Touring the Landmarks of the League's Legacy in Philadelphia

By Heather MacClintock

Junior League members who participated in October’s General Membership Meeting on Saturday, October 16 were transported – literally – through the League’s legacy in Fairmount Park. The bus tour began at the Fairmount Water Works along the Schuylkill River, near the Philadelphia Museum of Art and Boathouse Row.

During the nineteenth century, the Water Works provided clean water to the Philadelphia region and served as a model of engineering for other cities. Tourists ventured from around the world to marvel over the Greco-Roman-inspired architecture and learn how Philadelphia pioneered advances in public health and sanitation. The Water Works eventually became outdated as more modern water treatment techniques developed, and the building fell into disrepair. Inspired by the landmark’s history, the late Susan Myers headed a 30-year campaign to raise the necessary funds to restore the Water Works. The JLP ensured that Susan’s vision came to fruition, and the Water Works is once again a leading tourist destination and a monument to Philadelphia’s rich cultural history.

From the Water Works, JLP members then boarded buses bound for Belmont Mansion in Fairmount Park. The mansion currently houses the Underground Railroad Museum, but it was a Junior League project in the 1980s. Next, the tour traveled to HELP Philadelphia’s transitional housing facility. This organization, based in West Philadelphia, provides single mothers with housing, assists them in learning basic household skills, and helps them become self-sufficient. The League was extensively involved with HELP Philadelphia during the 1990s, and many members still volunteer there as part of a legacy project. Anyone who wants to continue the League’s legacy by volunteering occasionally is welcome!

The next stop on the tour was Sweetbriar Mansion. Now home to the Modern Club of Philadelphia, Sweetbriar was one of the first Junior League restoration projects, beginning in 1932. After Sweetbriar Mansion, the tour continued to The Wellness Community of Philadelphia, where the BOOST Camp Committee currently holds events for children whose family members have been diagnosed with cancer. BOOST committee members mentor the children, providing attention and support.

A stop at SMITH The Kids’ Play Place in the Park followed. Prominent Philadelphians Sarah and Richard Smith established the playhouse and grounds in 1899 in memory of their son. SMITH provides a safe and creative play space for children. The HIP Kids Committee, in partnership with SMITH, holds events at the playhouse. Projects there have included a wildflower garden.

The final stop on the tour was the Junior League mural at Fernhill Park. The mural was recently designed and executed as a Provisional community project. The JLP Green Volunteer Corps Committee also provided volunteer work in the park, helping to eradicate invasive plants and beautify the space.

The tour was a great way for members to connect with one another, as well as to learn about just a few of the League’s wonderful former and current projects. The Education & Volunteer Training Committee, which planned the tour, hopes that everyone had a wonderful time and extends many thanks to our terrific Sustainer guides Cynthia Adams, Sally Forester, Gerda Goodman, Betsy Mallon, Jane Sagendorph, and Cornelia Vieira!

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.
Learning About Healthy Lifestyles

By Adie Amey, Jenny Carr, and Meghann Pollock

In response to member interest in health awareness and growing public concern, the Education & Volunteer Training (EVT) Committee recently partnered with Main Line Health System to provide a series of health and prevention trainings to JLP members.

Dr. Joshua Rabinowitz, DO, FAAP Chief, Well Baby Nurseries, Main Line Health Pediatrics, Lankenau Hospital, presented a lecture covering Kids’ Safety and Seasonal Prevention. During his presentation, Dr. Rabinowitz asked members a variety of common questions and provided surprising answers. Among the statistics he cited, the average child will experience between eight and ten common colds during a typical cold/flu season. In addition to learning about common illnesses and their prevention, Dr. Rabinowitz also provided helpful information regarding common sports injuries, the different levels of head injuries, and signs that a ‘cold’ may be more serious and require emergency medical attention.

EVT also hosted a training led by Maureen Krouse, of CHES Lankenau Hospital Health Education Center covering Nutrition and Healthy Eating. Ms. Krouse spoke on important topics such as the new food pyramid (mypyramid.gov), dinner menu ideas, nutritious snacks (and ones that appear to be, but are not), correct portion sizes, how to eat and enjoy food without feeling guilty, and the importance of daily exercise. Ms. Krouse answered all members’ questions and created a very open and informative forum to discuss this important topic.

When we give our time and energy to someone else, he or she receives the results of our efforts. In return, the recipient gives thanks and gratitude. We, then, receive one of the greatest gifts of all: appreciation. We have to give in order to receive. And, we must be willing to receive from others. So, is it better to give or to receive? During this season of giving and of thanks, I hope we all experience the benefits of both. Happy Holidays!
We Need You in the New Year!

By Regina Raiford Babcock

BOOST Camp, HIP Kids, JLP Green Volunteer Corps, Campus Community Gardens, RESPECT Nature Club: each one of these projects supports a sector of our community and each one of these projects is supported by the Grant Writing & Fund Development Committee. Each year, the Grant Writing & Fund Development Committee seeks new grants from philanthropic organizations, foundations, and corporations to provide the Junior League of Philadelphia with the funding we need for our vital mission.

This fall, the Junior League of Philadelphia competed with thousands of other non-profit organizations for a Pepsi Refresh Everything grant for the Campus Community Gardens project. Currently we are feverishly writing proposals to appeal to local funders to secure additional funding for the League. To locate new grant opportunities like the Pepsi grant and to create strategic alliances with giving organizations, the Grant Writing Committee needs you. By building new relationships with philanthropic organizations, the JLP is strengthening our community presence and involvement and building for the future.

Investigate your civic group, corporation, and social network to see if you have a connection to a foundation that makes charitable contributions to non-profit organizations. Coleridge wrote, “Oh lady! We receive but what we give.” This month, between holiday parties and wrapping gifts, please give the greatest gift of all by helping the League and the Grant Writing & Fund Development Committee create personal connections.

January General Membership Meeting

By Adrienne Amey

Join fellow League members on Wednesday, January 19 for the January General Membership Meeting (GMM) featuring nationally renowned guest speaker, Philip K. Howard. The GMM will be held at The Racquet Club of Philadelphia, located at 215 South 16th Street in Philadelphia.

Mr. Howard is Founder and Chair of Common Good. Common Good is a non-profit, non-partisan legal reform coalition dedicated to restoring common sense to America. Mr. Howard is also the author of The Death of Common Sense: How Law is Suffocating America. For more information about Mr. Howard and his organization, please visit: http://commongood.org/.

Be sure to arrive at the GMM early, as the evening will begin with a shopping social event featuring a variety of vendors. Meeting sign-in begins at 6:30 p.m., and the presentation will start promptly at 7 p.m.

R.S.V.P. for the GMM on the JLP website under Meeting & Event Signup. Please be courteous and cancel your reservation online in the event you are unable to attend.

JLP Observes Breast Cancer Awareness Month

By Adie Amey, Jenny Carr, and Meghann Pollock

The JLP observed Breast Cancer Awareness Month in October by offering a Women’s Health training sponsored by Main Line Health System and facilitated by Dr. Randy Henzil, MD OB/GYN. Dr. Henzil offered valuable health information regarding the different stages and types of cancer. The training discussed the most common types of cancer affecting American women, including ovarian, breast, and colon cancers. Dr. Henzil reviewed the clinical incidence of these diseases as well as the suggested schedule for obtaining mammograms, colonoscopies, and other early screening procedures. Dr. Henzil also taught JLP members about risk factors, how to recognize symptoms, and when to discuss bodily changes with health care practitioners. Lastly, Dr. Henzil addressed the importance of proper nutrition and exercise as part of an overall healthy lifestyle.
JLP University Fall Semester

By Bertina Whytehead, Lisa O’Connor, and Lauren Stienes

The Junior League of Philadelphia University (JLPU) commenced the fall semester with classes ranging from team dynamics to understanding the League’s Bylaws. PowerPoint presentations from these sessions are available on the JLP website. Below are summaries from the trainings offered.

Conflict Resolution: The Medicine Wheel
Andrew Mozenter of Concentrics, Inc. led members through the Medicine Wheel, a personality style grouping based on the teachings of the Native American Sun Bear. Members worked in groups to identify themselves in one of four styles: Warrior, Diplomat, Critical Thinker, or Visionary. Participants then completed exercises to understand each style’s strengths, opportunities, and challenges in working with individuals represented by other styles. Through these interactive exercises, JLP members gained a detailed understanding of each style group and learned techniques to work in harmony with people whose styles differ. Members also achieved a greater understanding of the assets that each style can offer to a group.

JLP Membership 201: The Expressway to Junior League Success
Facilitator Mary Kate Lo Conte, JLP Parliamentarian, reviewed the League’s Bylaws and Policies & Procedures, which explain how the League functions on a daily basis and how we as members are governed by the League’s rules and operating procedures. Mary Kate also explained member requirements for both Provisional and active members, as well as the different membership categories the League offers for all members. The training also covered the policy of how to complete quota and the different ways of earning Ways & Means Credits.

The Power of Public Relations in Non-Profit Organizations
Facilitator Dr. David Brown, President of Brown Partners, opened the training by asking all attendees to introduce themselves and explain what they would like to discuss at the training, which led to an interactive, open forum training. With markers and a dry-erase board, Dr. Brown reviewed key steps to ensuring a successful marketing and branding campaign in a competitive marketplace. Dr. Brown also discussed the pros and cons of social media networks, such as Facebook and Twitter. The session ended with a round table discussion where each participant posed a marketing challenge to the group who, in turn, suggested solutions.

Fundamentals of Fundraising
This course was led by Kelly Wesley, a recent transfer from Louisville, KY and business partner in Brooks Scudder of Trek Advancement, LLC. During this training, members learned an important aspect of fundraising: the opportunity for donors to connect with an organization through a shared passion for a cause. Therefore, organizations are charged with the task of emphasizing the return on donors’ gifts based upon the efficacy of the charitable organization’s efforts. The training reminded the attendees that fundraising should not be strictly focused on the recipient organization’s needs, but instead should be concerned with the concrete opportunities that the charitable organization provides to the cause. For example, a member soliciting funds should represent to the donor that a monetary donation of $100 will provide a play day for 30 children versus simply stating that the organization needs money to sponsor a play day. Ms. Wesley also reviewed project management tools for the effective planning, execution, management, and evaluation of specific fundraising projects.

Thrift Shop Update

By Patty Franks

The Shop has been beautifully decorated for the holiday season and sales are brisk. Come see us for your last minute gifts.

We feel very fortunate to have been named in True Prep by Lisa Birnbach as the only vintage or gently used store to visit in the whole state of Pennsylvania. Lisa is the author of the original Preppy Handbook from the 1980s.

Please keep your quality donations coming in, as we stay very busy throughout the winter.
Cheer for the New Year with the HIP Kids Committee

By Rachel Reavy

Dreary weather keeping you inside? How about joining in the fun with HIP Kids on Saturday, January 8, 2011 as we Cheer for the New Year! The Junior League of Philadelphia, Inc. and SMITH The Kids’ Play Place in the Park invite you to come and celebrate with fun indoor sports-themed activities such as mini-soccer, football, and track stations. We will also have a mini-cheer clinic and sports themed crafts at the SMITH playhouse! The event takes place on Saturday, January 8, 2011 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Located in historic Fairmount Park, SMITH The Kids’ Play Place in the Park offers children five years old and under a safe and free place to play. The 24,000 square foot playhouse gives young children a place to “drive” the train, “cook” in the kitchen, and ride tricycles in Smithville. All children must be accompanied by an adult 18 years or older. Please visit http://smithkidsplayplace.org to learn more about SMITH The Kids’ Play Place in the Park.

For additional information, contact Rachel Reavy at 610.608.2401 or rachel_reavy@verizon.net.

"Everything's Coming Up Roses" Training with the Green Volunteer Corps Committee

By Teresa Montano

Join the Green Volunteer Corps Committee at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday February 5, 2011 at Triple Oaks Nursery & Herb Garden in Franklinville, NJ for this intriguing lecture, which will cover the history, legend, cooking, and practical uses of roses, as well as simple growing techniques. We will be making rose potpourri, which will have a whole rose and real rose oil in it. Each person will get a generous bag to take home, and with the Valentine’s Day theme, we will tie the clear corsage bag with a heart ribbon and have a heart pick on it. There will be a lovely luncheon tied into this year’s theme as well. Everyone will receive a coupon for 10 percent off rose bushes to use in the spring. This training receives Mission Credit and costs $15 per attendee.

At 1 p.m., there will be an optional demonstration on how to dry roses and make a lovely and fragrant wreath of dried herbs and beautiful dried roses. Participation in the afternoon segment requires an additional payment of $45, sent in advance to Triple Oaks.

Sign up on the JLP website before January 14, 2011 and go to www.TripleOaks.com for directions. Contact Teresa Montano at trsmontano@yahoo.com or 215.731.0110 with questions.

Sustainer Cooking Klatch

By Bonnie Hamm

The opening meeting and luncheon for the Sustainer Cooking Klatch was held on Thursday, October 14 at the home of our gracious hostess, Marilyn Sprague. Although it was a very windy and rainy day, all 47 members and Sustainer Chair Bobbie Cameron enjoyed gathering together for a delicious “Tailgate Picnic.” Future Klatch meetings are as scheduled:

- December 9, Theme: Festive Holiday Brunch
  Hostess: Barbara Gord, Co-Hostess: Deedie O’Donnell

Adventures in Cooking

By Johnelle Whipple

Have you ever wanted to learn a new cooking skill? Or what about how to cook a fabulous new meal for a dinner party or holiday? We have a fun and exciting series of new fundraising events that will teach you a few new things in the kitchen and enable you to give back to the League at the same time!

The JLP has partnered with the Viking Culinary Program in Bryn Mawr to create two custom cooking events that we know you will enjoy and that begin in February 2011.

Bring your girlfriends, a date, or come by yourself to meet others. This is a great opportunity to learn how to prepare a variety of tasty dishes in a hands-on, intimate workshop. You will prepare, cook, and then eat the fabulous menu in a family-style setting, enjoying complimentary wine with dinner.

Ten percent of the ticket sales and 20 percent of items bought in the Viking store on the night of the event will go to support our JLP projects. Sign up now; space is limited!

Girl’s Night Out in Rome - Friday, February 25 from 6 to 9 p.m.

Menu:
- Marinated Roasted Red Peppers and Olives
- Homemade Spinach and Ricotta Ravioli with Tomato-Pancetta Butter
- Veal Scaloppini with Prosciutto and Sage (Saltimbocca alla Romana)
- Chocolate Gelato with Cherries rolled in Bittersweet Chocolate (Tartufa)

Sparkling Wine with Fresh Strawberry Puree will be served with dinner.

SKILLS AND TECHNIQUES: Making fresh pasta; stuffing and preparing veal scaloppini.

Classic Steakhouse - Saturday, March 12 from 5 to 8 p.m.

Menu:
- Mushroom Caps stuffed with Crab Imperial
- Bacon-Wrapped Filet Mignon with Béarnaise
- Oven-Roasted Asparagus
- Twice-Baked Tail Potatoes
- Iceberg Wedge with Homemade Blue Cheese Dressing
- Bananas Foster

Wine and non-alcoholic beverages will be served with dinner.

SKILLS AND TECHNIQUES: Working with fresh crab meat; pan-searing and roasting filet mignon; making a classical French sauce; stuffing potatoes; roasting vegetables; flambéing a dessert.

Classes are designed for students 16 years of age or older. Students must be 21 years of age to consume alcohol. Please wear closed toe shoes for the workshop.

Questions? Please contact Johnelle Whipple at johnelle.whipple@gmail.com or Elizabeth Moyer at eamoyer@hotmail.com.
Sustainer News
Sustainer Chair’s Perspective

By Bobbie Cameron

It’s that time of year again: the time for the giving and receiving of gifts. Like most children, I loved being on the receiving end, especially on Christmas morning. I would walk down the stairs like a little angel, one hand on the railing and the other clutching my mother’s. Once my slippered feet touched the floor, I would make a mad dash to the living room where toys, dolls, and boxes with ribbons filled the room. I was in Heaven, and my parents had to drag me away to sit through an intolerably long breakfast when I knew Santa had left me everything I asked for. I was, after all, a very good girl!

Strangely enough, today I much prefer giving gifts. I get really excited and emotional when I find that perfect gift, like tickets to the 1997 Duke versus Nova basketball game for my Duke-loving teenage nephew and his dad. It was as much a thrill for me as for them, especially when I turned on the game and saw them sitting in their seats right behind the Duke bench!

In this season of gift giving, I hope you will remember the Junior League of Philadelphia. In addition to our Annual Fund, which provides essential support for the JLP and helps to offset our operational costs, you may also make a gift to the Endowment Fund, managed by The Philadelphia Foundation (TPF). This fund provides a permanent income stream to perpetuate the League’s mission of promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women, and improving the community through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. There also is the Building Fund and funds for various JLP projects, too.

Gifts may also be made in memory of a loved one or in tribute of a special achievement, a birthday, anniversary, or other special occasion. Gifts may also be designated through a planned giving option such as a bequest in a will, charitable gift annuities, or donations of a life insurance policy. All gifts are tax-deductable and may be made payable to the Junior League of Philadelphia. Just indicate when you make your gift which fund you would like to support. All gifts are greatly appreciated, no matter the size.

Speaking of giving, Schuy Wood and Nan Greytok gave us a fabulous Sustainer Fall Membership dinner. The location was perfect, the meal was delicious, the flowers were beautiful and the speaker, Dr. Stephen Phillips, was not only informative but also highly entertaining. Indiana Jones has nothing on Dr. Steve!

Pam Crutchfield and Judy Ruse, our terrific Welcome Team, hosted a fun-filled dinner for our new, re-instated, and recently transferred Sustainers. We made new friends and reconnected with some old ones.

Whether you celebrate Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanza, or just enjoy a winter wonderland, may the glow of the season warm your heart throughout the year. By the way, my nephew, who is almost 30 and a father himself, and his dad still talk about that Duke game, and I always cheer for Duke…unless, of course, they play my Iowa Hawkeyes!

Happy Holidays!  

Bobbie

The Larks’ Fall Schedule: On the Road Again!

By Jill Franks

Under the expert direction of Anjali Gallup-Diaz, the Larks have added several new pieces this fall to their repertoire, including interesting and challenging arrangements of “What A Wonderful World,” “Dream,” and “Embraceable You.”

On September 29, the first fall trouping, the Larks enjoyed their return engagement at The Sisters of the Holy Child in Rosemont. In October, the Larks performed at The Quadrangle in Haverford, PA. November’s trouping included Martin’s Run in Media, and Plush Mills in Wallingford.

The month of December always finds the Larks spreading holiday spirit through their music. On December 8, they are scheduled to visit two nursing homes, Deer Meadow and Wesley Enhanced Living, both in Philadelphia. The following Wednesday they provide another double performance at the Presbyterian Village in Broomall, and Riddle Village in Media. On December 17, they will lead guests in singing Christmas carols at the Germantown Cricket Club.

Would you like to become a member of the Larks? New additions are always welcome! Please contact Shirley Messina (dieselem@aol.com) if interested.  

Garden Club and Larks Team Up

By Jane Acton

The Garden Club and the Larks will join together in December for an outreach project. On Monday, December 6 and Tuesday, December 7, the Garden Club will meet at the home of Gail Parker in Radnor for workshops to decorate small, bedside-table-size trees. On Wednesday, December 8, the Larks will take these little trees to nursing homes where they will distribute them and entertain the residents. If you would enjoy taking part in this project, please call Nancy Henry at 610.356.2822 for details.  

Bookmarks

By Karen Miller

Merry Christmas to all! It’s my hope that your Christmas tree, and that of those you love, is lined with wonderful books. We don’t meet in December but please get ready for January when we will discuss Mary Shelley’s Frankenstein - not the movie, not the comic strip, but the genuine literary work that explores the limits of human creativity. This discussion, along with our annual winter soup and bread supper, will be at the home of Marianne McClatchey.  

Shirley Messina  

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Hotline Deadlines
February issue: January 25
March issue: February 25

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 2  Webinar Working the JLP Website
December 3  First Friday at The Thrift Shop
December 3  Provisional Thrift Shop Training
December 4  Yoga Class at Yogawood
December 9  Sustainer cooking Klatch  Festive Holiday Brunch
December 10  Provisional Movie Night
December 12  BOOST Camp Event
December 13  Webinar Working the JLP Website
December 14  Provisional Meeting and Cookie Exchange
December 14  Webinar Working the JLP Website
December 20  DIAD Gift Wrapping with Ronald McDonald House
December 21  DIAD Gift Wrapping with Ronald McDonald House
December 22  DIAD Gift Wrapping with Ronald McDonald House

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