



**JUNIOR LEAGUE OF
ANN ARBOR, INC.**

Women building better communities®

ARBOR ACCENTS

Letter from the President

Welcome to a new Junior League of Ann Arbor year!

As I sit down to write this, there are eleven kids at my house. Eight of them are boys, and three are girls. The boys are working hard together to develop a fleet of rockets that will take off simultaneously. Along with the standard baking soda and vinegar, there are squirt guns, rocks, noodles, paint (!), and a buffer (?) involved in their fun. The girls are quietly racing around on their tiptoes releasing the grasshoppers and frogs that the boys caught earlier in the day. Ahh...the joys of summer...



I step back and marvel at all I have learned as a parent over the last ten years...I now know that if no one is crying, leave them alone...I know that if I don't hear it or see it, it hasn't happened...I know that if my dog is green, someone has made her that way...I have learned that when it gets really loud you kick them outside and make sure no power tools are available. But most of all I have learned that there is nothing better than when all the visitors go home and the house is quiet (well, less loud at least)...there is that wonderful time of day when I can pour a glass of wine, sit down, and read the JLAA bylaws...WHAT????

OK, so maybe this doesn't sound like the perfect way to end a summer day, but much to my amazement, I don't mind at all. With the training I have received, and the momentum felt from the leaders who have preceded me, I feel ready, able and excited to lead our league into its 26th year of community service and women empowerment!

I am using my parenting "experiences" as a way to put perspective on training because this year our leadership team has decided to focus on maximizing our training to benefit us as individuals and as a community. Sometimes we fail to recognize that training is not always sitting down and learning something! In fact, from the standpoint of the Junior League, *much* of our training is "hands on." From completing a PowerPoint presentation to developing a safe and fun play area for a homeless shelter; when we complete a project successfully, it is due to our past training and experiences. And upon each project's completion, invariably we have all

gained much more than we have given.

Through our past, current, and future training we are able to kick off an exciting year with our new project/partnership with SOS; we will prepare another Kids in the Kitchen event to educate our community on ways to control the epidemic of childhood obesity; we will train hundreds of women and children to handle relational aggression through the Strong Mom's Strong Girls program; and we will collectively donate thousands of hours of our time to community service. In addition to all of that, we will plan events, learn about strategic planning, gain information and technology tips, sell raffle tickets, practice non-profit management, work with budgets, make friends, and hopefully at the end; step back and realize how this has helped to make us who we will be when we reach our potential. And most importantly, how we can take what we have learned and give it back to the community.

I look forward to an exciting year with all of you as we aspire to be the best we can!

-Deb Urquhart, President

"We don't accomplish anything in this world alone... and whatever happens is the result of the whole tapestry of one's life and all the weavings of individual threads form one to another that creates something."

-Sandra Day O'Connor (A Junior League Sustaining member)

FREE TRAINING...FREE TRAINING!!!

Come one come all to a wonderful day of learning and sharing with all of the other leagues in Michigan! Experience Eleni Kelakos and her presentation of *Touch the Sky! and How to Lead Out in Body, Word and Deed*. There will also be great networking opportunities in several league-related areas!

Mark your calendars today, so we can show our commitment to developing our potential in JLAA!

When: Saturday, September 27th

Time: 8:30 am Check-in and Coffee/Bagels; 9:00 am Program Begins; 11:45 Lunch
1:30 pm Program Ends

Where: Hannah Community Center in East Lansing
(819 Abbott Road, East Lansing, 48823)

RSVP: Please email Andrea Byas at
ahardy79@hotmail.com by September 17th

Carpooling anyone? Please email Heidi Nelson if you would like to carpool at shednelson@comcast.net.

This training is being sponsored by the Michigan State Council of Junior Leagues (MSC), which is comprised of all nine Michigan Junior Leagues (Ann Arbor, Battle Creek, Birmingham, Detroit, Flint, Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo, Lansing, and Saginaw Valley). Each league is represented on MSC by its President-Elect, President, Past President, and Past-Past President. MSC supports the Junior League mission by offering 3 training opportunities each year (the upcoming dates are 2/21/09 and 3/11/09) and also supports the work of the State Public Affairs Committee (SPAC) – which includes members from all leagues as they work with contracted lobbyist firm, Capitol Services to educate themselves and league members about issues of interest and the political process.

Strong Moms Strong Girls

The Junior League of Ann Arbor is preparing for its third year supporting the Strong Moms Strong Girls program in collaboration with the University of Michigan University Center for the Child and Family (UCCF).



The Strong Moms Strong Girls (SMSG) program offers community presentations for parents, mother-daughter workshops and comprehensive school consultation services to promote healthy female relationships and educate the community about Relational Aggression among girls in grade 4-7.

Workshop Updates

In 2007-2008 approximately 90 mother-daughter pairs attended the Figuring Out Friendships workshops. When surveyed, the majority of participants say they would recommend the workshop to a friend. Workshops have consistently met or exceeded maximum attendance. Thanks to a grant from Crest White Strips, SMSG has been able to offer six additional workshops from fall 2007 through summer 2009 to meet the exceptional attendance. Due to a very successful workshop held in July 2008 including fourth grade girls, more 4-5 grade workshops have been added to the schedule.



Beginning in September 2008, participants will each be charged \$10 to cover the cost of materials and a lunch catered by Potbelly Sandwich Works. Participants have

been impressed with the quality of the buffet lunch provided by the generosity of Junior League volunteers, however we are exploring other ways to involve Junior League members in the program through more comprehensive volunteer opportunities.



Presentation Updates

Designed by the UCCF to educate and engage parents, school officials and the community on the issue of Relational Aggression, the community presentation has been well received. Since November 2007, 12 organizations in Washtenaw County have hosted the presentation delivered by Junior League of Ann Arbor volunteers. The SMSG Committee is looking for more Junior League volunteers interested in becoming community presenters. The experiences of some presenters will be shared at the September GMM with information about how you can become involved in sharing the



Strong Moms Strong Girls message. The innovative approach of including parents in the SMSG program was appreciated by conference attendees in June when Sharon Gold-

Steinberg from UCCF gave a presentation on the mother-daughter workshop. Following the presentation, 25 workshop manuals were purchased by attendees. In the fall of 2008, workshop manuals will be available for purchase at www.strongmomsstronggirls.org.

Consultation Updates

UCCF has now lead two school consultations which is a comprehensive program led by UCCF staff working with teachers, parents and students over an extended period of time to focus on RA issues taking place in the school. Be sure to inform your school leaders about the SMSG program. They can host a community presentation for parents or work with UCCF on a school consultation.

Understanding Relational Aggression

The title of the conference where Sharon spoke, “Relational Aggression, Mean Girls and Other Forms of Bullying” has fueled a discussion among professionals on the stereotyping language often used with regards to Relational Aggression. The use of the term “mean girls” when referring to relational aggression identifies the problem as located in some (mean)

Form at the raffle table. Use this form to ask your friends, family and co-workers to sponsor a volunteer hour that you will do in the league this year. Each hour they sponsor you costs \$5 plus they will receive a raffle ticket for sponsoring that hour.

Sell tickets! A \$5 ticket should be an easy sell. We are counting on our members to sell 25 tickets each. All ticket sales go 100% toward your fundraising obligation. We will update the website and keep you informed at GMMs about the value of the gift cards and certificates collected so that you can share it with your potential buyers.

Please support this new fundraiser and have fun doing your volunteer hours this year.

-Kim Scartelli, Live Like A Millionaire Raffle Chair

Getting excited about DIAD opportunities for the Fall

We have some great ones to look forward to!!! Sign up will be available at the upcoming GMMs.

Huron Valley Ambulance Flu Shot Clinic (Nov 1st or Nov 8th – exact date to TBD)

The mission of Huron Valley Ambulance is to provide accessible, high quality prehospital health care services to the people and organizations they serve in southeast and south central Michigan. They will be conducting a drive through flu clinic for a quick, efficient way for the whole family to get a flu shot. JLAA volunteers will assist with set up or clean up, traffic control, greeting, or handing out and collecting paperwork.

SOS Thanksgiving Dinner Distribution to Families in Need (Nov 18th and 19th)

SOS Community Services responds to families in need by working in partnerships that result in economic, family, and residential stability. The people who rely

on SOS's Emergency food program are mostly single parents in Washtenaw County with two or more children and income from low-wage jobs or public assistance. SOS has invited the JLAA to help take another step toward ending local hunger by helping distribute special food bags with donated turkeys at Thanksgiving. SOS generally expects to serve 300 households with emergency food and Thanksgiving turkeys during the two day delivery period.



Perry Nursery School Christmas Cookie Decorating (Dec 9th)

Perry Nursery School works to provide high quality, affordable childcare, early childhood education and family support services to single parent and low income families who live and work in the Washtenaw County. They are hosting their fourth Cookie Decorating Event in which JLAA volunteers have the opportunity to bring in homemade sugar cookies and also help the children and parents with the cookie decorating and clean up.

-Stacey Bodner, V.P. Community Services

Looking Ahead... the Nominating and Placement Process

The Nominating and Placement committee was actively working over the summer assigning tasks, training advisors, supporting advisees, and setting dates for the 2008/2009 JLAA year. As members look ahead at the scheduled dates for interviews and placement meetings, you may also start to look further ahead at your future in the league...where you see yourself next year and beyond, what skills you would like to develop, or how you could best serve the league with the skills you already possess. Your placement advisor will help you answer these questions during your communication and meetings with her throughout the year.

Please note when slating and placement meetings are scheduled and be certain that your advisor is aware of your plans for growth in the league and your desires to take on leadership roles before these meetings. Your advisor is truly your advocate in the placement process. Members may review the Nominating and Placement Manual and Placement Brochure in the 2008/2009 Membership Handbook for more details on the slating and placement processes. Also, always feel free to contact your advisor or the Nominating and Placement Chair/Assistant Chair with any questions or concerns. We wish you an exciting and fulfilling year ahead!

Below is a list of dates to keep in mind as you plan your league year:

Interview Dates:

August-September: Small Group Interviews: Advisees will touch base with advisors about placements, board interests and satisfaction with the league, while at the same time meeting other members of the league through a small informal group setting.

November-January: Face to Face Interviews: A more personal, one on one meeting between advisors and advisees to get a more accurate assessment as to what committee or placement members desire for the upcoming year.

April-May: End of Year Interviews: Advisees will have the opportunity to give feedback on their year, as well as sharing

and women struggle—namely, how to manage interpersonal conflict constructively and how to cope with the impact of unrealistic societal ideals for females without competing with other females. Deliberate efforts have been made throughout the Strong Moms Strong Girls program regarding language when discussing relational aggression in our community.

As part of the UCCF lecture series Sharon Gold-Steinberg will be speaking on "Strengthening Sisterhood: Promoting Positive Interactions among Girls and Women in the Family" in late September, a great opportunity to familiarize yourself with Relational Aggression while earning DIAD credit. Look for more information soon.

The Strong Moms Strong Girls program is truly exceptional in its approach to dealing with Relational Aggression and the Junior League of Ann Arbor is proud to be involved. To learn more about the program please visit our website, www.strongmomsstronggirls.org.

-Claire Stevens, SMSG Chair

JLAA Continues to Build Relationship with SOS Community Services



Last year, the SOS day care center, Time for Tots, was the focus on an "Extreme Makeover" by the New Member Group. The League will continue its relationship with SOS Community Services for the next three years through the Signature Project process. The first aspect of this project is the Playing, Learning and Growing Program (PLG). The program provides education and family support for homeless parents from pregnancy through kindergarten. PLG helps parents learn to observe their children and promote learning. Further, the program helps parents understand and address parenting concerns. The second aspect of this project involves the implementation of a Children's Book and Activity Table (CBAT) at the SOS food distribution site. The CBAT is intended to promote literacy to children who wait at the site with their parents for long periods of time for much needed food.

The goals of the PLG program this year include the League providing volunteers to support a ten week session of the PLG playgroup, supporting SOS with the development

of a monthly newsletter and undertaking a food and personal needs drive. League members will be trained by SOS on the plight of homelessness and the PLG curriculum and will be provided with information about the families the League will work with on the program.

This year's goals of the CBAT program include the League providing volunteers on-site during one food distribution date per month. The volunteers will engage children in read-along and other activities, and help the children select a book to take home. The League will provide books and supplies for activities.

The SOS Committee is dedicated to the success of the pilot year of this project and encourages members to volunteer for either or both of these programs to receive DIAD credit. If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact Chair Gemaya Griffin.

-Kara Lividini, SOS Signature Project Committee

JLAA's Live Like A Millionaire Raffle Kickoff

Imagine going out to dinner for free, shopping with gift cards all over town, participating in local entertainment festivities free of charge and all because you purchased a \$5 raffle ticket! Sounds exciting, huh?

The Live Like A Millionaire Raffle Committee is excited to be kicking off this new fundraiser this year. Tickets for the raffle are \$5 each and one winner will be selected at the Spring gaming party who will receive all of the gift cards and certificates collected allowing them to "live like a millionaire" for the year.

Here's how you can help:

- Pick up tickets to sell to your friends, neighbors, family, co-workers, businesses or even strangers! Tickets will be available at all General Membership Meetings. You may take the tickets out to sell on consignment. All of the tickets are numbered. You are responsible for all of the ticket numbers issued to you. You will either return unsold tickets or the ticket stubs that were sold prior to the grand prize drawing. Remember there is a seller's prize that will also contain several gift cards for you to enjoy if you sell the winning ticket!

- Help us get donations for the raffle. If you have an idea or contact for a local business where you live or shop that may be willing to donate, please forward that information to Kim Scartelli at Scartelli@comcast.net. We will make arrangements to contact that business. If you own a business or are willing to provide a service such as dog sitting, professional training or consulting, please consider donating to our raffle as well.

- Pick up a Volunteer Hour Pledge



confidential information to help with next year's slating. This interview can be done in person, or via phone or email.

Slating/Placement Dates:

Saturday, November 1st, 2008: Board Slating Meeting (Slating of all Board positions, including President-Elect, all Vice President positions, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, and Nominating and Placement Committee)

Saturday, February 7th, 2009: Placement Meeting (Placement of Committee Chairs and Assistant Chairs)

Tuesday, February 10th, 2009: Placement Fair at February GMM

Saturday, March 7th, 2009: Placement Meeting (Placement of Active members in good standing on committees)

-April Savage and Kathy Gaines, Nominating and Placement Chair and Assistant Chair

Winter is Coming!

Gift Wrap

It's hard to believe with the summer temperatures outside that the holiday season is just around the corner! Don't miss an opportunity to wrap your gifts in style with Sally Foster Gift Wrap!

The gift wrap sale will be starting in September and continuing through the holiday season. The great news is that 50% of every order will help the Junior League of Ann Arbor continue our mission of helping women and children in our community. Please watch for the flyer and online order information in your fundraising packet and at the September, October and November GMMs. Please contact Erin Hall-Westfall at 734-846-1454 or erinhall@umich.edu with any questions.

Poinsettias

It is also never too soon to start thinking about placing your poinsettia orders! Poinsettias are a winter holiday tradition that instantly brightens both your home and your spirits.



Please watch for the flyer and online order information in your fundraising packet and at the September, October and November GMMs. Contact Anna Beattie-Massey at abeattie@umich.edu or 734-678-4643 with all company leads and questions.

Thank you for your support!

**-Erin Hall-Westfall and Anna Beattie-Massey,
Fall Fundraiser Co-Chairs**

Bountiful Arbor Cookbooks

We would like to thank all JLAA members for their amazing support of the Bountiful Arbor cookbooks! With your help we sold over 2,000 cookbooks during the past calendar year, but we still have 1,200 cookbooks left. As a result, we still need your help to liquidate our current inventory, which will allow us to create a new, exciting fundraiser. Please let us know if you have friends, co-workers or business groups that are interested. The Bountiful Arbor cookbooks make great shower or birthday gifts, prizes, holiday stocking stuffers, gift baskets and even teacher gifts! Members receive special liquidation pricing at \$4.50 per book or 10 books for \$45.00. Please contact Heidi Elder to place your order at: (734) 945-7737 or helder@bouma.com.

-Heidi Elder, Cookbook Chair

Election Day - Vote Tuesday, November 4, 2008

Polls stay open all day!

Please exercise this vital right. Your children will watch you exercising this civic responsibility - an important teaching moment.

Reminder provided courtesy of Jodi Kinnard and Marcia Miner, JLAA SPAC delegates

Training Update

The Training Committee is looking forward to organizing and highlighting the many training opportunities that will occur throughout the league year. Training is an internal part of the league objectives and is reflected as such in the strategic goals for 2008/2009.

Enhance our training experiences to provide ongoing development of our members' personal, professional, volunteer, and leadership skills.

We often overlook the training opportunities that occur in committee meetings, advisor meetings or in project work and we want to highlight those training interactions. Each time we meet as an organization we are learning and training which will be evident at each GMM this coming year.

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The training opportunities will be focused on the following interactions:

- New format for leadership training was introduced to committee chairs in June
- Guest speakers to speak about current issues facing women
- Hold two small group training sessions at the GMMs which will be a new format
- Short "trainings" and group discussions at ALL GMMS
- Promote leadership training opportunities within the league and the community

Please save the date for the following training opportunities provided by the Michigan State Council of Junior Leagues. More details to come later so watch for the E-News updates as we get closer to the dates.

Saturday September 27, 2008

Fall Training 9:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Keynote Speaker Eleni Kelakos

Networking Breakout sessions include Kids in the Kitchen, Membership Recruitment and Retention, Fund Development and Community Projects.

Saturday February 21, 2009

Winter Training 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Track 1 Incoming Board Training

Track 2 Personal/Leadership skill development

Wednesday March 11, 2009

Day at the Capital 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

-Nancy Wermer, Training Committee Chair

Mark your Calendars and Get Ready for Some Fun!!!

This year's annual fall JLAA picnic will be on Saturday, September 20th from 3-6 at County Farm Park. Come and catch up with all of your JLAA friends and hear what they have been up to all summer. Plus, meet our newest league members and make some new friends! There will be tons of fun for the whole family with great food and a great playground for kids! It will also be a great way to get outdoors and enjoy the last few days of warm weather before winter hits!! We are anticipating for a great turn out! So come join us at this year's picnic and get geared up for an exciting new league year!!

-Parvathy Pillai and Corey Longley, Arrangements Co-Chairs

Our Mission:

The Junior League of Ann Arbor is an organization of women committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women, and improving the community through the effective leadership and action of trained volunteers. Its purpose is exclusively educational and charitable.

A 'Super' Saturday Kicks off the New Fall Class for the Junior League of Ann Arbor

The New Members met for their first Super Saturday of the season on Saturday, August 16th. There were eight fantastic women there to kick off the New Fall Class and we have nine women scheduled to attend the makeup date. We are also very excited to announce that our New Members will be working on a very exciting project with Perry Nursery this League year and more information will become available in the upcoming months as we work closely with Perry to determine the detail of the project which will be completed by Spring of 2009. Please contact Jen Parker at jenparker@comcast.net or Ryan Pfahl at ryan.pfahl@gmail.com for any further information.

-Jen Parker, New Member Development Chair

Communications Update

Website

If you haven't been to the website, check it out!

Keeping your community project and fundraising information up to date is important, so the more input we get, the better.

Also, have you seen the new DIAD online calendar?

E-News

You have probably noticed E-News is now sent out every Thursday. Deadlines have also changed to noon on Tuesday, so send your requests to enews@jlaa.org

Press Kit

Do you have a community contact interested in more information about the JLAA? Download the Press Kit.

Press Releases

Do you have an event you want the community to know about? Contact Lindsay McCarthy at

lindsay@annarborchamber.org

Photos

We are counting on you to document what is happening at JLAA events, DIAD opportunities, etc. Please send photos to Natalie Herrod at herrodn@yahoo.com and we will make sure they are archived.

Problems with website access? Use the Forgot Password function on the Member Login page. If you still require assistance with this or any other issues, please send an e-mail to webteam@jlaa.org. We'll be happy to assist you.

-Stephanie Brown, Communications Chair

