Susan Wiener Myers, 84, a Main Line homemaker whose life’s work became the restoration of the historic Fairmount WaterWorks, died of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease at Freedom Village in West Brandywine.

In the early 1970s, Mrs. Myers and her husband, George, were driving on the Schuylkill Expressway on their way to the Shore. Mrs. Myers, who had not grown up in Philadelphia, asked her husband about the crumbling portico buildings on the riverbank. From information he gave her and her own research, she learned that the Fairmount WaterWorks had been constructed in the 1800s to provide pure water for city dwellers.

For years, the facility, with its huge water wheels, turbines and pumps hidden in Greek Revival buildings, was one of the most visited sites in the United States. When new technology replaced the WaterWorks, the site was used for an aquarium and then an indoor swimming pool.

By the time Mrs. Myers began making inquiries, the WaterWorks had been abandoned by the city and was in a serious state of neglect. She once told a reporter that the crumbling buildings were “weeping eyes crying out for help.”

She persuaded the Junior League of Philadelphia to establish a WaterWorks Restoration Committee, and she became chairwoman. “Though she was a volunteer, she treated the position like a 24/7 job,” her son Jeffrey said. “She was determined to keep the buildings from collapsing into the Schuylkill River at a time when many thought they were a lost cause,” he said.

“The first thing we did in 1974,” Mrs. Myers told a reporter, “was to give the city $24,000 to keep the wet weather out. That bought us time.” By 1992, she and members of the Junior League had raised more than $3 million. An additional $3.9 million was raised through grants and public funds.

On a chilly day in the 1980s, Mrs. Myers gave executives from a charitable foundation a tour of the WaterWorks and served them tomato soup from a thermos and a bag of pretzels. The group gave her $1.9 million. “I always wondered,” she later said, “what the grant might have been if I’d brought along lobster bisque.”

In the early days, Mrs. Myers organized Victorian Sundays at the WaterWorks featuring costumed entertainers, and sold photos of the WaterWorks she had made into laminated placemats. She also sold the mats at the Galaxy of Trees, an annual WaterWorks fund-raising event featuring elaborately decorated Christmas trees.

It would be more than 30 years, and several setbacks, including a fire that destroyed a newly restored ceiling, before Mrs. Myers would see her dream fulfilled. The restored WaterWorks is again a tourist attraction featuring an interpretive center with interactive exhibits and a restaurant.

A native of Kingston, Pa., Mrs. Myers earned a bachelor’s degree in languages from Brown University. For six years she was a linguist and travel coordinator in New York for Nelson Rockefeller and his family. In 1953, she married George C. Myers. The couple lived on the Main Line; in Chattanooga, Tenn.; in Atlanta; and then back on the Main Line, while he pursued a career as a quality control manager. For 31 years they lived in Berwyn before moving to Freedom Village in 1999. He died in 2007.

Mrs. Myers served on the residents committee at Freedom Village and organized trips to the WaterWorks. “She read two or three newspapers a day,” her son said, and “subscribed to several preservation periodicals.”

In addition to her son, Jeffery, she is survived by sons George Jr. and Gregory; a daughter, Laurie; a sister; and three grandchildren.

Donations may be made to the Susan Myers Restoration Fund, c/o Junior League of Philadelphia, 27 W. Lancaster Ave., Ardmore, PA, 19003.
President and Sustainer Chair Perspective

By Heidi Tirjan and Betsy Mallon

We are saddened by the loss of Susan Myers, a long time member of the JLP and “Special Sustainer”. For so long, many of us heard the story of how Susan drove by the dilapidated WaterWorks buildings on her way to the JLP headquarters in Philadelphia and was moved to act so the buildings wouldn’t slide into the Schuykill River. Susan convinced the JLP to create the WaterWorks Restoration Committee which she chaired. (The committee was co-chaired by Virginia Maloney). Many of us heard about and saw the “famous” WaterWorks placemat that she carried with her everywhere in order to raise awareness and money for the crumbling buildings. (Betsy remembers Susan with her placemat at a provisional meeting long ago!)

We heard about Susan’s perseverance with the City of Philadelphia, Water Department, Fairmount Park Commission and other organizations and the success of having the WaterWorks added to the National Register of Historic Places. We heard about funds being raised by way of the Galaxy of Trees celebrations each November. We heard about the various grants being procured and, all told, millions of dollars being raised for the various restoration projects at the complex. Others joined the JLP, including Ernesta Ballard and the Fairmount Park Conservancy, to continue the fundraising and restoration and raised a staggering $23 million dollars, but none of it would have happened were it not for Susan Myers.

This past September we had the opportunity to visit with Susan at the Third Annual Women of the WaterWorks Celebration. Although she was wheelchair bound, she had that sparkle in her eyes, a smile on her face and tears of joy as she gazed at the beautifully restored complex along with so many JLP friends. And we could feel the buildings smiling back as if to say, “thanks for caring.” Susan was an icon within the JLP. Her leadership and community activism will long resonate with us all. Next time you pass the WaterWorks, please take a moment to think of Susan Myers who spent more than 30 years of her life making sure we and the rest of the country would enjoy the splendor of the WaterWorks for years to come.

The WaterWorks is a lasting legacy for the Junior League of Philadelphia. With Susan’s passing, a “Susan Myers Restoration Fund” has been created by her family and the JLP. Through this fund the JLP will continue to provide funds to the WaterWorks and other “in need” structures within Fairmount Park.

Letters Remembering Susan Myers...

On behalf of the Association of Junior Leagues International, I would like to extend our sympathy to the family of Susan Myers, the Junior League of Philadelphia and the City of Philadelphia. The passing of Mrs. Myers will leave a large void not only in her Junior League, but also in the many organizations and causes she supported in Philadelphia. She has certainly left a legacy of commitment to volunteerism for her Junior League and of vision for her community through projects such as the WaterWorks.

Thank you for making me aware of your League’s loss.

Sincerely,

Debbie Brown Robinson, AJLI President

What very sad news. Mrs. Myers was a great champion of Fairmount Park never more so than when working on her beloved Fairmount WaterWorks. I had the pleasure of working with Mrs. Myers and other park staff on early WaterWorks restoration projects and I can tell you that she along with her colleagues in the League were the catalysts for the extraordinary restoration of the site today. I did read about her passing in the Inquirer and when it referenced the Galaxy of Trees, I had to laugh. Somehow Mrs. Myers (as only she could) got me involved in this project and we began holding the event at the Horticulture Center. My deepest sympathies to you and Susan Myers.

Warm regards,

Kate Lapszynski, Director of Stewardship
Fairmount Park

This saddens me but also brings to mind her amazing tenacity and what she was able to accomplish for the City of Philadelphia. She is for me an icon in the JLP and the community in which she accomplished so much and I will continue to think of her fondly every time I see the WaterWorks.

Debra Marsteller
Statements from JLP and WaterWorks:

Per Past President, Sally Hillyer:
Susan had been the Chair of the Outgrown Shop and was as zealous about that as she became about the WaterWorks. In the 1972 JLP Annual Report it said“ Under the Chairmanship of Mrs. George C Meyers, the Sustainers collected merchandise, priced it, and manned a 4-day sale at the Outgrown Shop. The results of their efforts were seen in a total profit of $4729.45.”

Beginning in 1974, Susan would try EVERY avenue to have the WaterWorks in the League consciousness and waving that famous placemat was part of it.

Per Sustainer, Clare Mackie:
Thank you so much for letting me know about Susan. I am saddened by the news, as I have known her for over thirty-five years. She was a terrific force already shaking up the establishment when I first joined the Junior League; she never gave up on her dreams, and never stopped working to make them come true. She was a great example to all of us that you can fight City Hall and you can accomplish anything you want to if you try hard enough. She will be missed.

Per Drew Brown, Manager Public Education Programs, City of Philadelphia Water Department:

Here at the City of Philadelphia Water Department, we have never forgotten Susan’s tireless dedication to the restoration of the Fairmount WaterWorks. I had the privilege of working on that project beginning in 1985, by which time Susan and her WaterWorks Restoration Committee had captured the attention of City officials and raised most of the funds required for the project. Susan was unstoppable.

By asking a lot of questions and keeping my ears open, I was able to learn a lot about the history of the restoration project from Susan and others working on the project. I put that history on paper for a tour of Fairmount Park sites by Provisional’s and Actives in September.

Ladies Night Out

By Bertina Whytehead
Join the Placement Committee for a night of miniature golf. On March 13th, 2009 meet at City Line Sports Center, 7900 City Line Avenue, Philadelphia, PA (phone: 215-879-3536). Join JLP members for a night of miniature golf and refreshments. Tee Time 7:00 pm, Cost is $12.00 per person. Sign up on the JLP website under social events. If paying by check make it payable to the Junior League of Philadelphia.

Medals-4-Mettle DIAD - Mission Credit Opportunity

On Saturday, March 14th, we will be assembling medals for the organization Medals-4-Mettle. The event will take place from 9:00am-12:00pm at Krista Vaughan’s home in Wynnewood, PA. The medals will be distributed by Medals-4-Mettle to patients in area hospitals for achieving milestones in their treatment. For more information and sign-up, please check the JLP website.

On December 14, 2008, JLP members Kristen Corcoran, Sara Mitchell and Heidi Tirjan joined in a Cookie Exchange at Sam Soldan’s house.

Reading Rocks!

By Maureen Anderson
On April 18, 2009 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., the Done-in-a-Day Committee will host a Reading Rocks festival at the Roxborough YMCA. This festival will promote literacy through a variety of games and activities. Each child who attends will also receive complimentary books.

The Junior League of Philadelphia has a multi-year tradition of hosting Reading Rocks festivals throughout the community. The Roxborough YMCA has been an active partner in this activity for several years. This year’s festival will be a part of the Roxborough YMCA’s annual "Healthy Kids Day." The host committee expects between 80-100 children between the ages of 2-12 to participate in the festival.

Volunteers will receive a mission credit for this event. Please contact Mori Anderson with any questions. mori.melkus.anderson@comcast.net
Picking Your New Committee Placement

By Bertina Whytehead

The 2008-2009 year is coming to a close, and it’s that time to start thinking about what committee you would like to be on for the 2009-2010 league year. Below you will find a chart on Placement process; if you have any questions about the process please contact Bertina Whytehead Placement Chair, b_whytehead@hotmail.com or Barbara Hafner Placement Chair-Elect, barbhaf@yahoo.com.

Placement Process: Please see below for key placement dates and to review the placement priority process. Please contact your member advisor with questions.

April 1st - Placement Guide posted to website
April 2nd - Placement Fair at Macy’s Downtown
April 3rd - Online registration begins
April 30th - Online registration ends

2009-2010 Placement Priority Process

PRIORITY 1 – These are without exception!
- Dues Paid by April 30, 2009
- All membership requirements completed by April 30, 2009
- Successful participation on a committee in 2008 - 2009

PRIORITY 2
- Dues paid by April 30, 2009
- All membership requirements completed by May 31, 2009.
- Successful participation on a committee in 2008 - 2009

PRIORITY 3
- Dues paid by April 30, 2009
- Membership requirements not completed and/or difficulty with committee placement in 2008 - 2009

NOT ELIGIBLE (NE)
- If your dues are not paid even though all of your requirements are completed, you will not receive a placement. The office must receive dues in order for you to be placed on a committee.

Thrift Shop

By Patty Franks

The Shop began putting spring clothes on the floor on February 1st so we are getting ready and anticipating a wonderful spring. We have remained busy over the winter months and to date have not felt the ravages of the economy.

Please bring us your quality items no longer useful to you so that we can keep our numbers up. Remember that quota can be applied to ‘09-’10 after March 1st if the current year is complete.

Please recycle and save your shopping bags for us. We always need them. Come visit your Shop and see the seasonal changes.

Gold Party!

When: Thursday, March 12th from 5:30-8:30 pm
Where: Stephanie MacDonald’s house 15 Raynham Rd. Merion Station, PA
Who: JLP Members, Sustainers, Friends and Family!
Details: The Project Fundraising committee is hosting a gold party, where you can come trade in your unwanted gold, silver and platinum jewelry for cash! We are working with a national company to get you the best price for your jewelry, flatware, etc. In addition to selling your gold, come to enjoy wine and cheese and mingle with your friends. Best of all, the company will donate 10% back to the League.

Cost: Free
RSVP: Please reply on the JLP website. The company we are working with needs a headcount in advance of the party. More details to come on the JLP website.

Future Leadership for the JLP

By Gabrielle Thorne

The purpose of the Nominating Committee is to ensure ongoing, effective leadership for the Junior League of Philadelphia. Leadership positions offer every Active member the opportunity for personal growth and development while making an important contribution to the JLP and the community. The Nominating Committee slates the board of directors, committee chairs, PAC members-at-large, nominating committee members (two-year term), member advisors and provisional advisors.

Please consider what positions you are willing to accept within our League. Take a moment to reflect on your experiences. Think about each of the committees on which you have served and how you have changed and grown because of your participation. Are you ready to put your experiences into action? Think about your future within the JLP. What would you like to accomplish? Where do your interests lie? All membership requirements completed by April 30, 2009
Successful participation on a committee in 2008 - 2009

PRIORITY 2
Dues paid by April 30, 2009
All membership requirements completed by May 31, 2009.
Successful participation on a committee in 2008 - 2009

PRIORITY 3
Dues paid by April 30, 2009
Membership requirements not completed and/or difficulty with committee placement in 2008 - 2009

NOT ELIGIBLE (NE)
If your dues are not paid even though all of your requirements are completed, you will not receive a placement. The office must receive dues in order for you to be placed on a committee.

What skills can you share with others? This is the time to step forward. Go to our website and fill out the Nominating Form. If you have worked with an extraordinary woman, nominate her for a leadership position. Without input from membership, it is difficult for the Nominating Committee to determine the future leadership of our League.

We challenge you to step out of the ordinary and step into leadership. Each volunteer experience within the League offers a valuable training lesson. The JLP offers each of us the opportunities, challenges and rewards of leadership. Are you ready to continue to grow with us? We are ready to grow, learn and lead with you. Please take this opportunity to share your leadership skills and interests with the Nominating Committee. We look forward to serving with you.

If you have any questions regarding leadership, please contact any member of the Nominating Committee: Kate Forester (chair), Kate Farnham, Susan Henley, Jill Jokelson, Jodi Kerr, Mary Kate LoConte, Marcelle Parrish, Gabrielle Thorne, and Amelia Warner.
Members of the Cultural Clinic spent an enjoyable afternoon on Saturday January 17, 2009 learning how to Salsa dance with nineteen seventh and eighth grade girls from Penn Alexander, Henry C. Lea, and Charles R. Drew Elementary Schools. The event took place at Brasil’s in Old City, which provided the perfect place to perfect your dance moves as it had a mirrored wall.

The girls started off the day by making homemade salsa and enjoying a takeout lunch from Mexican Post. Then it was time to dance! Mike, our dance instructor, provided the origins and backgrounds of 4 different Latin Dances, as well as easy to learn steps that were a lot of fun. We learned how to Salsa, Bachata, Merengue, and Cha Cha. The girls really got into the dancing, especially when the lights were turned down and the music was turned up. Mike, along with one of his actual students, Natalie, treated the girls to a choreographed performance. Natalie has only been taking dance classes for a few months, so this illustrated how far you can come in a short period of time. The afternoon concluded with a fun game that allowed the girls to show off how much they’d learned. The girls really enjoyed the active afternoon of dancing.

Are you an expert willing to share with others?

Attention all JLP members! Do you have an expertise/advice you are longing to share with the membership? Here’s your chance!
The EVT committee is hosting a week of workshops featuring the talents of our members called “Meet the Experts!” So if you work or have experience in any of the following fields and would like to be one of our panel of experts, please email Tammy Gray, tametttag@gmail.com, give a brief description of your specialty and contact information.

Workshops will focus on: Personal Finance, Fitness, Cooking, Women and children health, Scrapbooking/Crafting, Style/Fashion, Real Estate, Etiquette, Home décor.

Workshops will take place during the last week of April at various locations. If you are interested in hosting a training event in your home or place of business, please email tametttag@gmail.com, and let us know!

The Junior League of Philadelphia And The Casino Night Committee

Thank You For Your Generous Support Of The Big Deal Casino Night: Green Tie Gala

Women Building Better Communities®
Placement Fair

The Placement Committee would like to invite you to the Placement Fair on April 2, 2009 from 6:00pm-7:30 pm at 1300 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA in the Greek Hall located on the third floor of the Macy's Building in Center City. The fair will be a great way for members to learn more about each committee, and the committee chairs will be there to answer any questions. Each member who attends the fair will receive one GMM meeting credit. Macy’s has generously offered each attendee a 15% savings pass that is good for a limited time, this pass includes all top designers and a preview to the First Annual Flower show. The flower show will be held April 9th-18th. Each member will receive her shopping pass at check in. The Placement Committee would like to invite you to attend a social following the fair. Details to follow. We look forward to seeing you for a night full of fun and festivities.

Sustainer News

Afternoon Brush-up Bridge

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

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

APRIL
6th Afternoon Bridge (1-4PM) Deedie O’Donnell (610) 353-6672
16th Afternoon Bridge (1-4PM) Judy Whalen (610) 525-2536

MAY
4th Afternoon Bridge (1-4PM) Nancy Henry (610) 408-8525
21st Afternoon Bridge (1-4PM) Lorrie Pennell (610) 647-2881

Sustainer New York Theater Trip - Final Curtain Call!

Tony Award Winning Revival-South Pacific
Wednesday, April 15, 2009
2:00 PM Matinee, Shopping and Lunch

To reserve your space send $195 (made out to JLP) to Anne Sly, 526 Hilaire Rd. St Davids, PA 19087. Please include name, address, phone and email. Total cost of $195 per person will include transportation from Radnor, lunch at Josephina, theater tickets, and refreshments on the return trip. Limited to 42 Sustainers with a wait list.

For further information please contact: Marianne McClatchy 610-355-1976 or Anne Sly 610-687-8973.

The JLP Garden Club Invites You!

On Monday, March 23rd at 10:00 AM at the Church of the Redeemer, 250 Pennswood Road, Bryn Mawr, PA 19041, Betty Mackay will speak on “Cutting Gardens”. Betty is a gardener, project designer, publisher, lecturer, editor, and author. Among her books are “The Gardeners Home Companion” and “Gardening Made Easy”. She authored the topic for this March Meeting. Presentation at 10:00 am SHARP – business meeting to follow. If you would like to attend, please contact Harriet Disston at (610) 527-3669 or Hdisston@verizon.net

All are welcome.
Sustainer Project
Here is a letter from Kristie Cupples, the School Counselor at the Paul V. Fly School.

January 14, 2009
Philadelphia Junior League
c/o Mrs. Marge Dowlin
159 Greenville Court
Berwyn, PA 19312

Dear Mrs. Dowlin, Mrs. Ruse, and Sustainers of the Philadelphia Junior League,

I just wanted to send my most heartfelt gratitude for everything that you have done for our children and families at Paul V. Fly particularly during the holiday season. The clothing and Payless gift certificates that were donated were extremely thoughtful and exactly what our children and families needed during this time. Not only were we able to give them away as gifts to some of our children who are less fortunate during the holidays, but we were also able to replenish our nurse’s boutique for children who may need it in the future. Personally, I’m excited to shop for a few of my students next week at the Payless and pick out some fantastic shoes for their brand new outfits! 😊

The staff and students at Paul Fly really can not thank you enough for how much you have done to help us during this time. We have truly been blessed to have all of you as part of our lives. Thank you so much for your participation with our school and for all of the many wonderful things you have done for us.

Utmost sincerity from the Paul Fly Staff and Students,

Kristie Cupples
School Counselor
kcupples@tmand4212.pajls.us
Paul V Fly Elementary School
3920 Pettishaw Road
Norristown, PA 19403
(610)690-0180

The 4th grade students at Radnor Elementary collected over 1200 books in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day and donated them to the Sustainer Project at the Paul V. Fly Elementary School in Norristown.

The LARKS
The LARKS event with the Chester County Choir on March 8th has been cancelled. A June event is being scheduled. More details to follow. For more information, contact Anne Markel. 📩

Sustainer of the Year Award
The Sustainer Volunteer of the Year Award nominating form deadline is March 15, 2009. Please plan to attend the Spring Sustainer membership luncheon on April 28, 2009 to applaud the winner! Look for forms at various sustainer meetings, call the JLP office for one, or mail it to: Pam Crutchfield, 134 Piqua Circle, Berwyn, PA 19312. 📩

The 6th Annual Junior League of Wilmington Heart of the Home Kitchen Tour
Come tour fantastic designer kitchens featured in homes in Greenville, Wilmington, Newark, Southern Chester County and surrounding areas.

Rain or Shine
Saturday, April 4, 2009
9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
www.heartofthehometour.com

Save the Date!
Hotline Deadlines

May issue: March 25th
June issue: April 25th
July/August issue: May 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 ½ page ads, $125 for ¼ 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

MARCH
13 Ladies Night Out – Miniature Golf
18 General Membership Meeting

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