

# JL<sup>®</sup> Lights



*Welcome Spring!*



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# 2011-2012 LEADERSHIP

### Executive Committee

President:	Jennifer Daurora
President-Elect:	Christina Johansen
Secretary:	Kristina Fausti-Broumand
Treasurer:	Angel Mazack
Treasurer Elect:	Jennifer Danquist-Kilgore

### Board of Directors

Community Director:	Eileen Bundy
Fund Dev. Director:	Amy Giammatteo
Marketing & Comm Director:	Amy Welsh
Membership Director:	Heidi Gillespie
Sustainer Co-Directors:	Heather Chronis & Betsy Teti

### Community Council

DIAD Chair:	Becky Gable
KITK Chair:	Stephanie McLeod
R&D Chair:	Stephanie Hoogendoorn
SWSG Co-Chairs:	Alaina Warren & Heather Tomko

### Fund Development Council

AGFS Chair:	Amy Vanderveen
Touch-a-Truck Chair:	Kristen Hawkins
Wear After Shop Chair:	Kimberly Toland

### Marketing and Communications Council

Internal Communications:	Vicky Guscoff
External Communications Chair:	Lauren Santori
LIGHTS Chair:	Katie Kozora
Graphic Design Chair:	Kristin Holzer

### Membership Council

New Member Chair:	Jessi Gregg
Retention Chair:	Jenna Neal
Training Co-Chairs:	Carol Gormick & M. Shernell Smith
Events Co-Chairs:	Lauren Plate & Maribeth Thomas
Inclusion & Diversity:	Megan Worbs

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10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday  
Closed Sunday and Monday

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Graphic Designer: Kristin Holzer



# *President's Message*

Spring is one of my favorite times of the year. Not just because the landscape wakes from the sleepy winter as trees and flowers begin to bloom. Spring also brings the start of transition and transformation for the Junior League as we near the end of our fiscal year and get ready to welcome new leadership. Serving as your President this past year has been a great joy in my life. I am so proud of our members and all that we have accomplished together and I am grateful for the opportunity to serve this historic organization and our members.

This year has been an important one for the Junior League of Pittsburgh. We began the research process that will lead to the selection of a new community impact partner. We began plans to celebrate the League's 90th Anniversary, an important milestone for any organization. We challenged ourselves to remain mission driven and relevant to today's woman. After all, the training and leadership development experiences provided to our members has the greatest impact on the community, and therefore is our legacy. A legacy that will be passed down to future generations of league members for years and decades to come.

Speaking of future generations, I am amazed by the leadership and dedication of our newest league members. This year's Provisional class has embraced our mission fully and their success has been very impressive. From the amazing Diaper Drive and social, the recent Kids in the Kitchen event with the Hill House, and the upcoming Wear After Shop Housewares Sale, I am inspired by the accomplishments and enthusiasm of our Provisional class. I can't wait to see what these women will achieve in the future.

As we look toward the future, I would like to congratulate all of our members who have been slated for leadership positions for the upcoming year. You have been entrusted with carrying our historic organization forward and ensuring that our legacy continues. I am so energized by our collective potential and all that our League can accomplish in our community. I do believe as the old song goes, the best is yet to come.

With Gratitude,



President



## *Mission*

We are an organization of women committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women, and improving communities through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. Our purpose is exclusively educational and charitable. We reach out to women of all races, religions and national origins who demonstrate an interest in and commitment to voluntarism.

## *Women Building Better Communities*

For more than 85 years, the Junior League of Pittsburgh has been the driving force behind the kinds of initiatives and institutions that make our community a healthier, more vital place to live.

Junior League members, reflecting a wide range of backgrounds, interests and professional pursuits, work together to identify unmet needs, forge effective coalitions and work for change. Time and time again, the Junior League is among the first organizations to step up and tackle our community's biggest challenges.

## Training Credits with a Twist

By: Carol Gomrick, Training Co-Chair

Hello Leaguers! What a busy and exciting year it's been so far. You may have noticed a lot of changes within the League this past year. As an organization, we are continuously looking to improve the League experience for our members as we are also working hard to positively impact our community. Some of these changes have been dramatic.

The Training committee met at the beginning of the year and discussed ways in which we can provide opportunities for members to be trained in leadership, women and child issues and community impact activities aligning with our position statements. As we started to investigate how to do this, we realized that opportunity was all around us.

Our discussions lead to a dramatic departure from previous training opportunities by providing the ability for members to earn training credits outside of established League events. The training committee met and laid out new approaches to training credits which:

- 1) Closely aligned with our mission and position statements.
- 2) Provided more opportunities throughout the League year to earn training credits.
- 3) Provided exposure for League members to engage in community training events that they may otherwise not have an opportunity to participate.
- 4) Provided an opportunity for the League to learn more about needs of the community by gathering feedback on the training attended by members.

The Board approved this new approach and you are now seeing several training events per month on the League calendar. League members can attend these events and receive a training credit by submitting an event report which in turn, provides useful information back to the League which may lead to other League activities.

Some of the approved training events are:

- Parenting Basics
- Caring for Aging Parents
- Personal Branding
- Women Leadership Seminars
- Pittsburgh Area Networking for Professionals

We hope that you find the training events informative to provide the ability for you to learn about topics which align with the League's position statement; applicable to your daily professional and personal life, and flexible to meet your busy schedule.

The Training committee encourages all members to provide feedback about this new approach and to send community events for consideration as an approved training event to [JLPGHTraining@gmail.com](mailto:JLPGHTraining@gmail.com).

## Recap: A Year in Events

By: Lauren Plate, Events Co-Chair

This year has been very exciting for the Events Committee. With the help of our members we have planned and enjoyed many wonderful events this year, in addition to our Annual Holiday Luncheon and Dinner. Our Junior League Movie Nights have been very popular, with over twenty members joining us in viewings of *The Help* and *One For The Money*. We have also had huge membership interest in our book club. We have enjoyed reading **Room**, **The Guernsey Literary**, **Potato Peel Society** and **The Paris Wife**, and discussing the books at a members' home over food and drink. In February, several members met at Color Me Mine in Squirrel Hill for a fun night of pottery painting with great company.

We have had many provisionals, actives, and sustainers participate and it has been great getting to know so many members. We are excited for what is to come next year!

In our League, our members have many diverse interests. Next year we would like to plan additional events that appeal to even more members. Whether it be a cooking class, a knitting club, a family activity or a good old happy hour, we would like to hear what types of events you would like to participate in with the Junior League.

Please email Lauren Plate, [laurenbplate@gmail.com](mailto:laurenbplate@gmail.com) or Maribeth Thomas, [maribeth49@aol.com](mailto:maribeth49@aol.com) with all ideas. We look forward to hearing from you!





## Bottoms Up!

By: Jessica Bliel Walters, Bottoms Up! Co-Chair

The 2011 – 2012 Provisional class kicked off their involvement in the League by hosting a diaper drive and happy hour, Bottoms Up!, at Villa Southside on January 19, 2012. All proceeds benefited the Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank's Diaper Bank. Attendees were asked to donate a package of diapers or give a suggested donation of \$10. The event included appetizers prepared by the Provisionals, martini specials, live music by Zig Daniels of The Delaney's, and a fabulous Chinese auction with an assortment of donations from local businesses and restaurants.

Carley Latus, Chair of Bottoms Up!, stated "Our goal for this event is to achieve a minimum donation of 2000 diapers." Despite cold weather and blizzard conditions, the Provisionals collected 3,238 diapers, \$205 from the auction, and \$825 in donations. In addition to the event, some Provisionals held individual diaper drives within the community. With the funds collected from Bottoms Up!, in combination with the total diapers donated, the Provisionals were able to raise 12,551 diapers for the Pittsburgh Diaper Bank.

Many people don't know that 1 in 3 American families struggle to provide diapers and that 1 in 20 American moms have cleaned out and reused wet or soiled disposable diapers when faced with financial hardship. In 2010 the Junior League of Pittsburgh created a Diaper Bank at Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank with a \$10,000 investment as well as a donation of several thousand diapers. This Diaper Bank provides clients of the Food Bank and their children with much needed diapers.

**Thank you to all who planned, attended and donated to the Bottoms Up! event!**



## Junior League & Social Media – Call for History!

By: Lauren Santori, External Communications Chair

Hello Digital World! We are continuing to grow our footprint online. To give you an update, the Junior League of Pittsburgh has 350 Facebook Fans and 591 Twitter followers as of March 15, 2012.

Look for Profile Updates to our Facebook Profile as our page has transitioned to the new version of Timeline [for an explanation: <http://www.facebook.com/about/timeline>].

Part of this new profile approach allows the League to curate our rich history in the community for all to see. If you have any milestones – please contact Lauren Santori, [Ltsantori@yahoo.com](mailto:Ltsantori@yahoo.com) / 412-389-1309. I'd love to hear from you!

**Don't forget to Like the Junior League of Pittsburgh on Facebook & Follow us on Twitter!**



# Profiles

## *Congratulations* to the newly slated Board of Directors and Chairs for 2012 - 2013!

### Board of Directors

President: Christina Johansen

President-Elect: Gretchen Smathers

Treasurer: Jennifer Kilgore

Treasurer-Elect: Jess Nock

Secretary: Eileen Bundy

Executive Committee

Community Director: Stephanie Hoogendoorn

Communications and Marketing Director:

Vicky Guscoff

Fund Development Director: Beckey Smith

Membership Director: Heidi Gillespie

Sustainer Director: Heather Chronis

### Chairs

American Girl Fashion Show: Madeline Wahl

Touch-a-Truck: Kristen Hawkins  
and Heather Tomko

Wear After Shop: Carlee Halo

Earned Income Opportunities: Jenn Tribble

Annual Appeal: Megan Worbs

Kids in the Kitchen: Jessica Higgs

Done in a Day: Brooke Kissler

Graphics: Kristin Holzer

External Communications: Lara Shipkovitz

Retention Advisors: Jen Grossman

New Members: Leah Worbs

Events: Maribeth Thomas and Laren Plate

Nominating Chair: Jenna Neal

## Chatting with the Chairs

We asked our outgoing chairs, "What was your favorite experience as a chair, or something you learned by being a chair (or both if you wish to share!)"

### Carol Gomrick - Training Co-Chair



My favorite experience about being a chair is the exposure you get to not only other members of the League, but also a better understanding as to how the League operates. Both valuable and great opportunities.

### Vicky Guscoff - Internal Communications Chair



My favorite experience as a chair has been to help, and also teach, the other chairs/directors on ways to utilize Digital Cheetah to organize events, shifts and fundraisers.

### Stephanie Hoogendoorn - R&D Chair



My favorite experience (thus far) as R&D chair occurred at the end of the March 5 meeting where we came together to select the "semi-finalists" for the signature project. The committee has discussed the pros and cons of each RFP at two consecutive meetings. At this meeting, the committee was unanimous in which organizations to continue to review as semi-finalists, which organizations to no longer consider, and how to continue the process. As a chair, you can start the meeting with "your" anticipated/desired outcome in mind. However, in the end it's the full participation of the committee that makes the best decision for our League. I was so pleased that the committee was satisfied with our decision and process, and believe that the committee is making a better decision than any one individual could.

### Katie Kozora - Lights! Chair



I really enjoyed hearing stories and updates from so many of you. I learned so much about what the League has done and wants to do and have a renewed excitement for future years. I also learned that communication is a powerful tool, and effective communication is tricky. Listening is key. Keep on shining! (Like a light, haha!)

We look forward to working  
with you in the upcoming year!

## Chatting with the Chairs - Continued



### **Jessi Gregg Morris - New Member Chair**

Being the chair of new membership this year was so fun! It was a great honor to be the first person to speak with our potential new members of the League during the summer recruitment happy hours and to introduce them to our President, our Membership Director, other members of the board, our Diversity co-chair, and our New Membership Committee! I loved getting everyone together and talking about the core values of the Junior League and our history. We should all be so proud of the great organization that we belong to!



### **Lauren Plate - Events Co-Chair**

My favorite experience as a chair has been getting to know so many members through working with my committee, other committees and chairs, and also getting a chance to know and work with the board. My favorite event was the Halloween Party, it was a great halloween celebration and I loved seeing all the members in their costumes.



### **Lara Shipkovitz - Diaper Drive Chair**

As for being a diaper chair...my favorite experience was being able to visit the Food Bank and being able to see firsthand how much our donations mean to the community. I also really enjoy being a chair because I feel much more connected and involved in the League - which makes me want to become even more involved!



### **Heather Tomko - Strong Women Strong Girls Co-Chair**

My favorite thing about being a chair is how supportive the rest of the JLP membership is to the chairs. As a first year active, I had a lot of questions to ask, and everyone's willingness to assist in any way really helped me to learn a lot more about the JLP.



### **Jenn Tribble - Earned Income Opportunities Chair**

I joined the Junior League in 2005 and this is my first year back after taking some time off. It's great to be back and to see so many new faces. Being the EIO Chair has been a welcome challenge. I enjoy brainstorming new EIO ideas. It's challenging to find the right opportunity that can easily be marketed to JLP members and friends of the League. If I could ask one thing of our members it would be to please share our EIOs with friends and family. I would also like to thank members and their loved ones who have supported our earned income opportunities this year. I'm very grateful, it's much appreciated!



### **Amy Vanderveen - American Girl Fashion Show Chair**

As the 2011 American Girl Fashion Show Chair, it seems that I discovered something new every single day! However, the most important lesson I learned is that through the combination of an amazing group of women, hard work and dedication to the event (and a little glitter), anything is possible! I am so proud to have been part of such an awesome committee. Congratulations, ladies!

# Profiles

## Provisional Prospective

**As our Provisionals become 1st Year Actives, we asked them to reflect on the past year and to share their favorite Provisional memories.**

### **Ashlee Lang**

My favorite experience was working at the Wear After shop with fellow provisional member Tabitha. We had a great time helping out around the store and chatting.

### **Lauren McKinley**

I enjoyed working with the American Girl Fashion Show Committee and getting the chance to share my enthusiasm about the dolls with others. :)

### **Emily Peron**

I worked on the American Girl Fashion Show in the fall, and it really set the stage for me to feel like a part of the Junior League of Pittsburgh. I couldn't make it to the actual shows, but the behind-the-scenes work I did and dress fittings I attended were very rewarding. Responding to a league-wide request for help was the first step, and I'm so glad I did that!

### **Samantha Scrivner**

My favorite experience so far has been with the DIADs in general. They offer members the opportunity to fulfill the mission and goals of the Junior League while at the same time giving members one-on-one time to get to know one another. This was a benefit I had not considered before, but am VERY pleased to discover about the League.

### **Jill Speegle**

I would say my favorite experiences thus far have been the different Done in a Day opportunities I've been a part of--whether it's meeting Abraham Lincoln at a bake sale or going on a soup crawl in the Southside, I'll never forget those times or my provisional year in the League.

### **Melissa Spieler**

I really enjoyed the Redbook training. Not only did we get to learn a lot about the League, but we also got a chance to know the provisional class a little better as well. I also enjoyed doing shifts for the American Girl Fashion Show. A lot of hard work goes into planning that event and to see it all unfold behind the scenes was pretty spectacular.

### **Jessica Bliel Walters**

As a provisional, I have had the opportunity to not only meet a new group of wonderful women who have similar interests, but I have also had the chance to give back to my community, build new skills and become a better leader. My favorite activity thus far has been the fall provisional project (Bottoms Up!) in which the provisionals raised over 12,000 diapers for the Pittsburgh Diaper Bank!





## Saying Good-bye to Strong Women, Strong Girls

By: Katie Kozora, Lights! Chair



As we prepare to begin a journey with our new signature project, I wanted to take a little time to reflect on the past three years with our current project, Strong Women Strong Girls (SWSG). Aside from Redbook Training, and one GMM, my very first volunteer experience in the JLP was at the SWSG Reunion event in the Schenley Park Ice Rink party room. I can remember the day clearly, as though it has just passed. It was a nice fall day, and all volunteers were encouraged to wear Steelers gear, the theme of the event. I remember walking in and being blinded by the pink (at the time, pink wasn't my favorite color), along with the bright smiles of the SWSG staff. I was assigned to the registration desk with Vicky Guscoff and Katie Skocik, where we would be greeting guests and handing out swag. I recall chatting with Vicky and Katie, sharing stories of why we joined the League and having those, "it's a small world moments," when we realized we knew mutual friends. I also remember the smiles on the girls' faces, along with the gratitude from their parents and families, not only for the day, but for the whole year and how much they had learned in the program. SWSG is a mentoring program for girls in grades 3-5, and some of the girls had recently "graduated," their little sisters just starting. It was awesome to see how these girls were impacted by the women they interacted with and the lessons they learned. I was equally impressed by the many college mentors who were participating in an event that took place early on a Sunday. Most importantly, I remember going home and telling my husband all about it. That event assured me that I wanted to be in the League, and that I wanted to focus some of my time on our signature project.

From that day on, I signed up for as many SWSG events as I could. I took SWSG as my placement in both my provisional and first active year of the League. I've attended numerous SWSG mentor trainings over the past three years, as both a volunteer and a mentor participant. At these trainings, I not only learned more about the program, but more about myself. This has been particularly true of my involvement in the SWSG Leadership Program (formerly Mentor to Mentor). In this role, I served as a leadership coach to a current SWSG college mentor. Last year, my mentee was from Duquesne, this year Point Park. Both relationships similar, yet different. Through each, I learned how tough it can be to be a college woman in the digital age, how things like negativity and jealousy affect women at every age, and how by just listening, I could help my mentee to turn her day around. We'd meet over coffee or lunch, swap stories and provide advice to each other. It was during a rough period of my own that I met with my mentee and discovered she was going through something very similar. By guiding her through the process, I was able to resolve my own issues as well. It was definitely a remarkable day. Just hearing, "Thanks, I'm so glad that I met with you," meant the world to me.

My other favorite SWSG event is their annual Jump Into Spring celebration. This day is all about the girls - celebrating each other, women, another great year and spring, of course. I'd classify the event as a large scale field trip (only on a Saturday) where girls from all the participating schools are encouraged to attend. College mentors are chaperones for the day, and really keep things in order. The bus picks the girls up at their SWSG location and takes them to Pitt's campus where a large scale jump roping event ensues - chock full of fun activities, inspiring speakers, music and local celebrities. The day of fun winds down around noon when the girls head back to their bus and are surprised with a hand packed lunch to eat on their way. Last year, SWSG decided to add to the fun by hosting a Salsa Social the night before Jump Into Spring. My mentee was on the planning committee and I was asked to help as well. It was great to see her in action - making plans, finalizing details, shining as her school won the award for the most attendees. It went so well that I was asked to be a part of the planning committee this year again. Although my mentee is gone, her close friend is on the committee and I'm enjoying seeing her progress professionally as well. Looking forward to the April event, I'm super excited as we've added a few more elements this year - and my brother is the guest DJ!

Above it all, one of the best things about my involvement with SWSG was the many friendships I have made over the past three years. Not only with my mentees and the SWSG staff, but with all the women in the League that I got to meet and share these experiences with. Vicky and Katie were two of my first friends in the League. Kesha Pate was a third, as we were teamed up for a SWSG activity at one of the first GMM's (the puzzle game!). It was after a SWSG training that I got my first League "friend request" on Facebook. I remember hall monitor duty with Lisa McCarthy at one of the many trainings and coordinating transportation with Angel Mazack at JIS 2010. I had the pleasure of working with Leah Worbs and Chrissy Belgodere through the 2010/2011 year, and Alaina Warren and Heather Tomko in 2011/2012. I became great friends with Gretchen Smathers as she was the Community Director during my second year. We often bounced ideas off each other about the organization and put together an informative PowerPoint for a GMM. I got to interact with Nancy Davis, Julia Carlson, Kristina Broumand and Shernell Smith through the Leadership Program. I remember seeing Jen Daurora on the floor of Jump Into Spring 2011, and was amazed by the line of JLP volunteers making sandwiches for that event. All of these relationships mean something to me, plus so many more.

In closing, as we say good bye, I am thankful to the League for providing me with this opportunity. I have no doubts that our involvement not only helped my personal growth, but the SWSG organization as well. They started small and are now empowering over 400 girls at 26 partner sites, with over 135 mentors from five college chapters in Pittsburgh. I know that this organization will live long in my heart, for they have taught me, "I am strong, I am proud and I'm not afraid to shout it out LOUD! Strong Women Strong Girls, Strong Women Strong Girls." My wardrobe also includes a lot more pink these days.



Kidney Gala



South Side Soup



Reindeer Ball



Crushed Grapes - Sister's Place

## Hill House: Celebrate Taste & Inspire

By: Stephanie McLeod, KITK Chair

On March 17, Junior League members went to the Kaufman Center at the Hill House for Celebrate, Taste & Inspire - a Kids In The Kitchen event. Volunteers arrived onsite and prepared food for chicken wraps, sweet potato fries and yogurt sundaes. Families from the community were invited. While the children were off having fun, the adults had the opportunity to interact with an artist who will be creating a mural in the Hill District Shop 'N Save.

Downstairs, the children colored chef's hats and made chicken wraps and yogurt sundaes. The children chose what they wanted on their wraps from a number of ingredients — whole wheat tortillas, rotisserie chicken, provolone cheese, lettuce, red and green bell peppers. The children also made yogurt sundaes with vanilla or strawberry yogurt topped with strawberries, blueberries, pineapple and/or granola.

A nutritionist from the Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank had a table and she spoke to the kids about healthy food choices. They also played a game invented by Jessica Higgs, a Provisional, called Food Factor where kids were asked to try different foods that they might not be familiar with (avocado, hummus, whole wheat pasta, dried apricots, mango, black beans, pomegranate juice, jicama fruit, asparagus). As the day ended, we gave the kids snack bags from our Go-Slow-Whoa programs, Kids In The Kitchen measuring cups, fruit snacks and fruit stand matching game cards.

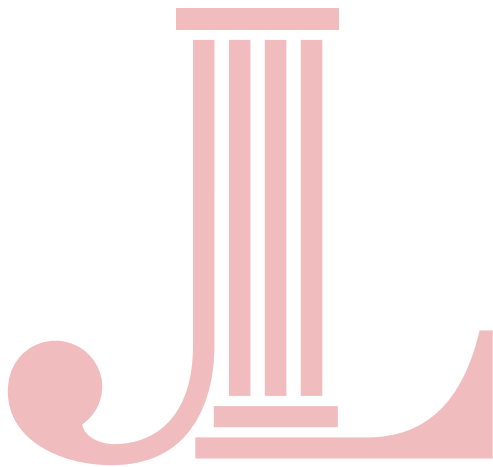
We spoke with some of the parents and adults as they were leaving. They all said they had a great time and wished more families would have come to enjoy the event.

We gave all of the leftover groceries (that were donated by Shop 'N Save) to the Hill House.

Even though we didn't have a lot of people come the event, those that did had a great time and learned a lot.



Kid's In The Kitchen



## Community **IMPACT** DIAD by the Numbers 2011-2012 thru March 7th

Total DIADs: **63** shifts

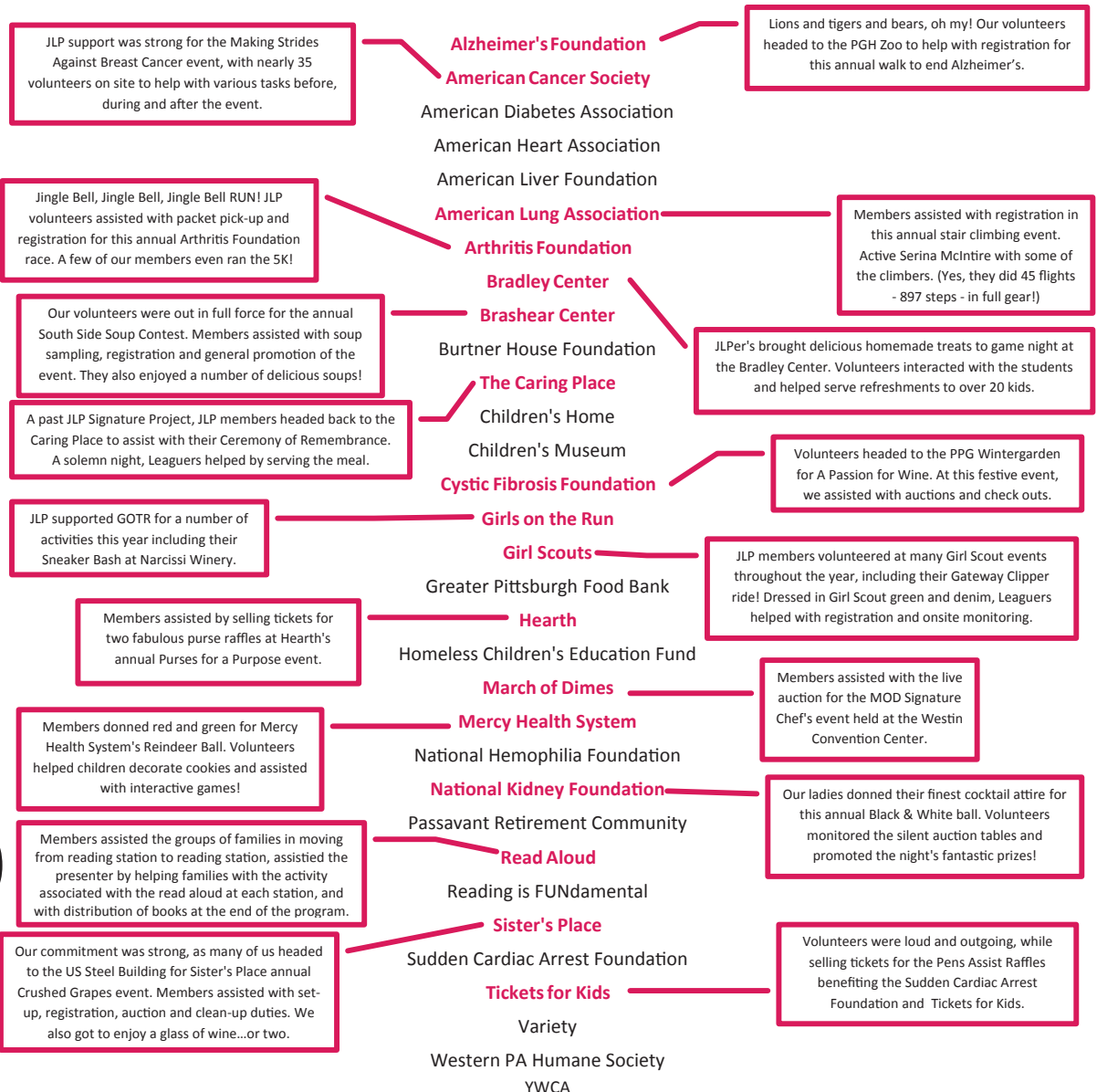
Worked with: **29** community partners

Total volunteers: **118** members -  
provisional, active and sustainer

Have worked: **211** shifts for **853**

Total volunteers hours so far!

# AWESOME Organizations





# FUNd Development

## Save the Date! Ready. Set. Sale!

The Junior League of Pittsburgh Provisional Class of 2011-2012 is proud to announce its Spring Event—"Ready. Set. Sale!"—a housewares fundraiser supporting The Wear After Shop (WAS), the League's permanent fundraiser.

Ready. Set. Sale! will take place on Saturday, May 5 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in front of the WAS at 4752 Liberty Ave., in Bloomfield. On this day many businesses that line Liberty Avenue will be participating in a community sidewalk sale during the much anticipated Pittsburgh Marathon weekend. The marathon is scheduled for Sunday, May 6.

With this event, the provisional class hopes to make a proactive and positive impact for the future of the Wear After Shop. Many League members discussed the future of the Shop at the organization's February Speakouts and expressed ideas about what can be done to make the store a better, more pleasant place to shop and volunteer. The Provisional Class understands the challenges facing the business and seeks to help with hosting a successful event.

"We want to bring the community back to the WAS, not just the JL community, but the wider Pittsburgh community, through outreach before the sale and by engaging with the public during the sale to create a base of new and repeat customers," said Eliza Jane Bowman, co-chair of the Spring Provisional Project.

The League opened the WAS in 1925. The business sells donations of new and gently used clothing, accessories and small household items and returns approximately \$15,000 to the League annually. In addition, the WAS partners with the Women's Center and Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh to provide clothing at no charge to the program's participants. During the League's 2007-2008 year, the Shop donated more than \$3,000 in clothing to over 100 women and 70 children in the program. Please visit the center's website, [www.wcpittsburgh.org](http://www.wcpittsburgh.org), for more information on its important mission to end domestic violence and improve the lives of women and their children.

## Saturday, May 5

9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

at the WAS



## Save the Date! Touch-A-Truck 2012

By: Kristen Hawkins, Touch-A-Truck Chair

The Fifth Annual Touch-A-Truck will be held on Saturday, May 19, 2012, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Strip District at 15th and Smallman Streets.

Let your kids get behind the wheel, honk the horns and meet the men and women who drive the trucks. Tickets for all attendees 12 months and older can be purchased until May 17th online for \$4 or at the event for \$5. Parking is free for attendees.

Touch-A-Truck is a great event to attend and to be a volunteer. There is always a huge crowd, a variety of cool trucks, a lot of JLP members volunteering and having a fun day together! We already have many great participants! Miss Pennsylvania USA 2012, a former Junior League of Pittsburgh member, Sheena Monnin is attending. She will hand out photo cards, take pictures with young girls and let them try on her crown. There will also be a group dressed as the Ghostbusters with a giant inflatable Stay Puft Marshmallow Man. Additionally, Maxim Crane Work has offered to bring a crane and excavator, which are wonderful trucks to have at the event. Lastly, a national organization dedicated to family friendly activities, Macaroni Kid, is helping us get the word out about Touch-A-Truck 2012.

If you have any questions or would like more information, contact Touch-A-Truck chair Kristen Hawkins, [touchatruckpgh@gmail.com](mailto:touchatruckpgh@gmail.com).

## We look forward to seeing you at the event!

## Saturday, May 19

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.





## Treasurer's Corner

By: Angel Mazack, Treasurer & Jennifer Kilgore, Treasurer-Elect

**"Show Me The Money" ...and ladies you certainly have, thank you!**

We've had another wonderful year in 2011-2012. In the month of December alone our membership volunteered 131.5 hours, which is the equivalent of an investment of approximately \$2,800 in our community! In November, our 4th annual American Girl Fashion Show had another successful turn at raising over \$20,000.00 to be used for our future signature project and community impact. We were able to give Strong Women, Strong Girls our final installment of \$15,000.00 in our final year of our three year signature project partnership. The Provisional's Bottoms Up fundraiser/project on January 19 was a great success, collecting 3,238 diapers and \$1,030. To top it off our membership as a whole has brought in over 13,000 diapers as of February to give to the Bottom's Up campaign and Greater Area Pittsburgh Food Bank. Our Kids In the Kitchen program has been able to provide our community with training and education throughout the year, thanks to funds raised by our American Girl Fashion Show. The Wear After Shop continues to provide the community with gently used clothing and we continue to support the local women's shelter with our partnership (and if you have not been by lately, go take a look it's had a little bit of a "make-over" as an on-going effort to improve the store as a whole). Finally, our Earned Income Opportunities, put together by Chair Jenn Tribble, have been thriving. From raising \$400 through the poinsettia sale over the holidays to a dinner at Mad Mex in Robinson where 100% of the proceeds came back to the League. She's also brought us an evening with Pampered Chef and is making our Springs brighter with Easter/Spring flowers. It just goes to show you that FUNdraising and Community Impact can be so beneficial and worthwhile!

Outside of our specific fundraisers, we've seen our endowment fund and annual appeal grow with donations through our members and the Pittsburgh Foundation. We participated in the Pittsburgh Foundation's annual PittsburghGives - Day of Giving. And our investment advisor Carrie Coghill has been working diligently for us to ensure our investments are strong for our future.

It's also that time of year for dues. This year we've seen an increase in dues per AJLI. The Association of Junior Leagues International, Inc., as we know, is a Mission-driven organization with an ambitious Vision shared by 155,000 women in four countries, and countless others who have yet to be tapped. A Vision of this scale and magnitude cannot be realized without thoughtful and prudent investment. Therefore, the AJLI Board recommended that the per capita dues be increased a total of eight dollars (\$8), from \$35 to \$43; four dollars (\$4) of the increase take effect on July 1, 2012, with the entire increase becoming effective on July 1, 2013. We, as a membership of JLP, decided to do the \$8 increase all at once, and you see that reflected in your 2012-2013 dues. We would not be treasurers if we did not remind everyone that your dues are to be paid by April 15, 2012 to not incur any late fees.

In closing, it's been an awesome year! We here in the Treasurers' Corner have enjoyed seeing the League thrive and watch what all we've been able to do with our funds as well as our volunteers and what all is still to come in the future. So thank YOU for "showing us the money"!

### Thank you for supporting our 2011-2012 Earned Income Opportunities!

Pittsburgh Day of Giving Initiative - Pittsburgh Events 2012 Wall  
Calendars - Trendy Trousseau Sale - Holiday Plant Sale  
Max & Erma's Dinner - Mad Mex Dinner  
Pampered Chef Sale - Spring Perennial Plant Sale

We had a successful year of raising funds, and more  
opportunities are on the horizon!

Upcoming events: JLP Happy Hour, Pirates Game outing

Do you have an idea for an EIO?  
Contact Jenn Tribble, [jenntribble@gmail.com](mailto:jenntribble@gmail.com)



# FUNd Development

## American Girl Fashion Show Committee: Shine On

By: Amy Vanderveen, AGFS Chair

It is hard to believe that the Junior League of Pittsburgh's year end is fast approaching. And what a year it has been! I guess what they say is true... time flies when you're having fun!

Over the course of one year, the American Girl Fashion Show Committee accomplished more than I could have imagined in my wildest of dreams. What started off as an initial Committee meeting at a (crowded) local restaurant turned into a tight-knit group of women committed to putting on a stellar show and raising money for the League's Healthy Kids Initiative. And raise money we did! This year's show raised over \$20,000!

In retrospect, I would be lying if I said that there were not times when the thought of pulling off five fashion shows over a period of two days with 120+ cast members (and an audience of family members, to boot) seemed impossible. However, when those moments struck, the Committee trudged on, undaunted and committed to reaching our common goal. Although we quickly realized that it is easy to lose sight of what is truly important, it was during these moments that we looked to our Mission Statement for guidance. With our focuses realigned, we were able to pull off a beautiful event. I think it goes without saying that it takes a village to put on the American Girl Fashion Show, and each of our members' contributions were essential to the success of the show!

I could spend an entire day, or maybe week, writing about how proud I am of the Committee and the League members for putting on such a spectacular event, but such words would be wasted. We do not need reassurances as to who we are because each day we spend volunteering, we affirm that we are: an organization of women committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women, and improving communities through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. And at the end of the day, what's better than that?

Until next time, katsee-yow-yow everybody, and congratulations on a job well done!



The photo to the right is of Sustainer, Suzy Golitko, Georgine (Suzy's sister) and Addison (Georgine's Goddaughter).

Addison won the Kanani American Girl prize, a limited edition doll and all her accessories that was the second biggest prize that day!





# Sustainer Spotlight

## Sustainer Spotlight: Susanne Wilkinson

By: Katie Kozora, LIGHTS Editor

For this issue, I had the honor of interviewing Mrs. Susanne Wilkinson for our Sustainer Spotlight. Susanne currently lives in O'Hara Township with her husband James. Their daughter lives in North Carolina with her husband and their 10 year old son (Susanne's grandson). Susanne works part time at the Frick Art & Historical Center where she is a museum teacher, leading kids in projects which they can take home, or in role-playing skits about history. Her hobbies include travel and book clubs, not stamp collecting.

Susanne joined the JLP in 1977, when she moved back to Pittsburgh after teaching full time in Washington, DC. Her main reason for joining was because her friends were members, but her involvement quickly changed as she discovered the many opportunities the League offered.

Susanne mentioned that she was a "worker bee" more often than being a chairperson of an event, but she has fond memories of being the Publicity Chair for their annual Granny's Attic Sale. This upscale rummage sale was held in a large Castle Shannon fire hall, and members donated items to sell. In addition to press releases and advertising, Susanne dressed up as Granny and stood outside to promote the event. (Having been a costumed character myself, I could already tell that Susanne and I would have a lot in common.)

Another placement Susanne held was on the Ethnic Church Committee. This committee partnered with the Pittsburgh History and Landmark Foundation. Together they visited all kinds of churches throughout the city, took photos, gathered information and created a brochure for the Foundation to distribute. After the information gathering stage, the women would lead tours as well. This project also resulted in Allegheny Adventures, in which members of the League went to local schools and told the children about the history of our great city.

In addition to her service in the League, Susanne's training prepared her for board positions at both the Three Rivers Shakespeare Festival and the Steven Foster Theater. Her most rewarding JLP experience was, "all of the above!"

On being a Sustainer, Susanne reminisced about the Sustainer Derby Day parties she used to host at her home in Fox Chapel, where everyone would dress up and cheer on their favorite horses. But she also mentioned that her friends from the League are still her friends so, although they aren't official Sustainer events, they do get together often.

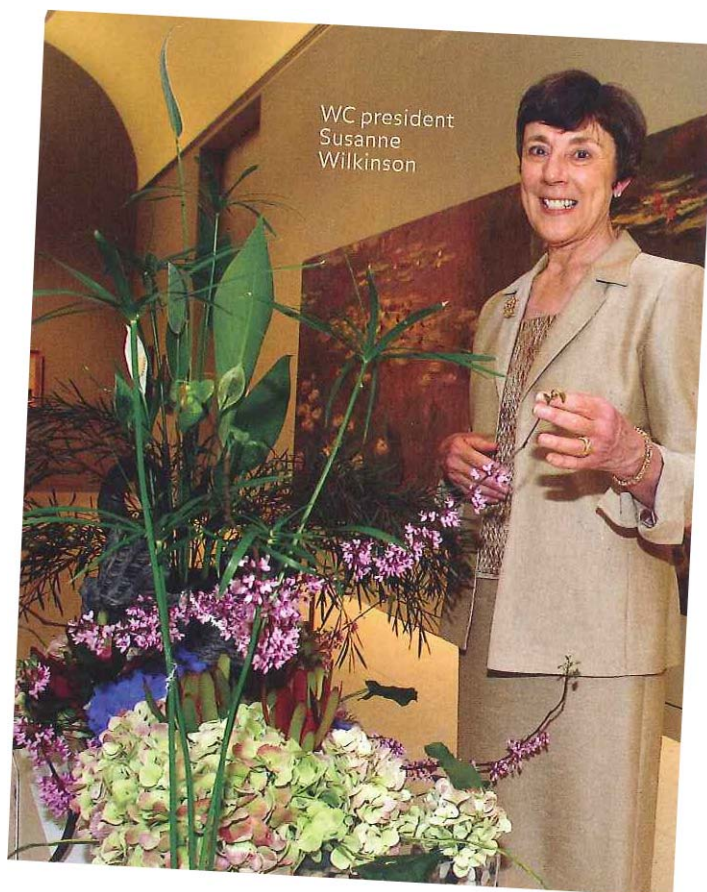
Like most of our Sustainers, Susanne is still very involved in the community, particularly with the Pittsburgh Symphony, the Art Museum at the Carnegie and The Frick. She also leads docent tours of the Duquesne Club downtown.

When asked what the Junior League of Pittsburgh meant to her, Susanne replied, "It opened my world to my city that I came back to. It really changed my world as a volunteer and gave me the confidence I needed to lead other groups." Susanne also noted the organizational skills that she learned from League service, mentioning the importance of board reports and staying on top of things. She said they had, "an organized objective." While her profession was a school teacher, her experiences in the League were so very different and opened doors to more planning and organizing opportunities, especially events, which were her favorite JLP activities.

Susanne's advice to current members is, "Take advantage of all the opportunities that the Junior League provides. And remember, whatever you give, you will get back." It was through her friends that she decided to be a member, but through her experiences that she learned to be a volunteer, a passion she still has today. She learned how to cooperate with women in a different way - working together for common goals and having fun in the process.

In parting, Susanne leaves us with her favorite quote, "If it wasn't for the last minute, nothing would get done." We laugh, as this quote refutes all the organization we have learned (and wrote about), but both agree it is certainly true.

Thank you, Susanne, for your time and for sharing your story.



## Sustainers Corner

By Heather Chronis, Co-Sustainer Director

Welcome to the Spring edition of Lights! This JLP year has gone by so fast and so many good things have happened with the JLP. The number one goal for Betsy Teti, my co-Sustainer Director, and myself was to start pulling Sustainers back into the JLP who had resigned over the last few years. We have had an excellent response with these efforts and are looking to bring back as many Sustainers as possible as we head into our 90th Anniversary next year. If you know of a Sustainer who would like to reinstate, please contact the JLP office to have forms sent out or look on the JLP home page, as reinstatement forms for Sustainers can be found there as well.

Thank you to all of the Sustainers who rose to the Wear After Shop Sustainer versus Active challenge! Your participation resulted in a dramatic increase in both donations and sales during this period. We are still counting the numbers and will let you know which group won very soon. In addition, Betsy and I will be pulling the name of the Sustainer who will win free dues for next year very shortly as well. So many Sustainers donated at the \$500 level to the WAS that we have quite a bit of paperwork to file through in the next few weeks.

Finally, be on the lookout for information on the Spring Sustainer Luncheon. This is sure to be a sold out event and we want as many people to be included as possible. Betsy will be organizing the luncheon and will surely add her professional and exquisite touch to the event!

## Update on a former JLP Signature Project – Everybody Wins!

Halfway through the school year, we are on target to have a total of 155 children paired with mentors in our Everybody Wins! program. These pairs meet each week during lunchtime to share conversation and good books. In January and February, the second and third graders in the program all had the opportunity to meet nationally recognized children's author, Sharon G. Flake! Ms. Flake talked to the students about kings, queens and castles before reading from her book *The Broken Bike Boy and the Queen of 33rd Street*. Each student then received his or her own copy of the book, and met Mrs. Flake to get it signed.

## Annual Meeting

Mark your calendars,  
as the Annual Meeting will be held:

**Wednesday, May 30, 2012**

**6:30 p.m.**

**Double Tree Hotel**

Registration information and additional details will be posted on Digital Cheetah as they are available.

## Celebrating Service

**A tradition at the Annual Meeting is to honor women in the League for their service to our communities.**

**Nominations are currently being accepted for:**

### League Member of the Year

The Nominating Committee recognizes an active member of our League who has done a superior job during the current placement year. Anyone can be chosen whether a leader or a follower, committee chair or committee member. We look for an energetic, dedicated person who deserves to be acknowledged.

**The deadline for this nomination is Friday, May 6. Please send your nomination to [nominating@jlpgh.org](mailto:nominating@jlpgh.org).**

### Provisional League Member of the Year

The Membership Development Committee recognizes a provisional member of our League who has done a superior job during the current placement year. Anyone can be chosen whether a leader or a follower. We look for an energetic, dedicated person who deserves to be acknowledged.

**The deadline for this nomination is Friday, May 6. Please send your nomination to [Heidi Gillespie, hziegler1973@gmail.com](mailto:Heidi Gillespie, hziegler1973@gmail.com).**

### The Anne D. Johnston Award

This award is named for one of our esteemed and beloved members. The League presents the Anne D. Johnston award each year to a member, sustainer or group who has made an outstanding contribution to the League and the community. Anne Johnston was an exemplary volunteer whose life represented the very best qualities of a Junior League member and who will continue to be an inspiration to future generations.

**The deadline for this nomination is Friday, May 6. Please send your nomination for this prestigious to Sustainer Director Heather Chronis, [chronis707@aol.com](mailto:chronis707@aol.com).**



# Lights Announcements

## Congratulations to the Newlyweds!



Todd and **Jenny Kilgore** were married on Saturday, October 15, 2011 in New York City, at the Chelsea Arts Tower.

On January 14th, 2012 **Beckey Gable** married Joseph Smith III in Pittsburgh.



## And to these women who will soon be walking down the aisle!

Jeffery Hash proposed to **Kristen Hawkins** on Christmas 2011. The couple met at their alma mater, Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, and have been together since May 2007. Jeff, a mechanical engineer, works for URS Corporation, and Kristen, a civil engineer, is getting her masters degree at Carnegie Mellon and is a real estate agent at Coldwell Banker.

**Melissa Spieler** and Gregory Long are getting married at Youghiogheny Country Club in Elizabeth Township, PA on June 9, 2012. The day after, they will depart for their honeymoon to Paris, Venice, and Florence.

## To the new Moms and our newest Little Leaguers!

Active **Amy Kelly** and her husband Michael welcomed their son, Charles Patrick Kelly, on October 4th, 2011 at 6:25pm. Charlie was 9 lbs. 8oz. and 23.5 inches long.



Active **Kim Toland** and her husband Michael welcomed their daughter, Niah Grace, on Feb 9th, 2012. Niah was 5 lbs, 11oz and 19.75 inches long. As Kim says, "She is such a sweet baby and I am having so much fun with her!"

## And for these professional accomplishments!

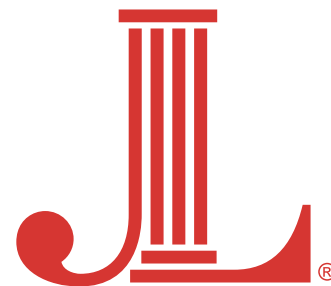
**Emily Peron** is finishing a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Pittsburgh in June and has accepted a faculty position at the Virginia Commonwealth University School of Pharmacy at the rank of assistant professor. "I am relocating in July and plan to transfer my Junior League membership to the Richmond chapter. If anyone knows a Richmond league member, I'd be happy to hear from them!"

**Tricina Cash** was recently elected to become the inaugural Vice President of Administration of the Pitt Black MBA Network (PBAN). PBAN is a composition of the graduated MBA classes of black men and women from the University of Pittsburgh's School of Business (now known as the Joseph M. Katz School of Business). This group was conceived by graduates from the Class of 1972. PBAN has eight goals which include assisting the school with student retention, nationwide recruitment, fundraising and enhancing alumni, professional relationships

## A Special Note of Thanks

I am so thankful for all the support the membership gave me and my family following my accident in August. I felt so lucky to have all of the womens' thoughts, prayers and well wishes. My family and I also really appreciated the dinners and visits from JLP members; both helped to make my hospital stay less stressful and more enjoyable.

Sincerely, **Heather Tomko**



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**90<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

*Friday, October 19th 2012*

**CELEBRATING 90 YEARS  
OF SERVICE**

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**A 90th Anniversary Gala will be held on**

**Friday, October 19, 2012**

**at The Children's Museum of Pittsburgh.**

**Celebrating 90 years of service to our community.**

**FOR IMMEDIATE QUESTIONS AND MORE INFORMATION,  
PLEASE CONTACT AMY GIAMMATTEO AND/OR MEGAN WORBS  
AT [JLPGH90THANNIVERSARY@GMAIL.COM](mailto:JLPGH90THANNIVERSARY@GMAIL.COM)**

**Additional details coming soon!**

**Here is a look back at an old issue of Lights, highlighting our 40th Anniversary Gala!**

Here is a look back...

Our  
Fortieth  
Anniversary

# Junior League Lights

published by

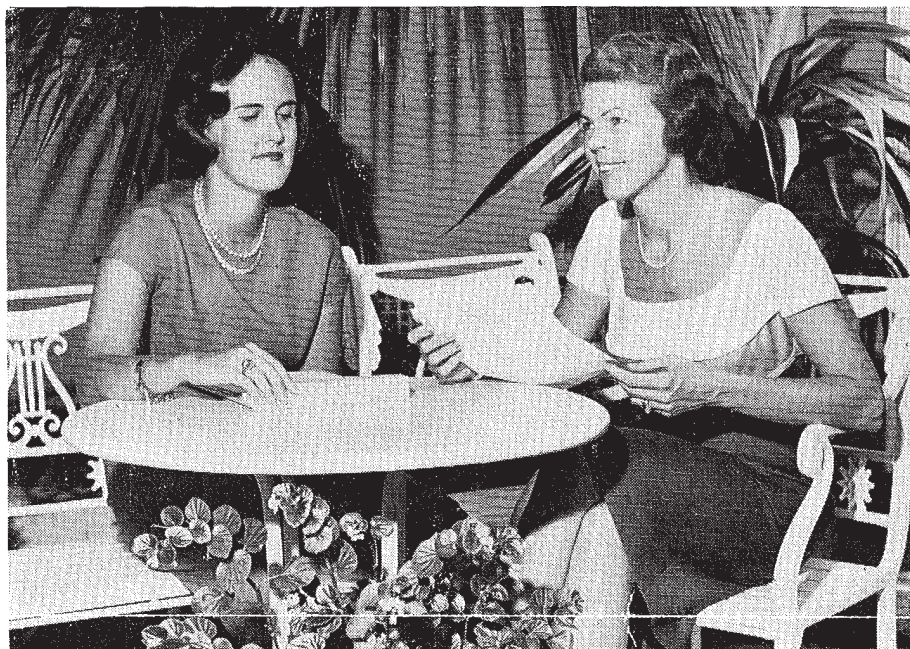
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## Friday, October 12, Red Letter Day! Junior League Ball



Sally Hardon, Special Services Chairman and Sue Barnes, Sponsor Chairman of Ball, discuss their activities at a summer meeting.

### Our World Through Rose-Tinted Glasses

Le Bal Rouge is the intriguing name for our frolic this fall. Ruby red will be its key-note color—a ruby is the fortieth anniversary stone.

Elegant frivolity, a touch of the past, has been the aim of our Decorations Committee and under the inspired guidance of chairman Joan Fulton and her right-hand man, Mrs. William Phillips, a magical setting has been achieved. The foyer of the Museum will be decorated to resemble the garden of the Tuileries. Bushes and plants loaned by the Phipps Conservatory will embower this entrance, its ceiling will be a trellis of ribbons and a plashing fountain will be a focal point for all who come.

Architectural Hall is to be decorated in imitation of a “place” in front of some great European cathedral. The tremendous plaster casts of the actual fronts of some cathedrals will be cunningly lit and plants used to give a third dimensional effect.

The great ballroom with its marble and brass, its balconies and gilt coffered ceiling will not be changed for, already, it embodies our period of pleasure.

Special interest will center on the table decorations which will be cupids holding flowers and also acting as candlesticks. These bits of gaiety are being especially made up for the League Ball and members will have the privilege of buying them, if they wish, after the night is over.

### Tickets Please or Punch Brothers Punch

The Ticket Chairman's lot is not an idle one. Mary Ann Deveny and her co-chairman will be leading a very concentrated life from the time the invitation envelopes hit the mail until the day of the Ball. The acceptances go straight to Mary Ann who will put the tickets in the return mail. Table reservations will be given out at the door.

No tickets will be sold at the door and Mary Ann has asked us to emphasize the helpfulness of early acceptances! Last minute phone calls and door knocks will, of course, be answered but do try and be early when possible.

Terry Weber will be running the ticket-taking at the door. She plans to ask League couples to help her, a half hour at a time.

### Forty Years On— Wiser In Time And In Memory Strong

In this anniversary year, we are fortunate that our city's newspapers are telling the League story of forty years of giving to the community in a generous and exciting fashion. Here, at *The Lights* we think our readers may enjoy more of a family album, and so we have looked through old publicity and back issues of the newsheet for this little report.

#### MRS. GARRETT'S STORY

From our first president, Mrs. George A. Garrett, we have a warmly amusing memoir of our founding which she gave on our Tenth Anniversary in 1932:

“That day on January, 1922, stands out very clearly in my mind. It was a typical Pittsburgh day of that era . . . dark, smoky and damp. The lights had been on in the automobile when Mrs. Straight (AJLA) was met at the station at ten in the morning. . . .

“At that meeting were two honorary members and ten girls who were the charter members. The honorary members were Mrs. Maitland Alexander and Mrs. Edward Travers. Their husbands were the rectors of the two beautiful churches which stand side by side on Sixth Avenue. . . .

“After Mrs. Straight's visit, there was much work to be done, officers to be elected, membership enlarged and rules, the inevitable rules, all to be argued, weighed and decided on. . . I remember one of the greatest troubles was making the volunteers keep track of their hours. . . . We had one member who did not want to work but loved belonging to the League. After a few notices asking for her activities and hours, we decided to write her a note. The only answer we ever received was scratched in bold letters across the bottom of our letter, “Are you threatening me!”

“We decided to offer our services to the Children's Hospital, Kaufmann Settlement, Blind Asylum and Kingsley House. We had rather an unhappy experience at Kingsley when one of our volunteers unsewed the clothing and gave a bath to a little girl whose mother had sewed her up for the winter.”

(Continued on Page 4)



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