League Recruits Largest Provisional Class in Its History!

By Ashley Allphin

The League began its 2010-2011 recruiting season by hosting 12 Open Houses during the hot summer months of 2010 and advertising in over 15 media outlets. With the help of Dianne Smith, Jen Morgan, the Board, Julie Ermentrout, and seven Provisional Advisors, we were able to recruit the largest Provisional class in the League’s history, topping 152.

The Provisional year started off at the Union League of Philadelphia, where Provisionals met their Advisors, learned about the Junior League of Philadelphia, and ate a delicious breakfast. The next two large Provisional events were community work days held in Fairmount Park. Three DIAD Provisional meetings held at the Christian Street YMCA and the Ardmore Family YMCA followed. *You can always expect great things whenever a group of highly motivated and accomplished women get together!* stated Provisional Mary Akhimien.

The Provisional year was jam-packed. It was filled with happy hour gatherings at R2L, El Vez, and Zama. It also included two movie nights at Ashley Allphin and Julie Ermentrou’s homes and numerous other planned events, including BYOB dinners hosted by Provisional Advisors. The meetings were held throughout Philadelphia and the Main Line, at sites that included the Radisson Plaza-Warwick Hotel Philadelphia in Center City and Bourbon Blue in Manayunk, just to name two. We hosted the December meeting at the Hilton Garden Inn Philadelphia Center City hotel in Philadelphia, where ladies enjoyed a cookie exchange, a short speech from the BOOST Camp Committee Chairs, a social, and breakout sessions to plan the Provisional fundraising project, the Green Carpet Event.

“My provisional year in the JLP far exceeded my expectations. I have already forged wonderful friendships with girls whom I might never have met otherwise. I loved the diverse range of volunteer experiences—from cooking in a soup kitchen to weeding in a forest—and, of course, the parties, shopping days, and happy hours! I intend to commit many more years to the League,” stated Provisional Sara Solow.

The year ended with the Provisional members and their advisors hosting the Green Carpet Event. The fundraiser was a year in the making, and, while it was fun to host the JLP’s first Green Carpet Event, it was also a lot of work. It was wonderful to have support from Dianne Smith, Jen Morgan, Susan Henley, and the Board. The event gave the Provisional class a sense of accomplishment as well as firsthand experience planning a fundraising event for over 400 people.

“I enjoyed my Provisional year in the League. I met a bunch of wonderful and enthusiastic women and even re-connected with a Kindergarten classmate from Greenfield School in Philadelphia! Helping with the Green Carpet Event was a rewarding challenge—it gave me an opportunity to use my professional skills as an architect in a way I hadn’t envisioned previously. I hope to be more involved with logistics and events planning as I move on to active status,” stated Provisional Juliet Geldi Rigall.
President’s Perspective

By Dianne Smith

This time last year, at Annual Brunch, I left you with a quote from Ghandi, “The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.” Serving others is a journey that takes you to new places and makes unexpected turns along the way. When I look back to the beginning of this League year and all of the goals that were set by myself and by others in the League, I am very proud of the accomplishments and outcomes that were achieved, which were the result of a great deal of hard work and dedication from many League and staff members. We all worked together to make sure that nothing failed. It is a wonderful feeling to reflect on the events of this past year with no regrets and to know that the best interest of the League was served.

We have achieved so much this year. The Board completed a Strategic Plan that will take us into the next three years. This plan bridges the gap between the strategic vision of the Board and the project plans of the individual committees via Annual Plans that roll up through the Management Council. The Bylaws and Policies & Procedures were revamped to be fluid and consistent with the needs of the organization. We recruited the largest Provisional Class in JLP history. We have exceeded the fundraising revenue goal budgeted for the League by more than $20,000. I am also very proud of the relationship we now have with the City of Philadelphia Mayor’s office, Mayor Nutter himself, and also his Chief Service Officer, Catie Wolfgang. This relationship will continue for many years to come and will provide the JLP with access to tremendous community and civic resources that we would not otherwise be able to take advantage of and utilize. Our issue-based community impact topic will be defined as we move forward and will enable the JLP to be more relevant and impactful in our deliverables to the City of Philadelphia and surrounding areas.

As we celebrate our Centennial in the coming year, the JLP is excited to be launching a capital campaign to raise funds for additional renovations to our Headquarters. As we continue to form our new issue-based community programming, we also hope to unveil a large-scale volunteer service project to kick off our next 100 years of service in Philadelphia. The continuity between incoming President Jodi Kerr and me is very important for the overall strength and growth of this organization. I know that the mechanisms we have put in place this year will benefit the League for many years to come.

It has been a wonderful experience to have an opportunity to meet and get to know so many strong and talented women. I have learned so much about myself this year, and I am looking forward to transitioning into a new chapter of my life in the JLP.

It is now time to pass the gavel to Jodi Kerr, the 2011-2012 Junior League of Philadelphia President. Jodi, it has been a pleasure working with you this year. I could not have imagined having a better President-Elect. You have been very supportive and engaged throughout all of the processes this year. My hope is that you have learned from my experiences and that you feel prepared to step into your new role as President. You will be fantastic and I am confident that you will serve the League well. And, most of all, I trust your judgment. I welcome you to accept the President’s gavel.

Save the Date for Taste of Fall: September 25

Please mark your calendars for our second annual Taste of Fall, which will take place on Sunday, September 25. This year’s event promises to be our best yet, with tasty samplings from local restaurants, wineries, and breweries; live music; and a wide array of items offered by unique, specialty vendors. There will also be fun activities and crafts for children to enjoy. So, bring a friend, the whole family, or come solo—there will be plenty for everyone!

Taste of Fall will be hosted at The Suzanne Morgan Center at Ridgeland in West Fairmount Park (the same location as last year) from 1 to 5 p.m., rain or shine. Purchase your tickets on the JLP website. We are offering an early-bird discount for League members, so don’t miss out! Tickets will be sold at the discounted price for a limited time only. Proceeds will support our signature focus, Project GREEN: Using Nature to Nurture.

Taste of Fall can only be successful with the participation of our generous participants. To that end, we hope that when you purchase your tickets, you will consider doing so at one of the sponsorship levels, which are tax deductible minus the value of any admission tickets included with the sponsorship. Also, if you know of any potential corporate sponsors, restaurants, or vendors who would like to participate in the event or you would like additional information, please contact Amanda Bruno at asmotherseven@hotmail.com or Kate Davis at kateelizdavis@gmail.com. We hope to see you there!
By Dianne Smith

On behalf of the Junior League of Philadelphia and our more than 900 members, welcome to Philadelphia! I hope you all had a pleasant trip here and that you are looking forward to a great conference. Philadelphia is a city rich with culture and history, and the JLP has been an integral part of that history for 99 years. I would like to share some of that with you.

By 1915, Junior League of Philadelphia membership had reached 100 in number. World War I was upon the nation, so the JLP assisted nurses’ aides and volunteered in hospitals. By 1920, the 19th Amendment became law, giving women the right to vote for the first time. The League offered training to its members in preparation for this new responsibility. Work with the blind also became a major focus area of the JLP.

In 1924, the proposition was made to the Fairmount Park Commission for the JLP to become guardian of the Park’s Sweetbriar Mansion, and by 1928, we had raised all of the necessary funds to take possession of Sweetbriar, our new Headquarters. If you take a historic trolley tour while you are here in Philadelphia, you will see the lovely Sweetbriar Mansion nestled in the heart of Fairmount Park, the largest urban park system in the United States.

In the fall of 1929, the JLP made Children’s Heart Hospital our chief beneficiary, which was the League’s main project until 1938. On our 21st birthday, the Junior League of Philadelphia was the proud host of the 13th Annual AJLI Conference. We also hosted you in 1984, so this is our third time having all of you with us.

In the early 1940’s, we renewed our efforts to support the country through the Second World War. The JLP played an advisory role in the Civilian Defense Office and helped organize the volunteer service of the University Hospital. We worked closely with the American Red Cross and the Home Defense Program. We opened our first thrift shop in Philadelphia in 1945.

In the mid-1950’s, we began working with Lankenau Hospital, created the Junior Museum at the Academy of Natural Sciences, and developed the “Wheels for Welfare” program. The beginning of the 1960’s brought new projects, serving as tour guides at Independence Hall, participating in Art Goes to School, and teaching English to foreign-born women.

In 1983, the JLP sought, and received, $1.8 million in grants for the restoration of the Old Mill House at the Water Works.

During 1988-1989, the JLP contributed more than 55,000 hours to projects and committees and raised more than $265,000 to support programs and projects. Some of this funding was distributed to the City of Philadelphia for Phase III of the restoration of the Water Works and Water Works Entrance Houses. After 15 years of JLP involvement, we were able to turn the Water Works Restoration Project over to the community as a Legacy Project. If you visit Philadelphia’s world-renowned art museum while you’re here, it would be well worth your time to take a few extra minutes and visit the Water Works Interpretive Center and surrounding facilities, tucked behind the Philadelphia Museum of Art on the banks of the Schuylkill River.

Also in the 1980’s, we worked once again with the Academy of Natural Sciences to provide funding and create teaching kits and traveling exhibits with the Please Touch Museum. Today, the Please Touch Museum is in a new facility of its own, Memorial Hall, very near the Sweetbriar Mansion in beautiful Fairmount Park.

In the 1990’s, we were asked to provide volunteers for President Clinton’s Conference on Volunteerism and also for the Republican National Convention.

In 2003, we purchased the former Harrison’s department store in Ardmore to serve as our first-ever permanent Headquarters. Today, our Headquarters houses our office as well as our largest fundraiser, the JLP Thrift Shop. Revenue from our thrift shop exceeds $500,000 per year and supports our efforts in the community. We are very proud to be reaching $560,000 in revenue for the 2010-2011 League year.

Currently, our focus area is “Project GREEN: Using Nature to Nurture,” which reconnects children with their natural environment, encourages healthy outdoor play, and helps provide access to healthy food.

This League year, we have been working closely with the City of Philadelphia Mayor’s office to improve and expand our reach in Philadelphia and the surrounding areas. We were honored to have Mayor Michael Nutter as our guest speaker at our September General Membership Meeting. In alignment with AJLI direction, the JLP is moving towards issue-based community programming so we will be able to make a more lasting and meaningful impact in Philadelphia.

As we celebrate our Centennial in the coming year, the Junior League of Philadelphia is excited to be launching a capital campaign to raise funds for additional renovations to our Headquarters. As we continue to form our new issue-based community programming, we also hope to unveil a large-scale volunteer service project to kick off our next 100 years of service in Philadelphia. Thank you all for coming and have a wonderful conference. JLP.

Photos taken by David Kelly Crow
The leadership team will be reduced from five members to three members.

After the AJLI Board and staff left the room, the Nominating Ballot of POLL officers for next year was presented by the Nominating Committee and the slate passed. Delegates were asked to complete forms to nominate themselves for two-year positions on the POLL Officers Committee. Kelley Hurst, POLL President from the Junior League of Indianapolis, Indiana, presented an overview of POLL finances. POLL money has been spent prudently and dues for POLL Leagues will be reduced from $350 to $300, effective June 1, 2011. The leadership team will be reduced from five members to three members.

The session concluded with more discussion about the dues increase. A straw poll was taken of the members in the room and the majority of the POLL delegates were not in favor of the dues increase. Everyone was encouraged to talk with other delegates about the issue before the vote on Saturday.
“You have all the skills you need to run for public office, or you will soon,” stated panelists Lynn Yeakel and Kim Krushell, who consider the Junior League a perfect training ground for a political career. And, they have shown this. Lynn Yeakel, a long-time member of The Junior League of Philadelphia, Inc., ran for U.S. Senate in 1992 and came very close to unseating incumbent Arlen Specter. Kim Krushell is in her third term on City Council in Edmonton, Alberta. These dynamic women say it is their Junior League training and contacts that enabled them to run for office and accomplish their goals.

Yeakel and Krushell were the featured panelists of the AJLI’s 89th Annual Conference workshop “Elected Office: An Avenue of Choice for Women’s Community and Civic Leadership.” The workshop was facilitated by Erin Vilardi of The White House Project, a nonpartisan and nonprofit organization working to advance women in business, politics, and media. The goal of this workshop was to encourage Junior League members to use their skills and contacts to run for public office.

Lynn Yeakel joined the JLP when she resigned from her job after becoming pregnant. Her Junior League work led to her formation of Women’s Way, the first organization to act as a fundraising umbrella for other women’s nonprofits. She was opposed to Arlen Specter’s treatment of Anita Hill during the Clarence Thomas Supreme Court hearings, which led her to run against Specter. She tapped her friends from the volunteer and nonprofit sphere to manage the campaign, raise funds, and communicate her message. Starting with very little money and name recognition, she swept the primary and came close to unseating the powerful incumbent in the general election. The loss was disappointing, but the experience was empowering, enriching, and led to many opportunities she would not otherwise have had, including her appointment to President Clinton’s Health and Human Services Department.

Kim Krushell was President of the Junior League of Edmonton, Alberta, when she was asked to run for City Council. Her fellow League members encouraged her to run. The President-Elect stepped into the President position early to give Kim time to prepare for the election. The Junior League Treasurer managed her campaign finances and the Junior League Communications Chair managed her publicity and marketing. Once in office, she used the skills and contacts she gained from the League to establish low-cost enrichment programs for schools. Her greatest rewards included the opportunity to help individual constituents and shape the city’s approach to environmental challenges.

Both Yeakel and Krushell spoke of the need for more women in political leadership roles at all levels of government. Women make up more than one-half of the population in the U.S., yet only 17 percent of our Senators and 16.6 percent of congressmen are women. Forty-five million eligible women did not even vote in the 2008 election. Yet, many believe this world would be a different place if women shared power equally with men. Women in office tend to focus more on family, children, education, and quality of life issues. The leadership style of women is more collaborative and inclusive and less adversarial and divisive. Even if 30 percent of our elected officials were women, it would drive substantial changes in the way government is run.

A number of nonprofit organizations are driving this change. Among them is Vision2020, co-chaired by Lynn Yeakel. Vision2020, based at the Drexel University School of Medicine, is a campaign to make equality a national priority through shared leadership among women and men. Find out more at drexel.edu/vision2020. Also, the White House Project is a national, nonpartisan, not-for-profit organization that aims to advance women’s leadership in all communities and sectors, up to and including the U.S. Presidency. Find out more at thewhitehouseproject.org.
2010 - 2011 Award Recipients (continued)

Provisional of the Year

This year, the Provisional of the Year Award is presented to a person who is, beyond a doubt, selfless, bright, patient, and kind. This person was extraordinarily helpful and eager to take on whatever task was thrown her way. She was instrumental in planning the largest Provisional fundraiser to date, the Green Carpet Event, working all of the shifts on the day of the event. The League’s Provisional class truly appreciates this person’s creativity, die-hard mindset, and architectural skills. The countless drawings that went from grey sketches to numbered chairs and a detailed runway over 120 feet long for the Green Carpet Event were carefully planned by Juliet Geldi Riggall, which has helped to earn her the title of Provisional of the Year. Her optimistic attitude and resourcefulness will never be forgotten.

Volunteer of the Year

What does it mean to volunteer? It means to give of one’s time freely and without the promise of reward. We are all volunteers in the JLP. Sometimes we are faced with unforeseen circumstances that can affect our attitude and sense of direction. It is at times like these when we are challenged at the most personal level. To rise above our current situation by taking on more responsibility helps us grow and develop in ways we were not expecting. It also helps to have the strong friendship of someone you trust and respect to navigate to a successful outcome. After leading the first-ever Taste of Fall fundraiser and meeting the revenue target, the Taste of Fall Co-Chairs could have stepped back and coasted through the rest of the League year. Instead, they asked whether there was something else they could contribute to and get involved in for the remainder of the League year. At that time, there were no donations collected for the first-ever Online Auction that was supposed to launch within two months. Much work needed to done. These volunteers rolled up their sleeves and got more than $150,000 retail value in merchandise uploaded to the auction site. We are still collecting revenue for this project, but we should net at least $11,000 in revenue, and possibly more. These two women have set such a high bar and a good example of what it means to work together as a team. I am very proud to present the Volunteer of the Year Award to the dynamic duo of Meredith Carter and Bonnie Duncan.

Leader of the Year

What does it mean to be a good leader? It means leading by example and making others want to follow. The JLP was faced with many “new” things this year: all new event fundraisers and a new organizational structure, just to name two. With this new structure came uncharted territory that would need to be mapped out very carefully so as not to lose continuity and consistency in the years to follow. There were not even job descriptions for some of the new roles created by this new structural implementation. By defining her role and the roles of those around her, this leader was able to adapt successfully to a new organizational format that allowed the Board to be strategic in nature for the first time while she kept the League’s operations on track. She has a strong presence and communication style and inspires others to work to their best potential. I am very proud to present this year’s Leader of the Year Award to Elizabeth Kolb.

President’s Cup

The final award is presented to that member who has gone above and beyond the call of duty and, in most cases, has had to work closely with the President. Every year, the JLP is faced with a new set of circumstances and challenges that need to be met head-on and with a great deal of thought, accuracy, and timeliness. This year was no exception. This leader worked tirelessly on behalf of the JLP and was invaluable in her role. She had a comprehensive understanding of what needed to get done and was always willing to assist others. She set new standards and set the bar very high for those who will follow in her footsteps. This would have been a more difficult year for me without her by my side, which is where she seemed to be every time I turned around. She was ever-present and I will never forget that. She makes the Junior League of Philadelphia a better organization. She has a tremendous work ethic and can-do attitude. I am very proud to award the President’s Cup to Susan Henley.
Congratulations to Marge Devlin, the 2011 Recipient of the Susan B. Myers Leadership and Community Activism Award

Marge Devlin is a woman of limitless energy, passion, and zeal. As she celebrates her 50-year Junior League membership, we celebrate her myriad contributions to the League and the community. The Junior League of Philadelphia takes great pleasure in honoring Marge with the 2011 Susan B. Myers Leadership and Community Activism Award.

Marge belonged to the Junior League of Elizabeth-Plainfield in Cranford, New Jersey, before transferring to the Junior League of Philadelphia in 1967. She has a wide array of interests and, among many other positions, has served as Chair of Children’s Theatre, Museum Goes to School, and the Sustainer Nominating and Membership Committees. Marge was also Sustainer Chair and Sustainer of the Year. Most recently, she spearheaded the Sustainer Community Service Project at the Paul V. Fly Elementary School.

The Susan B. Meyers Award celebrates not only outstanding Junior League achievements, but also exceptional volunteer work in the community. Throughout her life, Marge Devlin has focused her volunteer work on youth, particularly young women. She was a founding member of the Girls’ Coalition of Southeastern Pennsylvania and served as President of Big Sisters of Philadelphia, Inc. She was also President of Hahnemann Hospital Association and the Main Line Newcomers Club. Additionally, her many board memberships have included Baker Industries, C.A.R.E., Inc., the Janet Memorial Home Institute for Teenage Girls, Teen-Aid Inc., and the Visiting Nurses Association of Central New Jersey.

Because of her continuous commitment and her breadth of interests, Marge was also Co-Chair of the JLP Volunteers for the Republican Convention in 2000 and President Clinton’s Summit for America’s Future in 1997.

If you have ever volunteered with Marge, you quickly found out that her teammate in all ventures, her husband Tom, joins in her determination, vision, and passion for a cause. Congratulations, Marge! You personify what the Susan B. Meyers Leadership and Community Activism Award is...because you live it. 

Success for “A Few of Our Favorite Things” Online Auction

By Meredith Carter and Bonnie Duncan

During the 2010-2011 League year, the JLP introduced a new fundraiser, “A Few of Our Favorite Things” online auction. We are proud to report that the auction was a success! The Online Auction Committee secured $146,404 in retail value of merchandise on the BiddingForGood.com website. Over the course of two weeks that began on April 3, 2011, 154 people registered to bid on 278 items. Items available for bid ranged from autographed sports memorabilia, gift certificates, and items from local stores and restaurants to packages to attend the Grammy Awards and go on extravagant trips to world-class resorts. The final profits are still being calculated, but early reports show the auction was both a financial success and an external marketing success for the League. Next year, the Online Auction Committee will be folded into an auction at the League's Centennial Gala. Thank you to everyone who made the “A Few of Our Favorite Things” online auction such a success!

Classifieds

Wanted: Sales Rep for small, boutique design company
Contact: Company President Maggie Fortier (a JLP member) at coolappraisal6@yahoo.com

Comptuer Instruction
Clean up. Brush up. Learn something new. Customized to your needs. It's time to act. Give me a call. League member. Jean MacFadyen, 610.363.0245, macflearn@verizon.net

Personal Shopping
Bloomingdale’s King of Prussia
Hate to shop and no time? Shop with convenience and know-how with Kathie Guenther, Sustainer, Manager of Personal Shopping. Great fashions and gifts for all occasions. 610.337.6382 or kathy.guenther@bloomingdales.com

Home renovations, additions, and new construction
Juliet Geldi Riggall
Registered Architect
2010-2011 Provisional Class member
Contact: 215-266-0999
juliet@northstreetdesign.com
NORTHSTREETDESIGN.COM

Women Building Better Communities®
HIP Kids – March Madness and More

By Mary Peller

We all know what March brings. Yes, the weather is unpredictable, but there is also the NCAA March Madness Basketball Tournament. In recognition of this event, the HIP Kids Committee held its own March Madness event at SMITH The Kids’ Play Place in the Park on Saturday, March 12 from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Just outside the playhouse, a basketball hoop welcomed the children. After shooting a few baskets, children ventured upstairs in the playhouse for more madness. Lisa Forbes, HIP Kids Committee cheer captain, handed out pompoms and taught cheers to the children. Across the room, Kristin Allen, Jeanette Danvers, and Sue Heisinger led the children in parachute games. Finally, to remember the day, the children decorated and took home sport-themed picture frames. Everyone had a ball!

Just one week later, on March 19, the HIP Kids Committee returned to SMITH on a sunny spring day to construct a living willow tunnel. We started our day by placing live willows in two large trenches. We then tied them together to form a tunnel. Joining the HIP Kids Committee members were Provisionals Jessica Perry, Beatrice Smith, and Danielle Del Vecchio. Active Margot Huber and Sustainer Marilyn Sprague also joined in. Many thanks to landscape architect Charles Brenton, who assisted us with the design and worked tirelessly with us during construction. There were some sore muscles the next day, but we had the satisfaction of completing a green play structure for SMITH. Look for it on your next visit to SMITH.

The willow structure was finished just in time for Play-A-Palooza on Saturday, April 2, which celebrated the opening of SMITH’s playground season. Though it was snowing just the day before, the weather cooperated and over 1,000 visitors attended the event. The playground equipment was the main attraction, but the HIP Kids Committee also provided activities throughout SMITH. The face painting and bubble stations proved very popular. At the end of the event, at 1 p.m., we were on our bubble reserve and still had a line at the face painting table. If you missed Play-A-Palooza, join the HIP Kids Committee at SMITH on Saturday, June 11 from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. for a fun-filled time.

Over 100 children attended the Flora & Fauna event held on May 14 from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at SMITH. Riverbend Environmental Education Center brought a turtle, gecko, snake, frog, and, of course, the worms. The worms proved to be popular with the children as well as the birds of SMITH. Children were also invited to make a greenhouse for growing vegetables. We planted the beans in cotton and they took them home to watch them sprout. What a fun way to learn about plants and animals!

Touching Worms is Fun!

By Mary Ruth Thompson

Throughout the 2010-2011 school year, League members have had the opportunity not only to touch worms but also to participate in a lot of other fun science activities. Six times each year, the RESPECT Nature Club Committee partners with Riverbend Environmental Education Center to plan and execute Science Expo Nights for fourth graders in the Norristown Area School District. The purpose of these events is to support the fourth grade science curriculum and generate enthusiasm for learning about science.

In November and January, approximately 150 students and their families participated in the Science Expo Nights held at Gotwals Elementary School and Paul V. Fly Elementary School. Along with figuring out where worms live, students also participated in a variety of other science activities including Fill the Bill—a fun, bird-themed, matching game—and Predator and Prey—a unique version of freeze tag where League members acted as wolves. Another event provided students with potted seeds to take home and watch sprout.

Throughout the spring, the RESPECT Nature Club Committee assisted with three more Science Expo Nights. These were great opportunities for League members to have a direct impact on the community…and touch some worms.
Junior League of Philadelphia Rolls out the Green Carpet
By Jennifer Morgan with contributions from Ashley Allphin and Julie Ermentrout, Provisional Course Chair and Chair-Elect

Nearly 400 Junior League of Philadelphia members, JLP supporters, and members of the public attended the 2010-2011 Provisional class fundraiser, the Green Carpet Event, an eco-friendly fashion show, on Saturday, April 2, 2011. The show and cocktail party, held at the Piazza at Schmidts in Philadelphia’s Northern Liberties neighborhood, raised over $12,000 for the League and our community programs. This event, the brainchild of Provisional Course Chair Ashley Allphin, was a year in the making and marked the most complex and successful Provisional Class fundraiser to date. It also received coverage from several media outlets, including The 10! Show and KYW News Radio 1060.

The show was co-sponsored by The Piazza at Schmidts and PYT Restaurant, in addition to major brands and designs including Arcadia Boutique, Priscilla of Boston, Lilly Pulitzer, The Junior League of Philadelphia Thrift Shop, Whitney Eve, Onassis Clothing LLC, and Sagets Formal Wear. Several other brands, including The Jones Group and Fashion Bug, provided financial support.

The day began early in the morning for the Provisionals and their Advisors. Volunteers erected a runway donated by the Valley Forge Convention Center and laid out the Piazza according to a plan designed by Provisional Juliet Geldi Rigall, an architect. The end result was a scene reminiscent of New York City’s famed Fashion Week.

Attendees dressed to impress despite the frigid temperatures and strutted the green carpet in style, stopping briefly to have their photographs snapped by sponsor Jen Cleary Photography in front of the step-and-repeat donated by Sign-A-Rama. VIP guests received special swag bags and front row seating, and all guests received programs with a logo created and donated by Amy Perich.

The volunteer models rocked the runway accompanied by music provided by sponsor DJ Music orchestrated by DEL. Among the models were JLP members Ashley Allphin, Aronté Bennett, Amber Goins, Jennifer Hall, Anna Heng, Juliet Horton, Lauren Ladd, and Lindsay Pollard.

The cocktail party featured access to a bar serving the night’s signature cocktails, including delicious drinks made with Tito’s handmade vodka and the 5-calorie Sinless Margarita, donated by Sinless Cocktails, LLC of Georgia. Guests also tried locally brewed beer generously donated by Lancaster Brewing Company. Guests indulged in appetizers and desserts provided by event sponsors Sweet Freedom Bakery (co-owned by JLP active Allison Lubert), Pop Chips, Birchtree Catering, Flanigan’s Boathouse, The Artful Dodger, Mugshots, and Botto’s amazing cupcakes.

Provisional Course Chair-Elect Julie Ermentrout stated, “I am incredibly thankful to everyone who helped with this event. It was truly wonderful to see the hard work and dedication of so many people culminate in such a spectacular evening.”

Several JLP Past Presidents, including Heidi Tirjan, Samantha Soldan, Annamarie Hellebusch, and Debra Vozzo, current Board and Management Council members, and JLP Sustainers attended the show. The Provisional Course Committee greatly appreciates their support as well as the efforts of our sponsors and volunteer models. A special thank you goes to President Dianne Smith, Treasurer Susan Henley, Parliamentarian Mary Kate Lo Conte, Debbie Quinn, Patty Franks, Ruth Palmer, and 10! Show Host Bill Henley for helping to make this event possible. 🎉
Shopping Works Wonders!
By Emily Lambert

On April 27, 2011, the Project Fundraising Committee partnered with Bloomingdale’s in King of Prussia for a day-long fundraiser, Shopping Works Wonders. The event featured a lunchtime fashion presentation with mini-makeovers by CHANEL, an evening cocktail reception, and a raffle sponsored by MaxMara. League members and their friends, family, and colleagues were encouraged to attend the events and take advantage of the 20 percent friends and family discount. Members who elected to purchase a $40 ticket received one Ways & Means Credit as well as a $20 gift card to Bloomingdale’s.

Joann Falciani was the lucky winner of the MaxMara raffle and walked away with a fabulous beach bag stuffed with goodies from our generous sponsor. Thank you to Bloomingdale’s, MaxMara, and everyone who participated in this fantastic fundraiser. The event raised over $1,000 for the League.

Voting Results Are In!
By Melissa Finnegan

Following the Voting Meeting on April 20, our Parliamentarian Mary Kate Lo Conte was hard at work tallying the ballots. As Director of Development, I am pleased to report the results to the membership.

Project Slates: Both the community and fundraising project slates passed as displayed on the voting ballot. As a reminder, the JLP will offer the following community and fundraising committees for the 2011-2012 League year:

- Fundraising Projects: Annual Fund, Centennial Gala, Harvest Hustle, and Taste of Fall.

Please note that Done in a Day (DIAD) is a standing community project and the Thrift Shop is a standing fundraising project; therefore, they are not part of the voting process.

Community Issue: Members were asked to choose between “healthy living” and “education” as the new community issue on which to base our future programming. The voting results were extremely close and a clear choice cannot be identified at this time. The issues will be presented at a future date with additional information to aid in the decision-making process.

Thank you to all members who participated in the voting process this year—your voice was heard!

JLP Thrift Shop Quota—Every Member Can Make A Difference
By Dianne Smith

We had a tremendous year in the JLP Thrift Shop, and it is because of the efforts of our dedicated staff and members, as well as donations from people in the community we serve. A very large revenue goal of $560,000 was set for the JLP Thrift Shop this year, and we will exceed this goal by more than $10,000. I would like to thank everyone who went above and beyond by donating more than the minimum quota to help us hit such a large number. The following individuals contributed more than $1,000 in donations to the JLP Thrift Shop:

- Kim Berselli
- Lynise Caruso
- Amy Clark
- Susan Henley
- Elizabeth Kolb
- Mary Kate Lo Conte
- Maria Renée McKinney
- Havalah Neboshick
- Brandie Schwartz
- Dianne Smith
- Olivia Tarbox

JLP Thrift Shop Update

The Shop remains open and very active all summer long. Take this opportunity to get a head start on your 2011-2012 obligations of donating Thrift Shop Quota and performing Thrift Shop Shifts before the hectic times in the fall. We are hanging summer merchandise until August 1, 2011, at which time we will switch to fall and winter.

We would love to have some donations of high-quality furniture over the next few months, so that the Shop will be stocked when the college students return in the fall. Furniture is always a valuable, high-ticket item, and, if priced appropriately, can be quickly rotated off the floor.

As you do spring cleaning and empty out your closets, please keep in mind that the bottom line of the Shop is directly related to the quality of your donations. Thank you for your continued support.

Actives Going Sustainer

Mori Anderson
Kim Berselli
Margaret Bradley
Joanne Chuang
Maureen Dever
Alison Dyer
Kathryn Frazier
Odile Gelinard
Autumn Graves
Barbara Hafner
Kim Harrar
Beth Lindgren
Belinda McLeod-Quinn
Mary-Alice Michaels
Jennifer Minton
Lisa Ndiaye
Diane Oliva
Amy Piergiovanni
Jeannette Schlegel
Samantha Soldan
Heidi Tirjan

Congratulations!

Todd and Jennifer Jarden welcomed Angelina Belle on February 15 at 6:10 a.m. She weighed 7 lbs. 4 oz. and was 20 3/4 inches long. Angelina joins big sister Charlotte.

Thomas and Sarah McCabe welcomed Thomas Bayard on February 6.

Robert and Johnelle Whipple welcomed Julia Grace on January 16 at 6:10 a.m. She weighed 6 lbs. 8 oz. and was 19 inches long.
What, Exactly, Does the Building Committee Do?

By Dianne Smith

The Building Committee has three primary roles: 1) Plan and execute workdays to improve the look of our Headquarters, 2) Write grant applications for repairs and maintenance of our Headquarters, and 3) Assess the urgent repairs and maintenance needed at our Headquarters and collect quotes for service, which are then taken to the Finance Committee for approval.

This has been an exciting year for members of the Building Committee, who have been busy tackling all of the roles with which they have been tasked. Dianne Smith and Kate Long planned and executed five workdays to clean, paint, and re-organize the second floor office and Board areas. The Board table was dusted off and moved down from the third floor to create a wonderful meeting space in the front area of the second floor. With the new paint and adjoining sitting room, it is quite inviting, indeed! The grandfather clock has been restored and can be heard chiming away, even from the other end of the Office. The antique mirror from Sweetbriar Mansion adorns the wall in the sitting room, just off of the Board Room. As you make your way down the hallway on the second floor, you will find a newly cleaned and painted break room for our staff. They seem to enjoy having a place to call their own when it is time to take a break from their daily activities at our Headquarters and Thrift Shop. Also cleaned and painted are the offices of our bookkeeper, Debbie Quinn, and our Office Manager, Ruth Palmer. What a difference some fresh paint has made to the interior of these two offices. The restroom has a new look as well, with soft yellow walls and off-white baseboards.

With the JLP being the host city for the 2011 AJLI Annual Conference, as well as our upcoming Centennial celebrations, much work needed to be done to archive all of the information that has been in storage for years at our Headquarters. At the direction of Building Committee member and Sustainer Betsy Mallon, a group of enthusiastic Sustainers sifted through and organized all of the documents that were collecting dust on the third floor. This was a tremendous undertaking and their efforts are greatly appreciated.

The grant writing sub-group of Sam Soldan and Jackie Kaplan made submissions for grants from several organizations, including the Department of Environmental Protection, Comcast, the JLP Blossom Fund, and William Penn. We are eagerly awaiting responses and are hopeful that we will receive funding from at least one source.

Repairs and maintenance are a part of property ownership. Building Committee member Brooke Donovan served as the liaison between the Building Committee and the contractors bidding for services, coordinating the three-quote minimum needed for Finance Committee approval. We are very proud to have completed the much-needed repairs to the roof, gutters, and downspouts. Our next project will be to address the exterior brick walls and windows. Jodi Kerr and the 2011-2012 Board of Directors will follow through on these issues as well as obtain support for the upcoming launch of our capital campaign.

The Building Committee has undoubtedly been a valuable resource and asset to the League this year. Thank you to everyone who has participated in a workday or other project that has helped to make our Headquarters a warmer, more pleasant place to visit and gather for meetings. 

Welcome Transfers!

Please help welcome recent transfers into the JLP:

**Actives Transfer In**
Bethany Adams
Angela Johnson Allen
Lorna Duvinski
Jara Freeman
Jennifer Hughes
Luciana Mashore
Megan McNally
Katie Nadorlik
Kathryn Rafter
Stephanie Williams

**From**
Bryan-College Station, TX
Wilmington, DE
Wilmington, DE
Washington, DC
Baltimore, MD
Washington, DC
Miami, FL
Baltimore, MD
San Francisco, CA
Washington, DC

**Sustainers Transfer In**
Corin Wilkinson

**From**
Nashville, TN
Sustainer Chair’s Perspective

Sustainer News

By Bobbie Cameron

We kicked off this past League year with a bang, so why should we close it any differently?

Judy Moneta and Kathy Coriell gave the Evening Sustainers a fun and informative trip down the Silk Road.

The Spring Membership Luncheon at Merion Golf Club, graciously co-chaired by Louise Hill and Phyllis Suckow, was a spectacular hole-in-one event. Harriet Diston introduced our very special Sustainers, Jane Harrington, Ellen Lloyd, Virginia Mulligan, Jean Murdock, Carolyn Raymond, Frances Tyson, and Sara Vogel.

Unfortunately, Nancy Aldridge, Cornelia Clement, Ann Krout, Diana Mather, and Frances Rogalsky were unable to attend.

Suzanne Vanderveer announced our Sustainers of the Year, the very worthy Cindy Landreth and Didi Rieger.

A little rain couldn’t put a damper on the Sustainer Spring Social. Co-Chairs Laurie Etherington and Janney Ryan really outdid themselves and have set a standard that will be hard to beat. An added attraction, besides the shopping, was the appearance of John, my often-talked-about-but-rarely-seen husband. That alone was worth the price of admission!

Kudos and thanks to you all and a special thanks to our Hotline Co-Chairs, Melissa Nichols and Susan Van Allen for their tireless work on each issue. For many, the Hotline is their only connection to what the JLP is doing in the community.

At our Fall Sustainer membership dinner, Dianne Smith, our amazing JLP President, told you of our record-breaking Provisional class. We’d all like to see this trend continue, and since one of our responsibilities as Sustainers of the JLP is to sustain the League, check our website for upcoming New Member Open Houses and invite that new neighbor or co-worker to attend one and learn about our great League.

I have one regret from my term: not accessing the needs and interests of our younger Sustainers. At the League’s Annual Dinner, we welcomed, as we do each year, several outstanding women to Sustainerhood. We aren’t getting any younger, but the new Sustainers are. They no longer have to be age 40 and many have young children. If we are to maintain our unique status within AJLI as the best and most active group of Sustainers, we need to ensure that we keep our legacy growing.

Fortunately, Joan Prewitt, our fabulous new Sustainer Chair, has done just that; her daughter, Mary-Alice Michaels, is one of our new Sustainers!

I had a terrific year; I hope you did, too. I want to thank you all for your continued dedication to and support of the Junior League of Philadelphia. It has been an honor and privilege to serve as the 2010-2011 Sustainer Chair. Now I’m going to rest up for our Centennial Celebration!  

Sustainer of the Year Award

The Sustainer Nominating Committee is very pleased to present the Sustainer of the Year Award. This year’s selection was an extremely tight choice between two women who both have exemplified what it means to:

- Effectively demonstrate voluntarism
- Be a proven ambassador for the JLP in the community
- Be an inspiration to fellow Sustainer members
- Continue to make unique contributions to the JLP
- Go above and beyond what is expected of her

Both women have devoted years of service to the JLP. Each held a major leadership position as an active and has continued to share her keen skills as a Sustainer.

It didn’t take the Nominating Committee long to agree that we really could not choose one woman over the other so…they selected both! This year’s Sustainers of the Year are Cindy Landreth and Didi Rieger.

Cindy Landreth is a committed Junior League member who gives willingly of her time and is a great role model. In addition to being a wonderful mentor for numerous active groups, Cindy inspires all who know and work with her. One friend wrote, “Cindy is the perfect Junior League ambassador. Her intelligence, professionalism, drive, dedication, commitment, and upbeat personality bring out the best in the people and situations surrounding her. Not only does she come up with great ideas, but she also takes on the task of coordinating every detail while making everyone feel involved in the project. Cindy is a born leader that everyone wants to follow!”

Using her leadership skills, Cindy has done a great job revitalizing the Center City and New Jersey Sustainers. One of them wrote, “In organizing a flexible yet meaningful meeting schedule, Cindy has served us well. She often hosts these gatherings herself and goes as far as cooking dinner for 20 to 30 people to entice busy, exhausted women to come together. The sharing of ideas and the camaraderie are the key reasons that I attended in the beginning. Now I treasure the exposure to Cindy and her kind and gentle ways.”

Didi Rieger is the quintessential Junior League member. She has served the League in a number of capacities both as an active and a Sustainer, and she is a willing and dedicated volunteer for various community programs and events. Didi accepts with enthusiasm any job she is asked to do. She is always ready to step up and volunteer her services when asked. Some of the positions she has held on the Sustainer Board include: Hospitality, Building Committee, Centennial Committee, Nominating Committee, BBB & B, Special Sustainers, and Sustainer Chair.

There is not a job on the Sustainer Board that Didi hasn’t done! A fellow Sustainer wrote, “She is an outstanding volunteer and a definite inspiration to fellow Sustainers. She has held many positions in the League and is always ready to step up and volunteer her services wherever needed.” Another wrote, “Her engaging personality ensures a happy experience for anyone who works with Didi. To her, the glass is half full as she puts 100 percent of her energies into whatever project she attacks. Ever the champion for the Junior League, Didi is a most viable, dedicated, and enthusiastic member.”

In the community, Didi is on the Philadelphia Antique Show Committee and is a former chair of that event. She was on the Board at WHEELS for 12 years and volunteers regularly for the Flower Show. A volunteer for the Devon Horse Show, Didi also teaches knitting to third graders in the Berwyn School District. Didi is indeed a volunteer extraordinaire!

Congratulations to both Cindy and Didi on the well-deserved honor of being selected as Sustainers of the Year! Thanks, also, to Pam Maimone for all of her efforts to coordinate this award.
The Larks' Music is Golden
By Jill Franks

Fifty years ago, current Sustainer Jane Acton noted the success of a singing group called the Larks, who were affiliated with the Junior League of Baltimore. A singer herself, she was inspired to create a similar choral group, and thus, the Larks of the Junior League of Philadelphia was born! Fast forward to April 6, 2011, when Jane Acton and other former Larks, including past musical directors Betty Heidler (a former Sustainer) and Clare Mackie, joined the current singers to celebrate their golden anniversary! Hosted by Sustainer Shirley Messina, and coordinated by Jane Acton, an evening for making new friends and reminiscing about former times enabled the women to bond through their common love of music. The present day Larks, under the direction of Anjali Gallup-Diaz, thoroughly enjoyed performing several numbers for a very appreciative audience. There is a good chance that these music-loving women will meet again!

Garden Club Members Keep Their Thumbs Green
By Jane Acton

What could be cheerier than playing with beautiful flowers on a spring day? In the photo at left, guest speaker Pat Meitzler, center, demonstrates the basics of flower arrangement to Mickey Cooper and Barbara Whalen at the April workshop of the Junior League of Philadelphia Garden Club in preparation for its annual flower show. The challenge was to use flowers of one color to interpret the theme Flights of Fancy. In the photo at right, Joan Fisher and Betsy Daly display their morning’s fun.

The Garden Club meets on the fourth Monday from September through May to learn about the environment, horticulture, and design. Trips to local gardens and nurseries are part of the spring and fall programs. New members are welcome. The Club does not expect new members to be experts and provides a nurturing environment in which to expand your skills and knowledge. For information, contact Nancy Henry at 610.356.2822 or gaganmh@aol.com.

JLP Sustainer Theatre Trip

Save the date for the annual JLP Sustainer theater trip to New York City. This year’s trip will be on Wednesday, November 2, for a matinee performance of the show, “War Horse” at the Vivian Beaumont Theater at Lincoln Center. More details to follow in the next issue of the Hotline. For more information, contact Josselyn McAdam at 610.520.9009 or Barbara Hobbs at 610.649.8598.

Afternoon Brush-Up Bridge

Afternoon Brush-up Bridge is now held from 1 to 4 p.m. on the first Monday and third Thursday of each month at the homes of the hostesses listed below. It is also held on the second Friday and fourth Wednesday of each month at Dunwoody, with Ginny Price coordinating. Please call individual hostesses if interested in playing.

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ENCHANTED SUMMER DAY
SATURDAY, JUNE 18 • 11:00 AM–3:00 PM
The children’s garden turns 10 this year, and we are commemorating it in style. Enjoy a daylong festival of music, games, and more in Enchanted Woods.

Included with admission. Members free.

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

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Hotline Deadlines

September issue: July 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: $25 for classified ads, $115 for business card-sized ads, $200 for ¼ page ads, $300 for ½ page ads, and $525 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

June 11    HIP Kids Sliding Home Event
June 14    JLP Prospective Member Open House, Table 31
June 30    DIAD with MANNA
July 9     DIAD with Philabundance
July 23    HIP Kids In the Swing Event
August 2   JLP Prospective Member Open House, Plate
August 11  JLP Prospective Member Open House, Public House
August 13  HIP Kids In the Swing Event
August 23  JLP Prospective Member Open House, Kelly’s Tap Room
August 25  JLP Prospective Member Open House, Bourbon Blue
August 27  DIAD with Philabundance
August 31  JLP Prospective Member Open House, The Racquet Club of Philadelphia

All JLP Prospective Member Open Houses will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. More details about these events can be found on the JLP website: www.JLPhiladelphia.org.