Sixteen seventh and eighth grade girls from Henry C. Lea Elementary School, Penn Alexander School and Charles R. Drew Elementary gathered with Cultural Clinic committee members to attend a hip-hop dance act on Saturday, November 8 at the Annenberg Center for Performing Arts.

Prior to the show, the young women enjoyed lunch at Marathon Grill in University City while learning about “popping,” “locking” and other dance moves central to hip-hop and breakdance performances.

Following lunch was a high-energy performance by the Rubberbandance Group (RBDG), one of Canada’s premier dance troupes named for the founder for his “Rubberband” dancing ability. Combining elements of contemporary storytelling, breakdancing, hip-hop, modern and classical dance six dancers told a story of humanity and relationships through a fusion of dance and theatre performance.

The theme of RBDG’s show was “Punto Ciego,” or “Blind Spot.” The use of video, audio recording, audience interaction and set design resulted in an action-packed show.

The day concluded with an exclusive meet-and-greet with two of the performers and members of Cultural Clinic. The dancers discussed the show and a career in dance performance. Before ending the Saturday excitement, the students snapped some photos with the performers and their friends.

Rubberbandance Group performers Louise Michel Jackson and Lila-Mae G. Talbot (center) pose with local middle school students after the show at the Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts.

Cultural Clinic Breaks Out with Rubberbandance Group

By Kristen Insalaco

Rubberbandance Group

By Kristen Insalaco

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Calling All Chefs! JLP’s First Chili Cook-off!

Get ready - The Cookbook committee is raising funds for our upcoming cookbook, Philadelphia: Food and Friends. We’re having a chili contest on Saturday, January 31st from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. at St. Christopher’s Church at 226 Righters Mill Road in Gladwyne, PA. We will be kicking off the Super Bowl weekend with good food and great friends.

The cost to enter the contest is $15 and chefs should bring enough chili to feed 20 - 30 people. Prizes will be given for crowd favorite, best vegetarian, and best poultry. The recipe for the chili that the judges name as the best overall gets into the Cookbook! Of course, we’ll have salad, cornbread and lots of fixin’s as well. Cost to attend will be $25 per person and $40 per couple. Kids under 12 eat for free! So bring the family and get a warm, fun lunch while supporting an important fund-raising effort for the JLP.

Provisional Fundraiser: Shopping Event at Suburban Square in Ardmore

The provisional class is planning a shopping event at the Suburban Square shopping center in Ardmore, PA on February 7, 2009. JLP Provisionals will be selling tickets for $20 each which will entitle shoppers to exciting discounts at some of the retailers in the Suburban Square shopping center. Lilly Pulitzer has already agreed to participate!! The proceeds from the fundraiser will go to support the JLP’s Community Projects. Check the website for more details and information on purchasing a ticket!
President’s Perspective
By Heidi Tirjan
It’s 2009 and the children of today may be the first generation ever to have a shorter lifespan than their parents. Lack of exercise, an “indoor lifestyle” and unhealthy eating habits have contributed greatly to health problems affecting kids today. Childhood obesity, asthma, and attention-deficit disorder have all increased over the past few decades. These chronic conditions may lead to pulmonary, cardiovascular, and mental health problems in adulthood. Outdoor activity in the natural environment has taken a back seat to television, video games, the computer, and demanding schoolwork and extracurricular schedule. Today’s youth are losing the contact with the natural environment that is potentially beneficial for their health and well-being. We are rapidly losing the knowledge of our natural environment that would enable us sustain it for years to come. Here are the staggering statistics: 16% of U.S. children, that’s 9 million kids, (ages 6-19) are overweight or obese. Over the past 30 years this number has tripled in kids ages 6-11. Obesity has increased. In addition, Attention–Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADD/ADHD) is a serious public health problem that impacts 4.3% of children ages 4-17. ADD/ADHD impairs school performance and socialization and can persist into adulthood. 9.4% of children in the U.S. now have asthma, and type-2 diabetes, hypertension, and cardiovascular disease is on the rise in children as well. At the same time our parks and open space are being diminished and lack necessary funding. Evidence suggests that children and adults benefit so much from contact with Nature that land conservation is now being viewed as a public health strategy. After seeing these statistics the JLP went to work on researching the correlation between health, wellness and the environment. How will we teach children, families and the entire community to be good stewards of their HEALTH and the NATURAL ENVIRONMENT at the same time? OUTDOOR ACADEMICS.
The Outdoor Academics programming currently consists of three projects. Campus Gardens – this committee has an educational and physical component – teaching kids in the Philadelphia School district about healthy foods, how to build and sustain a garden and then getting outside to create the garden. RESPECT Nature partners with the Norristown School District and Riverbend Environmental Education Center. The children experience an educational field trip to Riverbend. Our committee then hosts natural science nights at the elementary schools so kids will learn more about the natural world around them and become good stewards of the environment. The JLP Green Volunteer Corps leads straight to our mission of promoting voluntarism encouraging community groups and corporations to volunteer. The team learns about indigenous and invasive species and works on the cleaning and greening of Fairmount Park; a much needed effort since funds for the park have been drastically reduced.
The Project Research and Development committee has been working on new programming to add to Outdoor Academics, some will focus on projects that get kids outside to play, a physical legacy (like a stewardship center or playground) and fundraising programs geared towards our Outdoor Academics focus. We will continue to foster initiatives with current and future partners that will in turn inspire and generate action. Through Outdoor Academics, the JLP will strive to share the vision of a healthy future for children, communities and the environment that sustain us all. I invite you all to come to our next general membership meeting on January 12th where we will be discussing our important focus of Outdoor Academics.

Update from the Green Volunteer Committee
By Ashley Alphin
The Green Volunteer Committee is one of the new committees this year. We have approximately twenty members. Our mission is to promote voluntarism by developing relationships with corporate and community partners. At the October 25th event, over fifty trees were planted, plus we bagged ten trash bags of unwanted vines and shrubbery with the help of the Franklin Institute Museum Youth program. Fall Park clean-ups were held at the Tacony Creek Park in the northeast part of Philadelphia. All JLP members can participate in our events and earn mission credits. We plan to make a difference, one tree at a time! 

Green Volunteer Committee members clear out vines and create new meadows and paths.

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Pam Maimone, Sustainer Chair-Elect
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Hours: Monday – Saturday 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Sunday 12 p.m. – 4 p.m.

The Junior League of Philadelphia
The JLP works with AJLI in a Governance Pilot

Think back to the first time you learned about Mary Harriman who founded the first Junior League in New York City at the turn of the twentieth century. Have you ever wondered what it must have felt like for her to be a pioneer in creating a powerful women's organization? Our League is in an incredible position to find out first hand, as we were selected to be pioneers in a pilot project that the Association of Junior Leagues International (AJLI) has convened to explore new directions in League governance.

Why did AJLI decide to undertake this pilot project? AJLI surveyed League members about what satisfies them about their League experience, and among the top answers are:

- Participating in a well-run League
- Doing meaningful community work
- Expanding personal development and growth
- Developing leadership skills

AJLI's research has shown that Junior League Boards must be able to lead strategically. The governance pilot will create models for other Leagues to follow so that we all can achieve greater impact in our communities well into the future.

Now in our second century, the world in which we operate is dramatically different from that in which Mary Harriman found herself. Tomorrow's Junior Leagues need new models for governance and strategic leadership; models that enable Leagues to set powerful, long-term results. To achieve this, a Junior League's board needs to be able to devote the majority of its time to governing and leading for the future. And in order for that to happen, the structure and focus of the board needs to change. As pioneers we will be looking at such innovations as: longer board terms so that we are being future-focused, redefined board job descriptions that emphasize visionary and strategic leadership, new ways of managing our work that support more efficient operations, and corresponding changes in our nominating processes to support both effective boards and strong management.

There are three other Leagues that are part of the governance pilot: the JL's of Boise, Cleveland, and London. President-Elect Sam Soldan, is our League's point person for the project, so look for periodic updates and don't hesitate to call/email her if you have questions. We very much look forward to exciting days ahead and are honored to have been chosen to help lead the way for the whole Junior League movement.

R.E.S.P.E.C.T. Nature Committee Update

By Mary Ruth Thompson

The R.E.S.P.E.C.T. Nature Committee is off to an exciting start! We have hosted three Science Nights with the Norristown Area School District's 4th graders and have already seen the impact of our efforts. We witnessed the student's enthusiasm and trepidation while studying worms and how they react to various environmental changes. Committee members also got the student's “Spidey Senses” tingling teaching them about the world of spiders and the spider’s uncanny sensations.

It brings much pleasure supporting the students as they develop their knowledge of the environment through hands on activities. With the assistance of our Riverbend Environmental Education Center partner, students have had and will continue to have access to a wealth of information and informative answers to the many questions posed during the evening sessions. We look forward to hosting more successful Science Nights for the remaining 4th graders in the coming year!

Congratulations

Active Maria Renee McKinney and her husband, Ross, welcomed a daughter, Luisa Maria McKinney, on Saturday, November 1, 2008.

Active Liz Hardy welcomed a son, Bradford Adam Hardy, on September 17, 2008.

Support the Junior League when you shop at Grower's Flowers!

Before you send your loved ones flowers for Valentine’s Day be sure to click through the Growers Flowers link on the Junior League website. A portion of all sales will be donated back to the Junior League. http://www.jlphiladelphia.org/?nd=giveback
Vineyard Vines Tote Bags

Following the success of last year’s bags, we are again partnering with Vineyard Vines to create a custom Philadelphia-themed tote bag!

The totes are custom designed by Vineyard Vines - "Classic" tote with Philadelphia themed silk trim in raspberry. The Philadelphia theme features the Liberty Bell, pretzel, and the iconic LOVE sign. This design is exclusive and only available through the Junior League of Philadelphia. The tote is natural colored twill with navy base and handles and the lining is blue and white gingham. It has a zip closure, four interior pockets and measures 18” x 12” x 6”. The Vineyards Vines "classic" tote retails for $95. The JLP is selling it for $75. Additionally, members receive a Ways and Means credit for each bag purchased.

Order your tote bag today on the Junior League website. A portion of each sale benefits the Junior League of Philadelphia. The tote bags are in stock and can be picked up at the thrift shop or shipped to you for an additional charge. Place your order on the Retail Market section of our website: http://www.jlphiladelphia.org/?nd=retail

Leadership within the JLP

By Susan Henley

Are you considering a JLP leadership position for yourself next year? Have you ever wondered what a chair does in addition to holding monthly committee meetings?

Here are the general requirements and responsibilities of committee chairs in the JLP:

- Hold monthly committee meetings- schedule, organize and facilitate committee meetings.
- Act as a liaison- attend monthly council meetings and provide committee updates to the council director.
- Act as a mentor – provide leadership through guidance and example. Offer your committee members advice, support and encouragement to help ensure they have a positive committee experience.
- Take notice of your committee members- is someone doing an outstanding job? Let Nominating know!
- Attend leadership and/or committee trainings and events through out the year.
- Review and update the committee budget.
- Help to provide a smooth transition- meet with incoming chair at the end of the year to discuss committee responsibilities. Provide incoming chair with any documents, contacts, timelines, etc. to ensure a smooth transition into the upcoming year.

The Nominating committee is always looking for people who are interested in developing their leadership skills. If a chair position interests you, please fill out the Nominating Leadership survey to let us know of your interest. You can find the survey on our website, www.jlphiladelphia.org, under the forms tab. You may also contact a Nominating Committee member to learn more regarding the specific responsibilities and requirements of a particular committee. It is never too early to start thinking about what you would like to do next year!

Nominating Committee Members:

Kate Forester  Kate Farnham  Susan Henley  Jill Jokelson  Jodi Kerr
Mary Kate LoConte  Marcelle Parrish  Gaby Thorne  Amelia Warner
Sustainer News

By Betsy Mallon

Sustainer Chair’s Perspective

Happy New Year! Best wishes for a healthy, happy and prosperous New Year. (That last one may be a bit challenging!) 2009 brings many fun and exciting activities and events for Sustainers and the JLP as a whole! I have mentioned several below and encourage you to read the detailed information included in the January mailing, Hotline, e-lines and e-blasts or check the calendar on the website, www.jlphiladelphia.org.

Start off the New Year by joining the Evening Sustainers for our annual White Elephant Party. Bring a wrapped present (something you don’t want yourself) and a dish* to Nancy Greytok’s on Wednesday, January 7th at 6 pm. (*Look for details in the January mailing about food assignments). Nothing helps warm up a winter day like Sustainer camaraderie. The Sustainer Bridge groups, Garden Club and Bookmarks, among others, have a variety of opportunities for your participation.

Our newly formed Sustainer Blossom Fund Committee, under the leadership of Margy Conlon with committee members, Marilyn Sprague, Sandy Williams, Sue Rice, Judy Michaels, Pam Crutchfield, Mary Hinds and me, received and approved its first grant request. I am pleased to report that Sustainer Project co-chairs Marge Devlin and Judy Ruse and their committee have received a $5,000 grant to support the continuation of the highly successful Sustainer Project with Paul V. Fly School now another Norristown elementary school.

In addition to the clothing, books and educational materials, the Sustainer Project Committee and many JLP knitters and crafters have been busy making fantastic sweaters and 100’s of fleece hats for the students. Thanks to all who have helped and will continue to help over the winter!

We are expanding our Sustainer Project with hands-on support at the school. Deedie O’Donnell is working with the principal at the school to coordinate this next step in our project. Please look for further details or contact Deedie if you’re interested in volunteering.

Tea Time is just around the corner. Co-chairs Janney Ryan and Maree Regan are busy finalizing plans for the Neighborhood Teas scheduled for Wednesday, February 11th. Please check the January Mailing and Hotline for locations and times.

Now that my successful hip replacement is a year old, I look forward to attending Casino Night this year (Friday, February 20th at the Crystal Tea Room in Philadelphia) in high heels! A big showing of Sustainers had a great time last year and I hope you will join the fun this year!

I am thrilled to participate in the return of Bed, Breakfast, Blossoms & Barnes on March 4-6th, our 9th edition! I can’t wait to attend my first “behind the scenes” tour at the Flower Show. The BBB&B Committee ably led by the now very mobile Nancy Greytok and Susan Mease have spent tireless hours arranging this fabulous event. We have 60 plus Junior League and Garden Club ladies registered from all over the country, including California, Texas, South Carolina, Florida, Rochester, NY, and Chicago just to name a few.

Wow we’re a busy group! Here is wishing that the coming year is a glorious one that rewards all your future endeavors with success!

Cookbook Update - Philadelphia: Food and Friends

By Paula Brumbelow

The committee has been very busy this year in finalizing the recipes, photographs, and text to get the book ready to send to the printer. Our current priority is raising funds for printing. We held several fundraisers in the fall to defray printing costs but still need your support this spring to meet the JLP’s goal.

Our first event was a Thanksgiving Dessert Sale where members baked dishes for the family meal. We also created Holiday Hostess Gifts, which allowed members to buy homemade treats already packaged in a decorative tin so that members had one less holiday task. We expect to continue this new holiday tradition next year. In December, we also hosted a social cookie exchange where actives and sustainers got together to share cookies and holiday cheer.

In the New Year, we are eagerly anticipating our first annual Chili Cook-off, which will be held on Super Bowl Saturday, January 31st, and is open to members and their guests. The committee is also hard at work with upcoming events that will include a Tasting Party, bake sales, cookbook raffles, a backyard barbecue class in the late spring, a raffle for an in-home cooking lesson from a private chef, and a social event with a learning session on cheese and wine. We also still have sponsorship opportunities available and you may talk to Paula Brumbelow at brumbe@gmail.com if interested. We have also started a mailing list for non-league members about cookbook events and updates located at cookbookjlp@gmail.com, so if you know anyone who would like to be on the list, have them send a quick email.

We look forward to everyone being able to help make the cookbook a success and appreciate the contributions and continued support of our membership.

Betsy Mallon
Inaugural "Teal Meets Pink" Bridge Walk

By Ashley Hiser

In staying true to the mission of the Junior League of Philadelphia, Inc., the 2008-2009 Provisional members partnered with the National Ovarian Cancer Coalition (NOCC) on Sunday, September 28th for their inaugural “Teal Meets Pink” Bridge Walk to promote awareness of the devastating genetic link of breast and ovarian cancers. It was certainly an early and soggy day, however, the provisional members were an enthusiastic bunch at 6:30 a.m., and they captained the set-up, tear-down, registration and logistics teams. The NOCC depended on the 100 members of the 2008-2009 Provisional class for the success of their event, and our Provisionals more than came through that day!

The walk began at Rutgers University in Camden. Volunteers from various ovarian and breast cancer awareness groups, several JLP actives, sustainers and provisionals, and many other supportive walkers crossed the Ben Franklin Bridge and stopped in Franklin Square near Independence Hall for an awareness rally. Pat Ciarrocchi, news anchor on CBS3 News, emceed a powerful group of presenters who strongly urged the volunteers to communicate the signs and symptoms of ovarian cancer to all of the women in their lives. Education is the key component to catching ovarian cancer in its early stages and therefore saving more lives.

The Provisionals experienced a hands-on event that demonstrated our mission at the most basic level. They promoted voluntarism with many other non-profit organizations committed to promoting awareness of breast and ovarian cancer, developing their potential as women through effective education and improving the community by committing to promote awareness in their own personal communities. Special thanks to Heidi Tirjan and Dianne Smith for attending and promoting the event and for their continued support of the provisional program. Also, a very special recognition for the Provisional Advisors and the 2008-2009 Provisional Members for their hard work and dedication at their first group provisional event.

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Did you receive a gift for the holidays which is not quite right for you?

On Monday January 5th, 2009 The Evening Sustainers’ White Elephant exchange will be held at the home of Nancy Greytok (339 Strathmore Drive, Rosemont, PA) at 6:00 P.M.

If you wish to attend, please notify Marcy Bevan at 610-896-8589 or via email bevanm@wharton.upenn.edu

Bring a wrapped gift for the exchange! (Nothing we have seen at this event before…please). Also, please plan to bring some part of the meal for 6 people. Based on your Last name: A-C Wine, D-H Hors D’Oeuvres, I-R Salad or Casserole and S-Z Dessert.

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The JLP Garden Club joint meeting with the Seed and Weed Garden Club

Paul Meyer, director of Morris Arboretum, will speak on “Garden Notes of China.”

Monday, January 26th at 10:30

Beaumont Retirement Community

601 N. Ithan Avenue

Bryn Mawr, PA 19041

Guests are invited to attend.

Please call Harriet Diston (610) 527-3669 or Nancy Henry (610) 408-8525 with any questions or to make reservations.

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Join the BBB&B festivities

BBB&B 2009 is a sell-out (for which we are thrilled) but there are opportunities for you to join in some of the fun activities. VIP tickets to the Flower Show for Wednesday, March 5 are available for $105.

The Marriott Luncheon at the Flower Show on Wednesday, March 5 is $55. If you are a hostess or driver on Friday, March 6 and want to attend the breakfast and Barnes talk at Merion Cricket, the cost is $5. The luncheon later that day after the Barnes tour is $26.

Reservations go to Jan Lawton, 141 Ardwick Terrace, Lansdale, PA 19446 with checks payable to the JLP. DEADLINE is January 30. You’ll have a great time and get to meet some really neat ladies from garden clubs and Junior Leagues all across the country. Questions? Contact Nancy Greytok at 610-525-8663 or Susan Mease at 610-353-5627.
Sustainer Project

By Judy Ruse

As we are mid year through our Sustainer Project, it is time to reflect on our activities at the Paul Fly Elementary School. Our project has expanded this year from what we were able to accomplish last year when we primarily concentrated on books and clothing.

We expanded our clothing efforts by increasing the number of hats and added hand knit sweaters. Lisa Twitmyer and Didi Rieger are coordinating these efforts. Children’s gloves, underwear, shirts, pants and socks were purchased with the generous contribution from our Blossom Fund.

Books continue to be a challenge as we try to uncover new sources. All books are shared with the other Norristown elementary schools. This area has also expanded to include educational children’s magazines. The glossy, colorful images stimulate children’s interest in reading. We would like to have one or more subscriptions in each Paul Fly classroom for easy accessibility. Sally Young is coordinating this area.

Thanksgiving baskets were donated by the generous contribution by new sustainer Kathy Luisi’s company. This unexpected windfall was very appreciated by both the school staff and lucky families. We thank Independence Blue Cross for their support.

Classroom volunteers are another new opportunity this year. Mystery readers, tutors and teacher assistants are needed and Deedie O’Donnell is heading up this effort. Bilingual translators, especially Spanish, are an ongoing need for parent/teacher conferences. Lynn Gonzales’ husband, Bill, is our first volunteer in this area.

Efforts to partner with other community groups are ongoing. We realize that the school needs continued help after we leave. The country’s current economic situation has severely impacted our fundraising efforts for computers and technical teaching tools. We have revised our goals and continue to look for new funding sources.

The major change Marge and I have seen this year is the renewed enthusiasm by the school staff. They are so appreciative of our partnering. The Philly Phanatic’s fun visit in September continued through the World Series with all the Philly shirts worn by the children and staff. The staff was so surprised and thrilled to see the hand knit sweaters; it prompted them to collect and donate a large amount of yarn from their families and friends. School spirit is high!

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Evening Sustainers Cook Up a Storm

By Sally Forester

Ten Evening Sustainers gathered at Philadelphia’s Ronald McDonald House on Friday, November 14th to prepare dinner for the 80-90 residents. Cynthia Adams brought recipes and ingredients. We assembled and cooked the main dishes at RMH. Each cook brought brownies for dessert. Our menu of baked chicken, macaroni and cheese, tossed salad and Sarcone’s bread was a big hit with the residents, and all leftovers were packaged, labeled and refrigerated to be reheated by those who had to be at the hospital during the dinner hour. We all agreed it was a rewarding experience, as well as fun, and we are making plans for a return engagement.

Evening Sustainers taking a break from dinner preparations at the Ronald McDonald House in Philadelphia.

Afternoon Brush-up Bridge

1st Monday and 3rd Thursday, 1 - 4 PM. Call hostess if interested in playing.

JANUARY
5th Afternoon Bridge (1-4PM) Barbara Gord (610) 975-0492
15th Afternoon Bridge (1-4PM) Jean Murdock (610) 642-7283

FEBRUARY
2nd Afternoon Bridge (1-4PM) Marge Devlin (610) 647-4122
19th Afternoon Bridge (1-4 PM) Linda Dutton (610) 296-3137

MARCH
2nd Afternoon Bridge (1-4PM) Suzanne VanderVeer (610) 525-7447
19th Afternoon Bridge (1-4PM) Ann Vaughan (610) 293-0870

Sustainer Teas

Wednesday, February 11, 2009
Volunteers are needed to help with preparation and delivery for the teas.

To volunteer, please call Janney Ryan at 610-687-1352 or Maree Regan at 610-647-4545

Evening Sustainer Schedule

January 7 White Elephant at Nancy Greytok’s
February Reading Terminal market cooking class - date not set at this time
March 20 Cezanne - Philadelphia Museum of Art
The Junior League of Philadelphia, Inc
27 West Lancaster Avenue
Ardmore, PA 19003
Return Service Requested

Hotline Deadlines

March issue: January 25th
April issue: February 25th

The Hotline is eager to accept your articles and story suggestions. Please feel free to contact us with your articles and proposals to make this newsletter better. To publish the Hotline in a timely manner, articles are to be submitted via email at Hotline@JLPhiladelphia.org. Each article must have a byline and a headline. Remember, the Hotline also accepts advertising: $15 for classified ads, $40 for business card-sized ads, $60 for 1/4 page ads, $125 for 1/2 page ads, and $225 for full-page ads. The dimensions for the ad sizes are: 8”x10.5” full page • 5.25”x8” half-page • 4”x5.25” quarter-page.

Upcoming Dates

JANUARY
12 General Membership Meeting at the Free Library of Philadelphia
13 RESPECT Nature Club Mission Credit Opportunity
24 Ladies Ski Day
29 RESPECT Nature Club Mission Credit Opportunity
31 Chili Cook-off

FEBRUARY
10 RESPECT Nature Club Mission Credit Opportunity
20 Casino Night

MARCH
13 Ladies Night Out – Miniature Golf
APRIL
2 Placement Fair
20 Mandatory Voting Meeting
MAY
2 Family Picnic Social Event
14 Annual Dinner

More details about all of these events and more can be found on the JLP website calendar: www.JLPhiladelphia.org.

PARIS FOR RENT

Stunning 1BR Left Bank apartment near Louvre and Musee d’Orsay available for weekly rentals. Elegant, luminous, cheerful, sleeps 4. For information contact Wendy Crowley (Pasadena League) 626 395 7877 or email davenportdad@earthlink.net