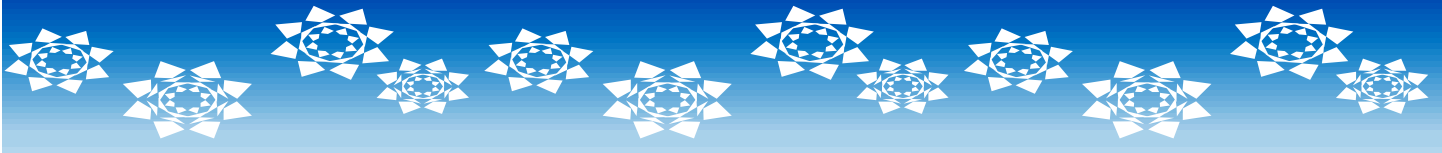


Service with a Smile

Members Newsletter of the Bermuda Junior Service League



Debate Wrap-up

The 18th Annual Middle and Senior School Debate tournament was a great success once again! Held at the Bermuda College on Saturday, November 17, 2007, over 60 students participated in this event. The students came from 10 schools and formed 16 debating teams.

After a full day of debate sessions, the winners of this important event were BHS A for the Senior School division and Warwick Academy for the Middle School division. Runners up were Cedarbridge Academy and Clearwater Middle School. This year there were over 57 professionals judging the competition, including Dame Jennifer Smith who judges the finals for the senior school every year.

This year, teams debated the statement 'this House believes that it is the responsibility of developed countries to protect the environment.' Past topics included the merits of using nuclear energy, the influence of the music industry on youth and whether voting in national elections should be compulsory.

The debate tournament started 18 years ago when Victoria Cox, a member of the Bermuda Junior Service League launched the tournament. The intent was to provide a forum, where middle and secondary school students in Bermuda could come together and compete in a non-sporting event. The tournaments have grown over the years, not just in numbers of participants, judges and volunteer support, but also in the quality of the debating skills. It is in the honor of Ms. Cox



Members of the winning BHS team A are presented with the trophy by Permanent Secretary, Ellen Kate Horton.

Make your holidays a bit 'greener' with these simple tips:

- Sew together your scraps of fabric to create unique gift wrapping
- Order an organic turkey for better health
- Buy locally produced foods for your holiday spread to cut down on 'food miles'
- Unplug your Christmas lights at night—plugs left in still sap energy from the outlet!
- Ask people what they want for Christmas to ensure your gift is needed/used by the

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Holiday Social

Once again, Neil Kempe opened her home to us and made her famous Egg nog and mulled cider. We were joined by a few life members and had four guests join us. The wine exchange went really well. Our little hostess, Cameron Dunstan helped the members get their assigned bottles.

I just want to extend my sincere wishes for Health, Happiness and Prosperity for 2008 to all of you and thank you for your support for the past six months.

Have a safe holiday!

—Susan

Some Hostessing Tips for Keeping your Sanity When you Have House Guests

Submitted by Julia Kempe

They're coming... Like an annual avalanche of good cheer and dirty towels, holiday house guests are rolling your way, with all the accompanying chaos and comedy. "What are your best strategies and tips for handling holiday house guests?" Here are some Hostess ideas that may help.

I tell guests who've been here before, "The first time you're a guest — the second time, you're family." That means make yourself at home, but clean up after yourself when you're finished. Then I make sure to show them where everything is: plates, glasses, snacks, towels.

Put them to work! At my house, guests know they'll be called upon to do stuff like set the table or cut up veggies.

Plan out breakfasts, lunches and dinners in advance, and post the plan on the fridge. That way anyone can look at it and see what is going to be eaten when. They won't eat everything, and someone else can help you prep the food.

Leave Clorox wipes in the bathroom. Someone is bound to notice misses and spills and



Skinny eggnog (Contributed by Bea White)

4 eggs, separated
2cups low fat vanilla ice milk
1 cup skim milk
1 cup 80 proof whiskey



2 tbsps. 80proof rum
3 tbsps sugar
Nutmeg

Beat egg yolks until light. Beat in ice milk, then milk, whiskey and rum. Set aside. Using clean beater and bowl, beat egg whites until stiff but not dry. Gradually beat in sugar. Fold beaten egg whites into egg-yolk mixture. Pour into serving bowl and sprinkle with nutmeg. *Makes 20 servings. 80 calories per cup!*



I pile all my unused sample bottles into a lovely basket, put it on the guest bath vanity with a sign that says, "Help yourself," and let them enjoy the free bonus lipstick that was not my color, or the little shampoo bottles I've never used.

Have at least one room that is a travel free zone. The living room perhaps. You can tell everyone to put their things in bedrooms. That way you have at least one room that doesn't look like craziness.



Every night, have the coffee for the next morning in the pot ready to go, so if a guest (I am looking in your direction, father-in-law) wakes up before you do, he can just push the button.

Be sure to ask guests what their itinerary is for visiting others, when they'll be around, etc. Hosting is easier if you know when you'll have some downtime to rest or catch up on laundry.

Well, here's how not to do it: I clean like a madwoman for weeks in advance to make the house bed-and-breakfast beautiful, make fancy dinners and then try to sneakily clean up after everybody and do laundry while my husband sits around talking with them, so there are enough clean towels and dishes for later. It's awful! I have visions of my mom doing the same exact thing for her guests when I was growing up. Ugh! This year I have a new policy: As long as the laundry is up to date and the bathroom is kept clean, most of the other housekeeping stuff can wait.

Move! That's my best advice. If they can't find you, they can't stay. LOL..



Christmas Projects of BJSL's Past



For current members, we do not always have a connection to past projects of the League, aside from the long standing efforts such as Debate. Hearing about BJSL efforts in past years gives us a glimpse into our history as an organization. Enjoy reading these Life Member recollections of past League projects.

(contributed by Bea White) I recall very fondly in the days when we modelled for Elspeth Gibson at City Hall, thinking I was cool by dragging my stole (there was a moongate through which we entered on the stage); but unfortunately it caught on the moongate and almost yanked me off my feet..

The League ran Santa's Grotto as a fundraiser at Christmas outside the Phoenix in 2003 and 2004.

(contributed by Robyn Larkin) We decorated the Pembroke Rest Home in December to give the residents some holiday cheer. Many of the residents would sit in the main room while we decorated, and one year, one woman fell asleep on Deb Narraway! When Deb tried to get up, the woman woke up and pulled her back onto the couch and proceeded to fall asleep again. *(This is no longer a project as the home closed in 2007.)*

The League was well known for their Christmas teas and cake sales held at private homes which were decorated for the Christmas season by members and opened to the public as fundraisers. These ran from the 1980's to early 2000's.

For those of you who are wondering what we still are involved in around the holiday season, here is our current list of Christmas projects:

- Hospital Christmas Bags—now in its 54th year, we deliver about bags to those who are in the hospitals in and around the Christmas holiday. In 2006 BJSL provided 433 Christmas Bags – which was an 18% increase over the last year. Organizers anticipate another increase in what we will provide.
- Gifts for the Family Centre children—we provide gifts for each of about 40 children who are clients of the Family Centre
- Family Centre Christmas party—BJSL members cook/bake to provide food for the clients of the Family Centre at their annual Christmas Party
- Christmas Cards—The League sells more than 50,000 Christmas cards each year. The cards feature original artwork donated by local artists each year, specifically designed for Christmas in Bermuda

Holiday Decorating Idea (Contributed by Bea White)

Pattern for net Xmas trees about a foot high - pastels look pretty, adorned with silver dust. Use a foam circle for base - and coat hanger through centre, to hold erect.

1-1/2 yds. of 72" wide nylon net, cut in folded strips (4 ply)

7-1/2 in up to 1 in, in 1/2 ins. strips

Thread with appropriate colour thread and gather up each strip after cutting, into a circle and drop around the coat hanger, in descending order. Can add small Xmas ball etc. at top.

We did these as a fund raiser, in Texas in 1958 when I was a bride and legal secretary and belonged to the University of Texas National Association of University Dames. We were awarded our PH T's - Putting Husbands Through (college). so vice Pres. of the Texas Legal Secs. Association.



Member Profile: Francezia Campbell



Well hello everyone!!! My name is Francezia Campbell; breakdown is France zia. I love having people trying to pronounce or spell my name.

I love to travel and it is one of my life goals to travel the world. My two favorites destinations so far are Cape Town, South Africa and Santorini, Greece. I truly enjoy exploring other cultures because the adventures remind me to appreciate living in Bermuda.

Why do I volunteer? I want to acknowledge my wonderful mother, Malver Campbell, who instilled in me to think of and give unto others. My mother entered the "Golden Gates" October 2005 and I am proud of her legacy; which touched and changed the lives of many people.

I have followed in her footsteps and have enjoyed volunteerism. I clearly remember saying, "When I buy a car, I am going to become a Big Sister." For two years I was a Big Sister with the Big Brothers and Sisters. Presently, I am an Executive Member of BJSJ and a Committed Partner with the MIRRORS Program. Also, I assist with PALS Annual Fair, BIFF, Annual BPSU Marshal for Breast Cancer Walk and whenever someone calls and needs a helping hand.

I want to wish you all Seasons Greetings and Merry Christmas! Remember, December is the month for giving and singing joyful praises for all the blessings we have and to provide blessings for those in need. Give with a cheerful heart. ***Editor's note: Francezia celebrates a birthday: December 23. Feel free to send her birthday greetings this month!*

Editorial Page, New York Sun, 1897

I am 8 years old. Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus. Papa says, "If you see it in The Sun, it's so." Please tell me the truth, is there a Santa Claus?
—Virginia O'Hanlon

Virginia, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a sceptical age. They do not believe except what they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little. In this great universe of ours, man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus.

He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! how dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus! It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The external light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies. You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if you did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world.

No Santa Claus? Thank God he lives and lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay 10 times 10,000 years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.

MERRY
CHRISTMAS!

Save These Dates!

DECEMBER	12	7:00 pm	<u>Christmas Social at Neil Kempe' s House*</u>
	20	6-8pm	<u>Hospital Christmas Bag Stuffing at Rosemont*</u>
	21	9am	<u>Hospital Christmas Bag delivery*</u>
JANUARY	8		<u>Executive Meeting</u>
	24	2:30-3:30	<u>Blood Donation*</u>
FEBRUARY	1		<u>Membership Appreciation Night</u>
	5		<u>Executive Meeting</u>
	11		<u>General Meeting*</u>
	23		<u>Rocky Horror Picture Show*</u>

LIFE MEMBERS: You are welcome to join us at any event you see with a star (*) beside it! We look forward to seeing you around.

