THE SPIRIT OF GIVING – HOW THE JLP IS GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY

By Regina Raiford Babcock

With all of the hustle and bustle of the hectic holiday season, it is important to take a moment to consider the true meaning of giving. The Junior League of Philadelphia with its mission of volunteering helps us define the philanthropic spirit. Many people see the Junior League of Philadelphia only as a community outreach organization focused on literacy projects. As our members know, however, this organization touches life through all of our committees and actions. This year has already been busy for the League. While the year officially begins in June, we get into full swing in September when our new Provisionals join us. Our community projects and fundraising efforts then kick into high gear.

Our membership expanded by 100 people when we welcomed the new Provisional class, which represents the entire Philadelphia region. This year we have 285 active members with 38% percent placed on our six community projects. Our 581 Sustainers continue to remain active through several clubs and several community projects that in the past year included the Waterworks of Fairmount Park and Books to Grow on. The Sustainers already started planning their next community outreach program for the spring.

Managed and owned by the Philadelphia Foundation, our Endowment Fund was started with a $95,000 contribution from the JLP’s assets and has grown through the appreciation of the assets and additional contributions. The JLP established the fund to provide the League with a sustainable, long-term source of income to support our community projects. The grant funds will only be used to support our operations if there is a shortfall.

Each year, the JLP is entitled to either withdraw four percent of the average of the last 20 quarters balance or let the funds remain invested. If the Board elects to accept the grant from the Foundation (i.e., take the four percent), the funds can be used for either community projects or operations.

Last year, the Board elected to use the money for operations. The Board will vote on this again in January. When the grants are received, a one percent management fee is paid to the Philadelphia Foundation. The Foundation’s recently completed annual report is available on their website www.philafound.org.

Aside from the great bargains, the Main Line Closet is another great example of the spirit of giving. In August, members contributed 85 volunteer hours and over $2000 in quota to the thrift shop. Members donated a whopping $6000 in September. As of June, 187 member shifts were completed, 660 quotas have been donated with a value of $20,022. “Unfortunately members tend to wait until the last minute and we really need people to volunteer now,” urged Patty Franks, manager, Main Line Closet.

Along with raising funds, the Closet links the League with the surrounding community by providing a wonderful opportunity for students and community groups to volunteer and contribute. “I love seeing the enthusiastic, energetic high school students. Hopefully, one of these little girls will see the League and want to join,” said Franks.

Fundraising is an important aspect of the League and without the efforts that this Council provides; we would not be able to...
By Kara Goodchild
The Holiday Season is upon us. December is filled with celebrations, shopping, gift giving, and, for many people, giving back. It is particularly appropriate to reflect upon one aspect of our mission, promoting volunteerism, during the Holiday Season.

It is not always easy to convince someone that giving back to the community is worth her time and effort. We are all very busy and sometimes it seems just too challenging to make time for someone you do not know or to perform a deed for which there will be no immediate thanks. It reminds me of a few years ago when I tried to teach my own children the importance of giving to others (not an easy task when you are dealing with 4- and 5-year-olds). I took my kids shopping to pick out toys for the holiday toy drive sponsored by their school. They roamed the toy store pointing out toy after toy that they wanted. The boys had a hard time picking out a toy for another child. This was a new concept to them. From their perspective, when they had to select a present to take to a birthday party they knew that the birthday child would reciprocate with a goodie bag. Frustrated, one of them finally asked, “Mom, why do we have to buy toys for other kids?” I responded, “Because not everybody is as lucky as we are.” He then said, “Why can’t Santa just take care of it,?” a fair question given the myth of Santa Claus. Doing my best not to diminish the magic of Old Saint Nick, I gently explained that making sure that all kids had a merry Christmas was too big a job for Santa alone, so we had help by acting as extra elves. In adult speak; we simply cannot assume that someone else will do the giving.

If we really try to fulfill the mission of promoting volunteerism, we must inspire people to give of themselves and not to leave it to someone else. As Junior Leaguers, we lead by example. Simply being a member of the Junior League of Philadelphia demonstrates a long-term commitment to volunteer service. Yet, we do not accomplish our mission merely by being members. Instead, we do so by diligently working at a committee placement and speaking proudly about our projects and our organization. To hear a dedicated volunteer talking about the satisfaction she got by working on a project or to see the impassioned look in a volunteer’s eye when she discusses the work she is doing makes obvious the rewards of volunteering. That is the best way we can promote volunteerism and fulfill our mission.

I wish you all a happy and healthy Holiday Season!

COMMUNITY

Laws of Life Gets into Full Swing

By Kathy Douglas
On October 4, 2006, the committee hosted the Teacher Orientation Luncheon where over 30 schools participated (our largest to date). As in years past, the Templeton Foundation, the Philadelphia School District, Sullivan Community Capital, and The Junior League of Philadelphia are sponsoring the PIE contest. Each organization had an opportunity to speak about the importance of this event.

Todd Pride of Sullivan Community Capital spoke to JLP members at the October General Membership Meeting. Mr. Pride explained the genesis of the competition and his vision for the future. JLP members were also able to view the video and a power point presentation featuring Ms. Eliso’s artwork and the words for the winning essay and musical submission (the winning pieces are available on the JLP website).

The Laws of Life Committee will be reaching out for JLP support for the PIE Contest in two ways:

First Round Judging – Scoring submissions at home. You will receive 40 or fewer essays (500 words or less). There is space for 100 volunteers. All scoring must be completed by February 12, 2006.

Judging Event as a Done-In-A-Day, on January 27th. There are two shift options: 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. or 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. The morning participants will serve as first round art judges and prepare essay packets to be distributed to first round essay judges. The afternoon participants will also serve as first round art judges and will deliver essay packets to first round judges’ homes. There is space for 30 people to register for this DIAD.

Volunteers will judge the hundreds of artworks we expect to receive. JLP members receive mission credit for participating in the DIAD. These judging events are also open to non-JLP members. If you are interested in volunteering, R.S.V.P. on the JLP website AND send an e-mail to PIE Contest chairwoman, Justine Hansen, at justinehansen@hotmail.com. Your e-mail is necessary so that we may provide you with event reminders. DIAD volunteers need to state whether they are willing to deliver essay packets (P.M. shift) in their e-mail. First round judges need to include the following information: weekend phone, e-mail, and address.

The PIE Contest Committee looks forward to a successful 2006/2007 Contest and appreciates the assistance of the JLP in ensuring that success!
MEMBERSHIP

Meetings
January 16th  General Membership Meeting at Loews Hotel, Philadelphia

February (third week)  General Membership Meeting at Suburban Location

March (third week)  Area Meetings

April (third week)  Voting Meeting

May  Annual Dinner

Trainings
“Relational Aggression, Bullying in Schools”
Will be the January Training One Mission Credit
Please check the Calendar section of the JLP website for more information or Contact Adie Amey (610)952-1538

Membership Transfers
Let us give a big welcome to our new transfers:

Actives
Elena Anastasiou from Greater Princeton, NJ
Annie Charlesworth from New York, NY

Sustainers
Margaret Hendricks from Boston, MA
Suzanne O’Brien from Atlanta, GA

Let us give a heartfelt thank you and goodbye to the following members:

Actives
Kelly Anderson to San Francisco, CA
Raquel Guthrie to Chicago, IL
Kate Rollinger to Kansas City, MO
Lisa Schleig Schaner to San Antonio, TX

MAIN LINE CLOSET
By Patty Franks

The holiday season began in earnest for the Shop on November 1st after the last few pieces of Halloween were packed away. We began decorating the Shop with the help of a community service class from Germantown Academy under the direction of active member, Peggy Cook Bradley, who is also a teacher at the school. We have lots of merchandise for the season including a huge array of festive party clothing.

We will be open the week between Christmas and New Year’s Day on December 27th, 28th and 29th returning on January 2nd. We remain busy all winter so please keep the donations flowing. The more the Shop makes, the more the League can return to the community.

FUNDRAISING

Upcoming Dates
Save the Date for Casino Night
February 23, 2007
At the Crystal Tea Room – Center City

United Way

Does your company offer an opportunity to make an employee donation through the United Way? The JLP is one of the designated organizations listed through the United Way. In order for the JLP to receive a donation please use the donor code 01790.

Neiman Marcus Event
By Kate For ester

On Saturday, October 21st, the JLP held a fashion show at Neiman Marcus - King of Prussia Mall. Over 50 women attended the event, and were treated to a delicious butlered brunch from Zodiac, Neiman’s award winning cafe. President Kara Goodchild was present to welcome everyone, and the guests viewed a private presentation of winter fashions and Stephen Lagos’ latest jewelry collection.

JLP Purchasing Power

Members: do not forget to sign up to participate in EScript, Genuardi’s and Growers Flowers, that all give back to the JLP during this Holiday Season.

Casino Night

Help make our most important fundraiser of the year a Success! The fundraising committee is in urgent need of donations for our Casino Night Silent & Live auction. Help us wow the crowd and make this our best silent auction ever! Please contact Susan Henley at henleyemail2000@yahoo.com or 610-246-9310 with your questions and donations.

ENDOW THE FUTURE OF THE JLP!

Why has the JLP created an Endowment?
The income derived from the Endowment Fund will enable us to increase the impact of our community service projects and perpetuate our mission of outstanding volunteer service.

When can I donate?
Today or anytime during the year! This is the best time of the year, because your donation is tax deductible. Send your check made payable to TPF/JLP Endowment and mail it to the JLP Office today.

How can I participate?
Members are asked to honor your years of community service by donating to the Endowment Fund. You may also honor someone with a tribute or memorial gift.
FINANCE

By Jeanne Thompson

Our Endowment is crucial to the League; it supports our future and community projects. The JLP appreciates all donations, and no gift is too small, especially during the holiday season. Your gift will be sent to the Philadelphia Foundation, where it will be pooled with other small non-profit organizations to have a larger financial impact to the JLP. Each year, the Board elects to use the income from our Endowment Fund to either help our community grants or support the League’s operating costs, which include the funding of our community-based projects. We ask that members continue to support the JLP during the Spirit of Giving Drive by mailing a check made payable to TPF/JLP Endowment to the League Office at 27 West Lancaster Avenue, Ardmore, PA 19003. This is a tax-deductible donation.

SOCIAL GROUPS

Dining Out Club will meet on December 14th at Chickie’s and Pete’s in South Philly – contact Carol Rose at phillycarol@comcast.net

Wine Club will meet on Friday, December 8th at the Westin in Center City for the Wine and Cheese Series. Please contact Carol Rose at phillycarol@comcast.net

Members who are interested in joining an existing club please contact the club directly. If you would like to start a new club please contact name, phone and email, and ask that interested members R.S.V.P. prior to the event.

New Additions

Candace and Jonathan Balch welcomed Caroline Matson Balch on September 18th

Joe and Tiffany Baldino welcomed Ella Nicole Baldino into the world on September 22nd.

Martha and Michael Hess welcomed Michael O’Neill Hess III into the world on October 19th.

Nominating

By Brooke Donovan

The JLP grows stronger each year as committed women share their talents, recognize their strengths and weaknesses pursue self-development, and share a vision for the community through their committee choices. Each New Year brings challenges and opportunities to grow as leaders. We do not always recognize in ourselves the potential for leadership. Yet, as women who have chosen to join the JLP, we are all community leaders who chose to look beyond the borders, to think things through, and to have an immense impact in improving the community through meaningful committee experiences.

Engaging, energetic, socially conscious women who want to create change by setting good and specific goals surround us. We are women who have a demanding vision, goal setting priorities, and the ability to apply innovative solutions to make organizational improvements within the JLP and implement new programs within the community. We are women who strive to make a meaningful contribution to the mission of the JLP.

To facilitate change in the community, we must first continue to maintain focus, remain optimistic and persistent within the challenges of leadership in the JLP. The road to leadership requires that we identify and keep up to date on trends that affect the organization. It is important to understand the linkage between competencies and mission needs. Personal development requires that we remain open to change, new information and unexpected obstacles by adjusting to new situations that warrant attention and resolution. At the same time, we are required to balance our personal life, work, and community service by accepting requirements, policies, and procedures.

As a Sustainers, Active or Provisional member of the JLP it is essential to recognize the potential for leadership that exists in each of us. Take the responsibility to mentor and influence others who share the spirit and commitment. Look around you and within yourself to nominate and accept leadership positions. The Nominating Committee works to create and sustain an organizational culture that encourages others towards a spirit of service, shared vision, and the ability to translate vision into action through leadership positions within the league.

Community service helps to discover the world around you. It has been said, “we cannot become what we are meant to be by remaining who we are.” Choose to define yourself - get on the Fast Track to Leadership.

Reading Rocks

By Krista Vaughan

The second Reading Rocks festival will take place on Saturday, December 9, 2006 at the Roxborough YMCA. The festival, which promotes literacy, is geared towards children in grades K-6 and will have a holiday theme. During the event, the children will participate in interactive games and activities with a reading focus. They will also earn ‘credits’ that can then be exchanged for new books and pencil packs, which contain an assortment of school supplies.

The Reading Rocks committee is planning a third festival to be held on Saturday April 14, 2007. This festival will also be held at the Roxborough YMCA. In addition, the committee is considering planning a fourth festival to be held at the Christian Street YMCA in the spring.

Overall, we hope to impact 300 children this year! League members can earn a Mission Credit by volunteering at these events. Check online for details or for more information, please contact Kristen Corcoran (kristen_corcoran@yahoo.com) or Jennifer Shacklett (jmstirk@hotmail.com)
By Pat Suplee

As we get older, we are told we should do crossword puzzles, solve Sudokus, and play bridge to keep our minds agile. I suggest that you keep your involvement just as flexible — give of yourself and your resources. It keeps you alive, loving, and involved.

If you cried, as I did, over the killing of the innocent Amish girls, and wanted to do something — do it! You are making a statement and helping, by doing so! I recently read an article about a young nursing mother in Columbus, Missouri, who decided to send her excess breast milk to South African HIV/AIDS orphaned babies. She organized her neighborhood and got DHL to donate free shipping. What started with one person is now the nonprofit International Breast Milk Project — she has made a difference.

In the League, we have numerous examples of women taking responsibility and showing initiative. Ginny Peckham, as a provisional, saw the need to help children who were abused or neglected. The League helped and encouraged her and now the Family Support Services, a nationally known child abuse prevention agency, is a multimillion-dollar agency that makes a difference. Mrs. Lecompte (Pris) Davis and others answered the call of the Volunteer Action Counsel and provided for the elderly and infirmed much needed transportation to medical appointments, and Wheels was started. Again, the League and its members made a difference. Susan Myers, waving her famous placemat showing the former glories of the Waterworks, championed its restoration. With the League’s money and members’ support, she kept it from falling into utter ruin and made the Waterworks Restoration a cause with which the City, Fairmount Park, and civic leaders were proud to be associated. Suzanne Vander Veer is another example of one person with an idea making a difference. With Sandy Williams and Judy Michaelis, she started Bed, Breakfast, and Blossoms as a fundraiser. Over the next eight years, it blossomed to include the Barnes, hence BBB&B; raised more than $65,000; and, showcased Philadelphia for members of Junior Leagues throughout the country. The Blossom Fund (the accumulated profits of BBB&B) continues to give back by making contributions and grants to community projects. Just last year, Mary Burr had the idea that Sustainers as a group could be more involved. In a project that honored the former League start-up, Family Support Services, Inc., Mary, her co-chairs Deedie O’Donnell, and Maureen Luke and their committee of more than 40 Sustainers collected 5,000 books for young children and their needy parents who had no money to buy books and no concept of reading to their kids. Books to Grow On, as that project was called, made a difference. The Larks sing in nursing homes throughout the City and the area each week to bring joy and to interact with the elderly. Many Sustainers are shouldering significant responsibilities with their churches, inner-city choirs, library boards and other nonprofit agencies.

Involvement, commitment, and action will keep you young — Just do it! Holiday Greetings and Peace in the New Year!

Sustainer News
Giving Back - Just Do it!

Let’s Do It Again! Another Sustainer Community Project

What makes a Sustainer project successful? Judging by the impact of BBB&B and last year’s Books to Grow On projects, success can be defined by a clear objective, an initiative that matters to the Philadelphia region, one that can benefit from the power of trained volunteers, is flexible in terms of its needs and requirements of its volunteers, and can be successfully accomplished within a reasonably short period of time.

Those of us who have been involved in either of these efforts recognize the positive impact that we can have on others when we work together towards a common goal. The success of these previous endeavors coupled with indications from many Sustainers that they are willing to roll up their sleeves again to accomplish something significant while having fun with each other suggests that we should do it again!

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A few Sustainers have come together twice to discuss some options…many of which stem from the Books to Grow On experience. However, we have not yet defined the perfect opportunity. There are lots of good ideas and a large number of women ready to participate. Your voice still needs to be heard.

Cindy (Mezey) Landreth agreed to chair the effort this year. She will be setting up meetings to discuss options, formulate plans, and get the project rolling early in the New Year. Please call (215-592-8398) or email her (LSLandreth@aol.com) to share your ideas and to indicate your interest in joining the Sustainer Project Team.

Historic Cairnwood by Candlelight
On Thursday December 14, come and experience the grandeur of a bygone era as you explore this Beaux Arts country house by the glow of candlelight. Light refreshments in keeping with the Victorian style—mulled cider, desserts, coffee, or tea will also be served.

Bus pick-up at the Radnor Hotel at 5:30 with a light supper provided. Please make $38.00 check payable to the JLP, and R.S.V.P. to Nancy Henry, 416 Chandlee Dr, Berwyn, PA 19312, at 610-408-8525 by December 7th.

If you have any questions please contact Jane Green at 610-566-8167 or Marianne McClatchy 610-519-1160.

White Elephant Gift Exchange
For all those who love the annual event, we are pleased to announce that it will be held January 9, 2007. Be sure to hold on to all of those “treasures” you receive during the holidays.

Visit the website, www.juniorleaguephila.org, for information about upcoming events.
THE SPIRIT OF GIVING – HOW THE JLP IS GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY

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have the outreach of our community projects. The year began with our passive fundraisers, which included purchasing power from eScript, Growers Flowers, Genuardi’s, and the Macy’s Shop for a Cause Event. The active fundraisers for the year included the Neiman Marcus Event and the Winter Spree.

The Finance Council works very hard at making sure there are enough funds for our organization to operate. They do much more than collect dues and perform budget reimbursements. The Council oversees the payments of our building and our endowment. They also work diligently to invest our money in a variety of accounts to ensure that our investments grow and that we will continue to thrive throughout the century.

Currently, 38% percent of our active members are participating in community projects. Books Aloud, an outreach program for parents, daycare providers, and teachers, served 180 children last year at local libraries. Reading Rocks placed books in the hands of over 300 children. Moreover, the Cultural Clinic currently enriches 32 girls, with plans to reach upwards of 50 girls.

“A lot of our programs are just getting started (in October) and we are really excited about this year’s upcoming projects,” explained Sam Soldan, Community Council Director. This year, the Council scheduled approximately 15 Done-in-a-Day projects, and the Achieve College Today project is launching. These hands-on projects allow members to share their talents, improve their communities, and experience the joys of giving.

During the holiday season and throughout the year, the JLP’s mission reminds us of the importance of reaching out of our busy lives. The League is all about making connections and by connecting with our community; we are experiencing the true spirit of benevolence.

ADVERTISEMENTS

“It’s always ourselves we find in the sea.” ONE BLOCK FROM THE BEACH IN OCEAN CITY NJ. Give a week at the shore for Christmas with 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 2nd floor, and sleeps 8. Call Margy Conlon 610-640-4124.

Personal Shopping at Bloomingdale’s — King of Prussia “Like No Other Store in the World.” Hate to shop and no time? Shop with convenience and know how with Kathie Guenther, Sustainer and Manager of Personal Shopping. The Great fall fashions are in! (610)337-6382.

Paris for Rent - Stunning 1 bedroom Left Bank apartment near the Musee d’Orsay, available for weekly rental. Very quiet, cheerful, elevator sleeps four. For photos and information, contact Wendy Crowley (Pasadena League) at (626)395-7877 or davenportdat@earthlink.net.

BOARD UPDATES can be found on the JLP Website www.juniorleaguephila.org
UPCOMING DATES

DECEMBER
2nd  Done-in-a-Day – Cooper Hospital
4th  Sustainer Brush-Up Bridge – 1:00 to 4:00 - Hostess - Jean Murdock (610) 642-7283
6th  Club Monaco Shopping Event – 5:00 to 8:00, 1503 Walnut Street.
7th  Sustainer Board Meeting – 12:00 noon – Hostess -Pam Crutchfield (610) 296-4436
8th  Wine Club – 5:30 pm at the Westin Lobby Bar in Center City
8th  Sustainer Cooking Klatch – 10:00 a.m. -Hostess -Barbara Best (610) 325-3653
9th  Reading Rocks! At the Roxborough YMCA – Mission Credit Available
14th  Dining Club at Chickie’s and Pete’s in South Philadelphia
14th  Evening Sustainers – 5:30 p.m. -Historic Calnwood by Candlelight – RSVP Nancy Henry
19th  Winterthur Event – 5:00 to 9:00 pm

JANUARY
8th  Sustainer Brush-Up Bridge –1:00 to 4:00 - Hostess – Marge Devlin (610) 647-4122
9th  Evening Sustainers – White Elephant Exchange – contact Jane Green (610) 566-8167
11th Sustainer Cooking Klatch – 12:00 noon - Hostess Jean Alsentzer (215) 242-9212
18th  Sustainer Bookmarks - 7:30 pm - Hostess–Nancy Hebard (610) 293-9373
18th  Sustainer Brush-Up Bridge-1:00 to 4:00 – Hostess -Barbara Gord (610) 975-0492

For up to the minute events and dates, please check the website www.juniorleaguephila.org

HOTLINE

Deadlines
January is November 25th
February is December 25th
March is January 25th

In order to publish the Hotline in a timely manner, articles are to be submitted via email to the JLP Website at hotline@juniorleaguephila.org

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The Junior League of Philadelphia, Inc is an organization of women committed to promoting volunteerism, 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.