By Regina Raiford Babcock

Uplifting the spirits of young siblings of cancer patients, enriching science curriculum, and helping kids grow strawberries—these are just a few of the activities supported by League fundraising. Each year, the Grant Writing and Fund Development Committee supports vital JLP projects by seeking corporate sponsorships and foundation grants. This year, our efforts focus on several League projects, including the renovation of the JLP Headquarters, installation of the Campus Community Gardens, and supporting the activities of the RESPECT Nature Club, HIP Kids, and BOOST Camp committees.

In collaboration with The Wellness Community of Philadelphia, the BOOST Camp nurtures an underserved population. The HIP (Healthy Imaginative Playful) Kids Committee encourages outdoor play for Philadelphia youth. The Campus Community Gardens Committee is educating children about urban gardening and healthy eating. The RESPECT Nature Club Committee, with help from the Norristown Area School District and the Riverbend Environmental Education Center, is implementing a supplemental science curriculum.

“We now plan to involve everyone in the community, parents, and children. In the end we want everyone to enjoy the garden so we were hoping that if we involve them at each step in the process they will have more ownership to the project,” says Christen Scalone, Co-Chair, Campus Community Gardens Committee.

By building relationships with philanthropic organizations, the JLP can strengthen our community involvement with these programs. You can be a successful part of the Grant Writing and Fund Development Committee’s critical mission by investigating if your civic group, corporation, or family has ties to foundations that make charitable contributions to non-profit organizations. During this holiday season, give the greatest gift of all by helping the League and the Grant Writing and Fund Development Committee create personal connections with philanthropic organizations. When you think philanthropy, think about supporting the JLP community projects!

The Junior League of Philadelphia, Inc. is an organization of women committed to promoting voluntarism, 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.
It's the most wonderful time of the year! And, I am not referring to the holidays. It's PAC season! The Project Advisory Committee (PAC) meets in November, January, and February to perform a thorough review of our community and fundraising projects. This is also where new projects are proposed and vetted. These meetings are open to all members (no, not for credit) and are a fantastic, eye-opening opportunity to get the scoop on all of our projects and truly understand the League's impact in the community. This year, Development Council Director, Liz Kolb, will lead PAC with support from the Project Research and Development (PRD) Committee. If you have ideas for new fundraising or community projects or suggested improvements for our current projects, please contact PRD chairs, Anne Radecki and Libby Morgan. We are interested in your ideas and your vision for the League!

In addition to PRD, two other committees, the Farm Fresh Festival and Grant Writing and Fund Development, are part of the Development Council. Grant writing is an important component of the League's diversified fundraising strategy and Amy Piergiovanni and her team are hard at work pursuing funding opportunities for our community projects and for the renovation of the building that houses our Thrift Shop and Headquarters. Our building is our most prominent face in the community and, as the Headquarters of an organization committed to developing community leaders, it is an integral part of the League's community outreach. The Farm Fresh Festival Committee was launched this year under the leadership of Melissa Finnegan and Allison Lubert. The Development Council will serve as an incubator for the Farm Fresh Festival Committee as they develop a business plan for the event and take the time and energy to ensure a successful launch of this new fundraiser.

I am excited to see what this year's PAC season has in store for our organization. Happy Holidays!
Unmask the Possibilities at Casino Night, February 20, 2010!

By Kerri Neil Storm and Jackie Strzepek

The Junior League of Philadelphia, Inc. will host its fourth annual Casino Night on Saturday, February 20, 2010, at 7 p.m. at the Sheraton Society Hill Hotel in Philadelphia. This year’s theme is The Big Deal Casino Night – Unmask the Possibilities. The evening is black tie optional, and party-goers are encouraged to accessorize in keeping with the Mardi Gras theme.

The Casino Night Committee has been hard at work planning an evening of excitement that includes cocktail hour and gourmet dinner buffet, Las Vegas-style gambling, live and silent auctions, as well as plenty of drinks and fun to go around. The night will include an impressive assortment of auction items and prizes for our casino winners, including restaurant gift certificates, personal training sessions, wine tasting classes, overnight trips, and much, much more. Don’t forget the fabulous swag bags for each guest that include themed items that you won’t want to miss. We’d love to tell you our special guests, but we don’t want to unmask too much of the fun just yet!

We hope that everyone – Provisionals, Active, Sustainers, and their friends and family- will join us for what will be an exciting and fun evening to support the JLP’s various missions including Project GREEN. After raising over $25,000 last year for the JLP and its projects, we are confident that this year we can build on that success.

Tickets are $125 per person, which include the cocktail hour, buffet dinner, open bar, $100 in casino chips, as well as a “King Swag Bag” and a few other VIP surprises to be unmasked at the event. Ways & Means credits are available to JLP members: 2 credits for a ticket or 3 credits for a VIP ticket.

The evening begins at 7 p.m. and runs until 11 p.m., but your night does not have to end there. Take advantage of the JLP special room block and spend the night at the Sheraton Society Hill Hotel for only $129. Make sure to get your tickets early. The Big Deal Casino Night is sure to be a sell-out.

We are also looking for a few good sponsors! Any JLP member (with the exception of the Board or Casino Night Committee) who brings in a corporate sponsor will receive special benefits such as free tickets and upgrades.

What will you find at this year’s Big Deal Casino Night? Where will the evening taking you? Are you ready to Unmask the Possibilities? Questions? Silent Auction Donations? Contact the Casino Night Committee Chairs, Jackie Strzepek, JStrzepek12@gmail.com or Kerri Neil Storm, kerrineil@gmail.com

Laissez les bon temps rouler! (Let the good times roll!)

We have it all! Winter Social Events

By Adie Amey and Bertina Whytehead

Calling all Brides and Bridesmaids! The JLP is ready to help make your wedding dreams come true with a bridal fashion show at Priscilla of Boston’s new Suburban Square location on January 21, from the dress to the cake, we’ll have it all.

Find out what happens If You Give a Pig a Pancake as the Walnut Street Kids Theatre brings this tale and other childhood favorites to life on February 6, ticket sales continue until December 16.

Didn’t R.S.V.P. for any of the great events going on this winter? No worries you still have time. Sign up for the Longwood Gardens tour on December 5, tickets sales continue until December 2.

Sign-up for the Ski and Spa trip ends December 6.

Be sure to R.S.V.P. online for all events, guests are welcome.

Congratulations!

Cathy Johnson welcomed Abigail Augusta on Sept 20, 2009
Membership Corner
By Barb Hafner

Happy Holidays from the Placement Committee! While you are sitting back relaxing after all of your holiday parties, family visits, and opening those wonderful gifts, remember to make sure that you have a plan for completing your JLP requirements. Although members have until the end of May to complete requirements, members who have requirements completed by April 30 have a better chance of obtaining their requested placement. If you have any questions or concerns do not hesitate to contact your advisor via email or phone. If you are unsure who your advisor is her name is listed on your website home page or you can contact the Placement Chair, Barb Hafner at barbhaf@yahoo.com or (267) 467-0112.

Thrift Shop Update
By Patty Franks

The Shop has been beautifully decorated for the holidays courtesy of a joint effort between the Building Committee and the Thrift Shop Committee. This year we have lovely decorations on the outside of the Shop as well. As we are slowly regaining our space taken by the contractors, our sales are increasing. We are trying to rebuild our furniture inventory, which suffered during the summer construction. We would love to have some donations of furniture in good condition and also new items or jewelry suitable for holiday presents.

Remember to stop by First Fridays at the Thrift Shop, which are held every First Friday of the month through June. On First Fridays, the shop is open late until 9 p.m. with wine tasting and light snacks. It is a great time to socialize with friends and League members, as well as take a stroll around Ardmore, which offers live music and shopping specials.

Our holiday hours are:
Closed December 24 through December 27, 2009
Closed at 3 p.m. on December 31, 2009
Closed January 1, 2010 and January 3, 2010;
Open January 2, 2010
The Shop will be open extended hours (12-5 p.m.) on the following Sundays in December: December 6, 13, and 20, 2009.

JLP Volunteers Sort and Pack (literally) Tons of Food
By Lauren Steines

On October 3, the DIAD committee hosted an event at Philabundance in Philadelphia. Philabundance is a non-profit organization whose mission is to relieve hunger and malnutrition in the Delaware Valley. They accomplish this by acquiring food and distributing it to those in need throughout the community. On this autumn Saturday, there were nineteen wonderful JLP volunteers who sorted and boxed an amazing 27,000 pounds of food in just three hours. (This is more than twice the amount of food sorted during a typical work day!) Top 20s music was pumping throughout the warehouse, and some girls even had a chance to bust a move with their boxes and cans. Thanks so much to everyone who came out and participated! If you would like to find out more about the Philabundance mission or would like to make a donation to this cause, please visit: www.philabundance.org. We hope to see you all at the next Philabundance event which will be held on Saturday, February 27 at 12:30 p.m. in Philadelphia.
At this time of the year, we are busy finding gifts for family, friends, and for those we might not even know but who are in need. We also have the gifts of December that come in the form of celebrations and customs. They are not wrapped up in ribbons and bows but in memories and hope.

Each of you has many gifts which you demonstrate to each other, the JLP, and to the community. These include your time, compassion, organizational skills, commitment, and talent. How privileged we are to be able to contribute our different gifts.

I was fortunate to attend a Cooking Klatch luncheon in October, and they shared their gifts of fine cuisine and hospitality. They also use their gift of giving to those less fortunate during this season. The Larks share their gift of music. In late October they sang at Sunrise in Paoli as part of a JLP Done in a Day project. It is wonderful how the Garden Club members use their gifts for community and holiday outreach programs. Their work, with others, continues with Campus Community Gardens.

As one of our former first ladies said, “Giving frees us from the familiar territory of our own needs by opening our mind to the unexplained worlds occupied by the needs of others.” The Sustainer and JLP projects we participate in give us this opportunity.

Thank you to Marilyn Sprague for using her gifts with the JLP Community Council, and thank you to all sustainers who participated in the Fernhill Park clean up and mural painting this Fall. This was organized by the Green Volunteer Corps Committee. They foster the JLP’s continued relationship with Fairmount Park through organizing projects and training opportunities that focus on areas such as parks, the environment, community environs, and waterways.

I hope that many of you are enjoying the gift of friendship through the many interest groups and events. Many of us have participated in the Evening Sustainer opportunities, the Theater Trip, and the Fall Membership meeting. We thank all who give their gifts of time and creative energy to plan these for us.

Annamarie Hellebusch and Debra Vozzo are busy planning the Sustainer Teas which are February 4, 2010. They will be at various times and venues and will provide the gift of warmth in the middle of the winter. The Evening Sustainers continue to have a full schedule, so please join us.

Sustainers Aboard has been busy planning a trip for May 2010, so look for the details from Schuy Wood and Jean Alzentzer and share in the gift of exploration. You will see our activities and events in the Hotline, eblasts, and the Sustainer mailer that is planned for early January.

Continue to use your incredible gifts in the many opportunities that we have.

Enjoy the gifts of the season, and celebrate all that you give.

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**Sustainer Community Service Project Update: The Power of Recycled Books**

By Judy Ruse

During my first visit to the Paul Fly Elementary School, I was given a school tour that included a stop in the school library. I was immediately stunned at the sparse number of books on the shelves. When I inquired about the lack of books, I was told that the school district ceased library funding due to school budget restraints. Each school principal would decide any library funding and would take the funding from the school’s general budget. The budget demands were great while finances were limited.

Today, when you enter the Paul Fly Elementary School library, the shelves are full of colorful, appealing books. This is due to the wonderful book donations sent by the JLP Sustainers. It is not easy to collect over 20,000 children’s books. In fact, it is often tiresome. However, our volunteers are given a wonderful reward when they see the results.

One of the primary goals of elementary teachers is to establish a strong base in student reading and writing skills. Young children must have access to a variety of books across many genres. Many of these students come from homes where there are no books available and local public libraries are not used. Therefore, the teachers must work double time to adjust for this.

On a visit to this school today, you will see children’s books everywhere – in the library, in every classroom, in offices, and in bookcases scattered throughout the school. The students are allowed to select a few books to keep at home before the summer vacation. Our book donations are positively impacting both the students’ school and home life. Again – the power of volunteering is mighty.
**JLP’s Centennial is Quickly Approaching!**

By Betsy Mallon

2012 marks the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Junior League of Philadelphia, Inc. We plan on celebrating in style! A variety of projects and events are being planned throughout the 2011-2012 year. This will include a retrospective/museum exhibit and a speaker series reflecting the JLP’s impact on Philadelphia and its surrounding communities over the past 100 years; a community project with a lasting legacy; and a gala event which will be held on Saturday April 14, 2012 at the Please Touch Museum in Fairmount Park.

**Sustainer help is needed!!!** We know there are members out there who never throw anything away – including JLP “stuff.” Do you have annual reports, brochures, news articles, photos, or “props” from past projects tucked away in your attic or basement? We need them! A small group of Actives and Sustainers will be creating a retrospective/museum exhibit and we would like to include as much memorabilia as possible. We will come to your home and help you dig out the treasures, we will gently make copies if you prefer not to part with the originals while in the exhibit, and we will catalog each item to assure its safe return to its owners – whatever it takes!

Please contact Betsy Mallon at (610) 764-6790 or bmallon@keystonerisk.com if you have something to contribute. We will also be contacting some of you (you know who you are!) who we know have treasures to share.

We greatly appreciate your support and participation in our upcoming centennial. With your help we can really make this a fabulous celebration to remember for the next 100 years! 

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**Afternoon Brush-up Bridge**

Afternoon Brush-up Bridge is held the first Monday and third Thursday, 1-4 p.m., of each month. Call the individual hostess if interested in playing.

**DECEMBER**

7 - Afternoon Bridge, Nancy Henry, (610) 408-8525
17 - Afternoon Bridge, Annabel Wilson, (610) 688-7816

**JANUARY**

4 - Afternoon Bridge, Bonnie Hamm, (610) 356-4277
21 - Afternoon Bridge, Ann Vaughan, (610) 293-0870

**FEBRUARY**

1 - Afternoon Bridge, Jean Murdock, (610) 642-7283
18 - Afternoon Bridge, Sue O’Brien, (610) 382-9246

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**Sustainer Computer Training Email Intrigue: Figuring Out the Annoying Problems!**

Learn to understand how email systems work so you can solve your own questions (email your questions ahead of time!)

**Wednesday, January 13, 2010** 1-3 p.m. (bring your laptop if you like)

Easttown Library, Arronson Room, 720 First Ave, Berwyn, PA (610) 644-0137

$5/person (helps defray the cost of the room)

Makes check out to JLP, Inc. Send to Jean MacFadyen, 1426 Redwood Court, West Chester, PA 19380

R.S.V.P. by January 1, 2010 to Jean MacFadyen (610-363-0245)

macflearn@verizon.net

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**Sustainers Aboard**

Danube River trip planned for May 1, 2010, sailing from Budapest to Nuremberg, Germany on an eight-day Viking cruise. Price includes airfare--$3,321.00 or $3,791.00, depending on the cabin. We must have your $500.00 deposit by December 10, 2009 to keep the price.

Contact Schuy Wood at (215) 836-7735 or bsdw@att.net or Jean Alsentzer, (215) 242-9217 or Aljean3@comcast.net. There is limited space available so please contact us as soon as possible.

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**Upcoming Evening Sustainer Events**

**Wednesday, January 6** – Annual Post Christmas White Elephant Event

**Tuesday, January 26** – Becky Shaw at the Wilma Theater

6:30 p.m. curtain

Reservation Deadlines:

December 31, 2009- for Sustainers only with Waiting List for guests.

January 10, 2010– for Sustainers and guests

Refer to the Sustainer Mailing for details on all events. Please call, email and send reservations and checks to Judy Moneta.

Contact us with your questions:

Judy Moneta (610) 658-6324
Mary Hinds (610) 544-2399

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**Bookmarks**

Bookmarks does not meet in December, but please do look ahead to January 21, 2010 by reading Jon Meacham’s American Lion, a lively history of the White House years of our seventh president, Andrew Jackson; Indian fighter and banking author. The evening includes a soup and bread supper at the home of Marianne McClatchy. To R.S.V.P. and for more information, call or email Marianne at mamacclatchy@verizon.net or (610) 355-1976 or Karen Miller at kmsmiller@aol.com or (610) 647-4287. Everyone is welcome!
Yuletide
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NOVEMBER 21–JANUARY 3

For more information and a full schedule of special events, call 800.448.3883 or visit winterthur.org.

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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

December 5  Longwood Gardens Tour
December 6  BOOST Camp Holiday Event
December 17  Provisional Large Group Meeting
January 9, 2010  Ski/Spa Day at Bear Creek Mountain
January 9, 2010  HIP Kids Event
January 25, 2010  DIAD at MANNA
February 4, 2010  Cocktails & Cards
February 6, 2010  If You Give a Pig a Pancake, Walnut Street Theatre
February 20, 2010  The Big Deal Casino Night
February 27, 2010  DIAD at Philabundance

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

COMPUTER INSTRUCTION

Will help you buy it & then learn it in your own home (save time and gas!). Topics of your choosing. Go at your own pace. Maybe give it as a gift! Give me a call. League member. Jean MacFadyen (610) 363-0245.