel Gifts
Ciao Bella
Company's Comin'
Cookie Lee Jewelry
Cordell's
Cowgirls and City Chicks
Crazy Consuela
Cutco
Dancers Dream
Dazzle Under One Roof
Dillard's
Dimples & Dots
Diva Dynasty

Down Madison Avenue
Forever Young
Gawdy Girls
Gigi Hill Bags
Girls Gone Wired
Glam Girls
Greenfoot
Hair by Shaley
Happy Feet
Holiday Farms
Junk Warehouse
Katherine's Kollection
Kid's Village
Kristi's Est. 1993
Laura's Boutique
Magali Art
Natural Food Center
Nectar of the Vine
Organically Yours
Outback Creations
Punchy Pony

Pure Photography
Rags and Rhinestones
Rodan and Fields
Roman Productions
Saraph Glass
Scentsy
Seasonal Selections
Serediptiy
Serenity Soapworks
Spice
Surprises
T. Stephens & Co.
The Arrangement
The Jewelry Box
Touch of Class Cakes
Village Boutique
Wild Hearted Cowgirls
Wild One Boutique
Ya-Ya Gurlz

GIFTS FROM AFAR



Christmas Carousel 2011
Photo Courtesy of Pure Photography

2011 CHRISTMAS CAROUSEL SPONSORS

EVENT SPONSORS

The Bazaar (Market Hall)
First National Bank of Baird
The Oasis (Café)
United Supermarkets
The Mirage (Concessions)
Abuelo's
Treasured Jewels (Sponsorship Lounge)
Chick-fil-A
Patron Party
Frank Johnson & Susan Stroud at Morgan Stanley Smith Barney and Inwest Retirement Systems
Party under the Palms
Dodge Jones Foundation
Jewels of Fashion
Dian Graves Owen Foundation
Journey to Lands Far Away
Abilene Regional Medical Center
Rock the Casbah!
ENT Specialists of Abilene
Auction
Community Foundation of Abilene
Beverages
Coca Cola

PROJECT SPONSORS

Kids in the Kitchen
Funeral Directors Life Insurance Company
Community Partners
Bill Reed Distributing Company

Suds Buds
Hendrick Health System
PAVE
First Financial Bank of Abilene
Make a Wish
Pure Photography
Backpacks for Kids
Re/Max

DIAMOND LEVEL

Dodge Jones Foundation
Dian Graves Owen Foundation
Community Foundation of Abilene

RUBY LEVEL

Abilene Regional Medical Center
Bill Reed Distributing Company
First National Bank Baird
First Financial Bank
Funeral Directors Life Insurance Company
United Supermarkets
Hendrick Health System
Abuelo's
Frank Johnson & Susan Stroud at Morgan Smith Barney
ENT Specialists of Abilene
Dr. Jeff Braaton

SAPPHIRE LEVEL

Honda of Abilene
Lytle Land & Cattle Company

Sharon's BBQ
Greathouse Foundation
Frontier Motors
Abilene Cultural Affairs Council
Angela Tomlin
Re/Max
Pure Photography
Sayles Ranch Guesthouses

EMERALD LEVEL

AT&T
Abilene Teacher's Federal Credit Union
AEP Texas
Image Sculptors
Taylor Electric Cooperative
Van Operating, Ltd.
Chick-fil-A

AMBER LEVEL

Abilene Aero, Inc.
Blake and Dulcey Fulenwider
Davis, Kinard & Co
McMahon Surovik Suttle PC
Shelton Family Foundation
Dr. & Mrs. Jay Capra
Billye Proctor Shaw
That's What She Said

AMETHYST LEVEL

John and Amy Milam
Adams Pediatric

CBS Insurance LLP
Condley and Company LLP
Family Vision Associates
Glen D. Hall, DDS
Home Instead Senior Care
Sylvan Learning Center
David & Kay Alexander
Dr. & Mrs. James Wray
5 Points Creative Marketing and Advertising
State Farm – Risha Sanders
Sturgill Turbine Services
Tim & JoBeth Willis
Browning Eyssen & Logan, PC
A-Town Cleaners, Fran Stone,
Brad & Amy Brazell
Cash Register Guy
Clark Bolls
Sean & Kari Polk
Roberts Truck Center
One Smart Cookie
Paul & Rolanda Fulham
Brad & Sheryl Kendrick
Natural Food Center

FRIENDS OF THE LEAGUE

Robert & Gayle Gray
Academy Sports

PRINTING

M-Print

2011 CHRISTMAS CAROUSEL AUCTION DONORS

50's Classic Carwash
A Designer's Tale
A Town Cleaner's
AAA Vacuum's
Abilene Boudoir
Abilene Christian University Athletic Department
Abilene Christian University Bookstore
Abilene Commercial Kitchen
Abilene Community Theatre
Abilene Country Club
Abilene Dental
Abilene Frame-N-Art Shoppe
Abilene Performing Arts Company - (APAC)
Abilene Pet Regency
Abilene Philharmonic
Abilene Portable Buildings
Abilene ZOO
About Face
Absolute Perfection
Academy Sports
Al's Mesquite Grill
April Degnan Oak Creek Salon
Arby's
Armor Thane of Abilene
Ashley Furniture
AT&T of Abilene
Avon - Melinda Lambert
Ball Ranch
Baskets R Us
Best Buy
BG's Dance and Spirit Stop
Big Country Liquors
Biketown
Bowtech for Health
BJ Naranjo-Smith
Buckethead's
Busch Jeweler's

Cape and Sons
Calina Kendall Artist
Cara Holt Artist
Caren Products
Cavender's
Classic Collection
Colt McCoy
Cotton Photography
Creative Memories
Diamondback Golf Club
Digital Impact Outdoors
Dillard's
Discovery Toys Sarah Hughes
Double R Ranch
Doug Hodel Photography
Dream of the Decorator
Famous Fine Jewelry
Foxy Trot Salon
Firestone of Abilene
Frontier Texas
Gary's Floral Gallery
GiGi Hill - Susan Bacon
GiGi Hill - Angela Burson
Genghis Grill
God's Care Holiday Lighting
Gold's Gym
Gourmet Gurlz - Julie Wittkowski
Grapevine Vintage Railroad
Gymnastics Sports Center
Hair by Brittany @ Vendetta's
Hair by Halsa
Halcyon Day Spa
Hampton Inn Abilene
Hardin-Simmons University
Harley Davidson of Abilene
Haulin Doody Pet Services
Heaven's Best Carpet Cleaning
Hilton Garden Inn Austin
Hilton Garden Inn San Antonio

Honey's Jalapeño
Hot Spot Tanning
It's About Time
J. Shea Jeweler's
Jackson Bros. Feed & Seed
JC Penney
Jennifer Nichols Photography
JLG Signs
Joe Allen's BBQ
Jolene Sollivan
Jordan Taylor & Co.
Joyce Lavender Ranch
Judge Ely Animal Hospital
Junior League of Atlanta
Junior League of Gwinnett North
Fulton
Junk Warehouse
Kid's Village
Kimberstone Bakery
Luskey Ryons
Lytle Land and Cattle
Dr. Mark Maberry
Dr. Stefanie McCain/Stacy Hammond, FNP
Matilda Jane Clothing - Nikki Jackson
Maurice's
Maxwell Municipal Golf Course
McMurry University Athletics
Mine by Design
Mobile Vet Clinic
Mongrammer
Natural Food Center
Natural Grocers
NCCIL
One Smart Cookie
Neiman Marcus
Norman Collision Plus
Pack and Mail Big Country Laminating Party and Card Factory

Philpott Florist
Photo Image Center
Perini Ranch Steak House
PetSmart of Abilene
Play Faire Park
Polished
Prime Time Family Entertainment
ProStar Energy - Carol Chappell
Puckett's Dualling Piano
PURE Photography
Quality Implement
Relic's
Rosa's Café
Ruby B Jewels
Saint John's Episcopal School
Sharon's BBQ
Sleeping Giant
South Texas Implement
Stella & Dot - Lauren Sanders
Independent Stylist
Stokes Antiques
Sure Shot Pest Control
Surprise's
Suzanne's Art Gallery
TEAM Chip
The Paramount
Texas Star Trading Company
Texas Stone Quarries
The Arrangement
The Awakening Soap Company
The Grace Museum
The Hen Shack
The Paramount Theatre
Thirty One - Leslie Jeanes
Tru Blu Catering
Under One Roof
Wisteria Assisted Living
Wreaths by Linda

**2011-2012
Executive Council**

President
Megan Cheek

President-Elect
Amy Milam

Past President
Kari Polk

Community Director
Lea Hutt

Communications Director
Glenna Cordray

Membership Development Director
Kerry Di Gioia

Secretary
Jessica Melson

Treasurer
Tera Gibson

Sustaining Director
Rolanda Fulham

**Community
Advisory Board**

Jessica Alexander
Norm Archibald
Melinda Blay
Heath Burns
Roxy Childs-Cox
Connie Davis
Joy Fincher
Nanci Liles
Randy Pool
Margarita Scouten
Sylvia Shurgot
Steve Stovall

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Thank you to each of you who have chosen to join the Junior League of Abilene on our "Road to Change" this year. It has been quite a year already and I would say that we are definitely up to cruising speed!

On the way to our destination of changing our community, the Junior League of Abilene has worked together to provide nutritious food every weekend for 50 chronically hungry children in Abilene. You have delivered 3500 hygiene packets to elementary school children, and assisted families with enough detergent for 25,000 loads of laundry!

Through fun demonstrations and activities by League Members, 263 children have been educated about healthy food and activity choices. We continue to support the needs of children in the CPS system through our donations and work with the Bluebonnet Room, and we promote voluntarism throughout our community by Providing Assistance and Volunteer Experience to ten fellow non-profits (and counting!)

On the road to changing ourselves, we have participated in training activities at General Membership Meetings with fantastic results. I was so pleased and proud of the healthy discussion of needs in our community and your visions for potential new projects. Our "Speed Placing" activity introduced you to leadership roles (or reminded you of them), and a record 87 of you filled out the Leadership Interest Indicator Tool. Way to go, Ladies!

As you know, all of the wonderful things we do to fulfill our mission in the community could not happen without the funds raised through Christmas Carousel. This year's committee has been hard at work to bring together an amazing event. I ask each one of you to expand on this hard work by adding your support- buy and sell more tickets, talk about Carousel to your friends and coworkers, work extra work shifts, bring homemade goodies for our merchants, give a friendly smile and a thank you to our patrons... all these things will make Christmas Carousel a memorable, successful, and profitable event.

This organization truly demonstrates the power of a group of passionate women to transform a community, and I am proud to be "On the Road to Change" with all of you.

-Megan



*Megan Cheek
President*





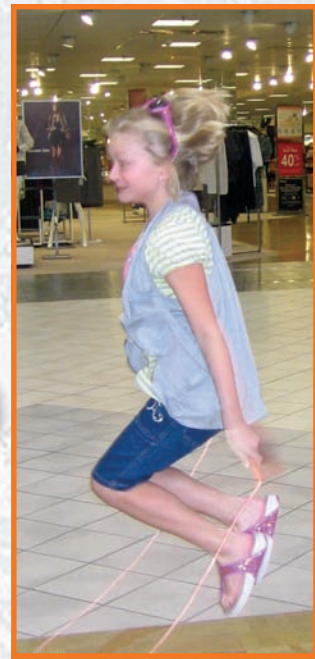
Junior League volunteers work at the Food Bank to fill bags with food and drink items. These bags go home with local elementary school students who may not have enough food to eat over the weekend.



The Suds Buds Project is proud to report that it is successfully continuing to provide basic hygiene items for students children in the Head Start and selected Title I campuses in Taylor County. The League is able to purchase and supply toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant soap, deodorant, shampoo, and detergent for each student in need. Additional supplies will be available for all of the assisted schools who request extra packets beyond the initial distribution. The project is helping over 3,500 students and their families close to the beginning of the school year when the need for assistance is especially great.



JUNIOR LEAGUES' Kids in the Kitchen



The goal of the Junior League's Kids in the Kitchen initiative is to empower youth to make healthy lifestyle choices and help reverse the growth of childhood obesity and its associated health issues. Recently, Kids in the Kitchen held an event at the Mall of Abilene showcasing fun ways to exercise and healthy, tasty options for snacks.



SUSTAINER HIGHLIGHT

Shelia Warren

How many years were you active?

- 14 years

Occupation

- Patient Financial Services Director at Abilene Diagnostic Clinic

Family

- Mike, Sr. Vice President American State Bank, Rachel age 9

League History

- Treasurer, Assistance Treasurer, Secretary, Community Vice President, Membership Development Chairman, Christmas Carousel Chairman, Christmas Carousel Events Co-Chair, Arrangements Chairman

Please list any boards you may be on besides league

- Wylie PTO, Abilene Performing Arts Company(APAC)

Memorable League Moments

- Processing requests and interviewing recipients for Goodwill Christmas was the most inspirational orientation to what the Junior League is and does. When I was a provisional, Goodwill was the Provisional Project and it truly opened my eyes to the impact a group of women can have.

Lesson from League

- Delegation, organization and how to keep a notebook!!!

Favorite Quote

- Remember, we are all just volunteers

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

2011 NOVEMBER 2011						
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			

- 11/01 Carousel Rally
- 11/03 Christmas Carousel
- 11/04 Christmas Carousel
- 11/05 Christmas Carousel
- 11/06 Christmas Carousel

2012 JANUARY 2012						
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				

- 1/03 Project Evaluation
- 1/05 Project Evaluation
- 1/08 Project Evaluation
- 1/10 General Meeting

Junior League of Abilene
774 Butternut
Abilene, TX 79602
(325) 677-1879

Return Service Requested

November Birthdays

11-03 Tami Galloway A
11-05 Jackie Hamp S
11-05 Teri Lovelace S
11-06 Clarise Heidenheim S
11-06 Risha Sanders A
11-07 Melissa Jacobs S
11-08 Sarah Lara A
11-08 Carolyn Watson S
11-10 Sheryl Kendrick S
11-11 Denise Jones S
11-11 Suzy McPhail S
11-12 LouAnn Davis S
11-12 Linda Frizzell S
11-12 Carol Hall S
11-12 Carol Morris S
11-12 Valerie Weilert S
11-12 Claudie Wilson S
11-13 Jeane McFarland S
11-13 Lenore Waldrop S
11-14 Sue Patton S
11-16 Mary Herron S
11-17 Glenna Cordray A
11-18 Anne Stonington S
11-19 Bobbie Gee S
11-20 Kim Thomas S
11-20 Margie Miles P
11-22 Lynda Calcote S
11-22 Lois Haynes S
11-22 Patty Knight S
11-22 Kedra Snead S
11-23 Denise Brandon A
11-23 Georgia Townsend S
11-23 Joi Turner A
11-24 Sharon Lawler S
11-25 Jennifer Bellar A
11-26 Tonia Cook A
11-27 Patti Holloway S
11-28 Frances Burditt S
11-28 Tifani Smith A

December Birthdays

12-01 Jayree Shaw S
12-02 Martha Webb S
12-04 Jennifer Lee-Schultz A
12-08 Trina O'Loughlin S
12-09 Barbara Brewington S
12-10 Rolanda Fulham S
12-10 Janelle Gooch S
12-10 Patricia Wilson S
12-11 Keena Porter A
12-11 Ashley Simpson P
12-12 Norma Schaffer S
12-13 Judy Matthews S
12-13 Nancy Williams S
12-14 Peggy Trotter S
12-14 Jamie Rye A
12-15 Donna Hanna S
12-16 Patricia Malm A
12-16 Chesley Martin A
12-18 Julie Dickerson P
12-19 Lori Chittenden A
12-20 Ruby Jo Day S
12-20 Toni Diller A
12-20 Helen Grace Eplen S
12-20 Allison Winklepleck A
12-21 Melanie Brown S
12-22 Susan Springer S
12-23 Mary Wyley Williamson S
12-23 Tracy Brandenberger A
12-24 Jamie Womack A
12-25 Mary Cooksey S
12-25 Carol Haynes S
12-28 Shari Dozier S
12-30 Debbie Ake S
12-31 Belinda Melson S
12-31 Tracy Holmes A

January Birthdays

1-01 Hilary Fischer P
1-03 Jamie Snider A
1-05 Denice Bailey S
1-05 Alana Jeter A
1-06 Lauren Long A
1-08 Laura Dyer S
1-08 Jessica Melson A
1-10 Keri Robinson S
1-10 Cynthia Pearson S
1-13 Stacy Hammond A
1-15 Chris Faehnle S
1-15 Sheila Richardson S
1-16 Lucy Kay Robinson S
1-16 Carolyn Barnhill-Rodriguez S
1-18 Jackie Batjer S
1-18 Holly DeShazo S
1-18 Stephanie Taylor S
1-20 Lynn Dickey S
1-20 Judy Lanman A
1-21 Linda Rothwell S
1-21 Sharon Owens A
1-22 Julie Grohman A
1-23 Jackie Cox S
1-24 Lisa Kuntz S
1-26 Peggy Beckham S
1-27 Rachel Harred A