



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

Women building better communities®

ARBOR ACCENTS

President's Message

Last night I had the opportunity to attend the Sustainer's Christmas Party. At the party I was handed a calendar from 1985 (in mint condition I might add) that was actually designed and sold as a JLAA fundraiser. In the calendar were original notes from speeches, *Arbor Accents* articles, and even a poem that a past president of the league, Dianne Alton, wrote as a thank you to families of the board of directors.

As I reviewed the notes in the well-utilized calendar marking meetings, volunteer opportunities, events, "to dos", etc...things looked very familiar to me. It reminded me that although we have evolved so much over the last 25 years in so many ways, we are still firmly planted in the tradition and the values that were brought forth by our founders. In one of the articles I found, a past president, Carol Clyde, referenced a poem by Shel Silverstein that still is as inspiring and true to us today as it was then:

Listen to the **MUSTN'TS**, child,
Listen to the **DON'TS**,
Listen to the **SHOULDN'TS**,
The **IMPOSSIBLES**, the **WON'TS**,
Listen to the **NEVER HAVES**,
Then listen close to me –
Anything can happen, child,
ANYTHING can be.



The amazing women that preceded us took this poem to heart and created a strong foundation that has brought us to where we are today. We now have a firm standing in our community, and have a legacy of amazing and successful projects. We have trained hundreds of women to be successful in their careers, and in their work in the community. The Junior League of Ann Arbor has impacted thousands of women and children, and we will impact thousands more. This time of year in particular, it is important to remember traditions and applaud all that we have accomplished together over the last 25 years.

Women of the JLAA have always made things happen. We improve the community by developing the potential of women and training our volunteers. We are women in the community who are able to accomplish anything... **ANYTHING can be** when we work together.

So, thanks to all of our sustainers for your commitment to the league and our mission. And thanks to all of our active members for the hard work that you do each and every day to continue our success as a league. It has been and will continue to be such an honor to be president of this organization. Each day I am overwhelmed by the sheer greatness of all of the women that I meet. And to close with the end of Dianne Alton's poem:

*"So my hat's off to you for doing your part!
This big "THANK YOU" comes from down deep in my heart"*

-Deb Urquhart, President

2009-2010 Signature Project

The CAPP Committee is excited to recommend two wonderful organizations as Signature Project finalists – Girls Group and Washtenaw Area Council for Children. Both organizations offer opportunities for JLAA to have an impact on the lives of children in our community through a variety of meaningful volunteer opportunities.

Girls Group is an alliance of women dedicated to helping high school girls achieve emotional and economic security through expanded educational and professional opportunities. They are seeking JLAA's support to continue their monthly meetings, weekend enrichment programs, and mentoring of approximately thirty participants from low-income families. For more than four years, Girls Group has developed self-sufficiency in teenage girls from high-risk, disadvantaged backgrounds. It is the goal of Girls Group for Junior League volunteers to provide "social capital" for the participants by sharing experiences, skills, and interests. As the young women become more comfortable with people outside their community and socio-economic background, they gain the self-confidence to travel to new places and talk to different individuals who can help them network and grow. Members seeking meaningful personal involvement could mentor a girl (or girls) with whom they share an interest. Other volunteer opportunities would be to share information about their jobs, education, hobbies, or travels at a monthly meeting, or to help lead a community service project for the girls.

Washtenaw Area Council for Children promotes child safety and well-being and prevents child maltreatment, abuse and neglect through educational services and programs to children, parents, community members, and youth-serving professionals throughout Washtenaw County. They are seeking JLAA's support to start a "Body Safety Training" (BST) program to educate young school age children about personal safety, especially child sexual abuse. The program will help develop personal safety skills and increase knowledge and skills related to preventing or reporting child sexual abuse. The program can be presented in a single 50 minute presentation or offered over several days in 15 minute segments (preferable for younger children's attention span). Junior League volunteers would be trained to facilitate BST at preschools and elementary schools along with a staff coordinator. Other volunteer opportunities would be to coordinate volunteer facilitators, teach BST as a parent program, and represent BST at Health Fairs or other non-profit organizations.

-Amy Force, CRPD Sub-Committee

Welcome to the Fall 2008 New Member Class!

Alicia Cool
Jill Coultas
Natalie Davidson
Jacqueline Eckert
Nicki Ingram
Brianna Johnson

Katie Kalinowski
Jen Lenard-Benson
Heather Brennehan Miles
Leigh Anne Mixon
Tracey Smith
Kate Zellers

Report from the Association for Junior Leagues International

As Deb Urquhart and I traveled to and from Kansas City for the Fall Leadership Conference, we reflected on the training and development we both have received both within our League experiences, as well as formal trainings through the Association for Junior Leagues International. We thank you for your investment in developing our potential and contributing to making a difference with our League, as well as our community.

"Create, Change, Thrive" was the theme for this year's Association of Junior Leagues International Inc. (AJLI) Fall Leadership Conference. Nearly 400 League leaders from four countries gathered to share ideas, attend workshops, and develop their leadership skills for providing significant volunteer support as catalysts for positive and lasting change in their communities. The Board of the Association of Junior Leagues International has been working over the past two years to assess the health of our organization and determine a new vision and strategic plan for the organization.

The Governance Dialogue sessions were a centerpiece of the Conference. The AJLI Board made a presentation on a proposed new AJLI Vision statement and offered opportunities for discussion and feedback by delegates. The proposed new Vision was an outcome of the Scenario Planning process that the AJLI Board has conducted over the past year with the support of Global Business Network (GBN), a leading consultant firm. Following the Conference, the Board is providing League Presidents with a PowerPoint presentation to share with their members for their feedback and input in preparation for further discussions at the Winter Leadership Conference and discussion and a vote on a new Vision at Annual Conference. If you are interested in the PowerPoint presentation, please contact Deb or myself.

We are excited to present the new vision to you and seek your feedback so that we can communicate to the Association as well as make an informed vote at the Annual Conference in April.

The proposed draft vision statement is: The Junior League: Women around the world as catalysts for lasting community change.

We are excited about the new vision statement as it has been an opportunity to communicate with AJLI about needed changes from them to further our work locally. Examples include webinars for training, pilot programs around membership recruitment and retention, redesign of the website to increase functionality and interactive connections with others, and perhaps "Volun-Tour-ism" opportunities (short term, high need volunteer opportunities coordinated through AJLI, such as helping in New Orleans after Katrina).

Please feel free to contact Deb, myself or any member of the Board of Directors to share your thoughts and perspectives. We will keep you posted about any further developments with the new vision statement.

-Holly Heaviland, President-Elect

DIAD Update

A special thanks to all of you who have already completed your DIAD hours. As of beginning of December we have completed 434 hours by participating in Ronald McDonald dinners, Motor Meals deliveries, Girls on the Run Haunted Hustle, Huron



Valley Ambulance Flu Shot Clinic, SOS Turkey Distribution, SMSG Workshops, and SOS book table and personal needs drive. Let's all work together to continue impacting our community through DIAD hours as we begin the New Year!!!

-Jessica Bader, DIAD Committee Co-Chair

**Pictured:
Elizabeth Damianov and Annie Gallant at the Girls on the Run Haunted Hustle**

The Live Like A Millionaire Raffle Committee Needs Your Help!

This year, the league has a new fundraiser called the "Live Like A Millionaire Raffle." The raffle committee is busy soliciting local donors who are donating gift cards and gift certificates. One lucky winner will be drawn who will win ALL of the gift cards and certificates allowing them the chance to live like a millionaire all year long! The winner will be drawn at the Luck of The League party on March 14th.

In order to reach our goal, we need each active member to sell approximately 25 tickets. Many of you have already picked up your tickets and are busy selling them now. Many of you may still need to pick up your tickets. You may pick up tickets at the January, February and March GMMs. You may also turn in the funds and ticket stubs for the tickets that you have sold at that time.

Although our big campaign for donations kicks off in mid-January, the raffle committee has already secured the following donations:

- **\$100 Arbonne Gift Certificate from consultant Paula Prisby**
- **Teeth Whitening package**
- **\$25 Amazon.com gift certificate**
- **3 Month Curves Membership**
- **\$30 Premier Designs Jewelry Certificate**
- **Complimentary dental visit and cleaning from The Village Dentist**
- **Pedicure from Westbrook Salon**
- **An Urquhart Tree Farm Christmas Tree and Wreath**
- **Beijo bag gift certificate**
- **Wine Rack with 12 bottles of wine**

And more... just think, we haven't started our campaign yet and your friends could win all of this for just \$5.

So help us support all of the great projects in our community by selling raffle tickets during January, February and early March. Remember 100% of every ticket sold contributes to your fundraising commitment.

-Kim Scartelli, Live Like A Millionaire Raffle Chair

BOARD OF DIRECTORS*President***Deb Urquhart***President Elect/VP of Planning and By-Laws***Holly Heaviland***Communications Council VP***Molly Bodenschatz***Community Services Council VP***Stacey Bodner***Finance Council VP***Sarah Helmich***Fund Development Council VP***Christine Lammers***Membership Services Council VP***Shannon Campbell***Nominating and Placement Chair***April Savage***Recording Secretary***Kelly Williams***Sustainer Advisor to the Board***Julaine LeDuc****LEADERSHIP TEAM***Assistant to the President***Andrea Byas***Sustainer President***Jackie Silhanek****Communications Council Chair****Stephanie Brown****Community Services Council***DIAD Sub Committee Chairs***Jessica Bader and Katie Fraumann***Project Review Sub Committee Chair***Monica Williams***Strong Moms Strong Girls Chair***Claire Stevens***SOS Chair***Gemaya Griffin****Finance Council***Accountability Data Manager***Jody Kuba-Kosman***Treasurer***Shanna Ertell****Fund Development Council***Cookbook Chair***Heidi Elder***Fall Fundraiser Co-Chairs***Anna Beattie and Erin Hall***Gaming Party Co-Chairs***Kelly Clay and Kristine Corbin***Grants and Corporate Sponsorships Chair***Felicity Thompson***Live Like a Millionaire Raffle Chair***Kim Scartelli****Membership Services Council***Arrangements Chairs***Corey Longley and Parvathy Pillai***New Member Development Chair and Asst***Jen Parker and Ryan Pfahl***Nominating and Placement Asst Chair***Kathy Gaines***Training Committee Chair***Nancy Wermer***Transfer Liaison***Natasha Cotton-Gordon***Sustainer Liaison***Paula Rand**

Michigan State Council of Junior Leagues
Ann Arbor, Battle Creek, Birmingham, Detroit, Flint, Grand Rapids,
Kalamazoo, Lansing & Saginaw Valley

*Women building better communities
 through networking, training & collective action*

Invites all league members to participate in the Spring 2009 Training

Incoming Board of Director's/General Membership Training

February 21, 2009 8:30 am – 1:30 pm

Hannah Community Center, East Lansing

Topic to include:

AJLI Strategic Vision

Nuts and Bolts of Serving on the Board

How to be a Confident Public Speaker

Panel Discussion: Membership Recruitment and Retention

Fall Fundraiser Update

Thank you to everyone who helped to make the fall fundraisers a success, raising over \$11,000 for JLAA!

Poinsettia sales this year raised over \$8,000, well above our \$7,000 net profit goal! We also added six new businesses and had a lot of repeat customers as well. Even in this difficult economic time, we were able to donate 250 plants for area shut-ins. We would like to give special thanks to Jim Turner from Turner's Nursery. He went above and beyond what is normally done and we could not have successfully delivered all of the plants without him. A special thanks to the JLAA members who donated their time to also help deliver to numerous businesses and shut-ins!

Gift Wrap was also busy this year! We had a total of 64 orders from active members, sustainers and friends of the league, which raised over \$3,000 for JLAA. Unfortunately that still left us a bit behind our original goal of \$4,000, but because of the additional poinsettia sales, the fall fundraisers still met the original overall combined goal of \$11,000!

A big thank you to the members of the Fall Fundraiser committee: Jackie Lapinski, Steffanie Porter, and Ginger Votaw. Without their hard work and contributions, the fall fundraisers would not have been as successful as they were. We consider ourselves very lucky to have been part of such a great committee!

-Erin Hall-Westfall & Anna Beattie-Massey, Fall Fundraisers Co-Chairs



Strong Moms Strong Girls

The third year of the Strong Moms Strong Girls program, in collaboration with the University Center for the Child and the Family (UCCF), has been exceptional.

A focus for the Strong Moms Strong Girls committee in this third year has been on training and inclusion of more JLAA members in participation and support of the program's activities. The Workshop Facilitator Assistant role has been made available to non-committee members who receive training and an additional 6 members have been training to become Community Presenters.

The first Community Presentation for the 2008-2009 year was held at the Saline Public Library in November to an audience of 30 women. The Community Presentation provides an overview of the issues and strategies to deal with Relational Aggression for parents and adult community members. If you are interested in hosting the presentation for your parent organization or group please contact Lisa Hopkins, lisahopkins@gmail.com, for information on scheduling.

Mother-daughter workshops held in September, October and November have been held with great success, serving 28 mother-daughter pairs. December and January workshops are scheduled at full capacity. The Workshop Facilitator Assistant role, available to all JLAA members, has been a great way to actively engage with participants in the SMSG program.

JLAA members enjoyed great discussion at the book club held in October. The next book club is scheduled for January 22, 2009, 7-9pm to discuss Odd Girl Out: The Hidden Culture of Aggression in Girls by Rachel Simmons. Two additional book clubs will be held in spring 2009. Please contact Courtney McCreadie, cemccreadie@yahoo.com, for more information or to RSVP.

UCCF is elated at the possibility of continuing the signature project collaboration with the JLAA for 2009-2010. The 4th year proposal to continue the Strong Moms Strong Girls signature project was presented at the October and November general membership meetings. A vote on the SMSG 4th year proposal will be held at the January GMM.

Strong Mom Strong Girls Vision for 4th year (2009-2010):

- Offer 10 mother-daughter workshops
- Market SMSG Speaker's Bureau (JLAA volunteers and UCCF staff) in southeastern Michigan
- Enhance development of website to be local and national clearinghouse for info on Relational Aggression and to provide additional resources for past SMSG participants
- Train professionals from other communities interested in implementing SMSG programs

The JLAA would be supporting the Strong Moms Strong Girls program in the 4th year through a committee of five members with responsibilities including program logistics, research on available partnerships, educating neighboring Junior Leagues, and strategic planning as well as volunteer support from the general JLAA membership including community presenters, workshop facilitator assistants, workshop greeters, workshop

food donations, book clubs and public presentations. Financially the JLAA would contribute \$6600 for the purpose of supporting the mother-daughter workshops, marketing and development efforts. Please contact Claire Stevens, claireannstevens@gmail.com, with any questions regarding the 4th year proposal prior to the January GMM vote.

The Strong Moms Strong Girls program has shown the power and effectiveness of a true community alliance and collaboration. As Junior League of Ann Arbor members we can all be proud of the positive influence we have on our community through the SMSG program and many others.

-Claire Stevens, SMSG Committee Chair

Cookbook Update

Thanks to the support of the JLAA members and local community we sold over 2,000 Bountiful Arbor cookbooks within the past year! However, we still have approximately 1,200 cookbooks, and we need your support to liquidate the remaining inventory in our warehouse. Our cookbook storage runs out in May of 2009 so we really need your help! The Bountiful Arbor cookbooks are \$45 for a case of 10 cookbooks or \$4.50 per cookbook, including tax, shipping & handling!

Also, keep in mind there are several ways to promote the Bountiful Arbor. The cookbooks are great for holidays, stocking stuffers, birthday gifts, wedding and baby shower gifts, bunco prizes, gift baskets, teacher gifts and much more!

Remember that JLAA receives 100% of your cookbook purchases. Please call Heidi Elder, Cookbook Chair at (734) 945-7737 or email helder@bouma.com to place your order today!

-Heidi Elder, Cookbook Chair

The Perry Nursery New Member Project 2008/2009

The Perry Nursery Mulch project was a terrific success with over \$800 in mulch purchased by League members! THANK YOU to everyone who participated! Some of the new members, committee members and their families spent a very cold Sunday afternoon laying mulch across three large playgrounds so now their mulch levels are up to standard to allow the children to play outside again. THANK YOU to those of you who helped! We know that Perry Nursery is very grateful!

The 75th Anniversary Event for Perry Nursery along with our project to clean and organize their kitchen continues to develop with the goal of completing both events and project work by early May 2009.

Inquiries continue to stream in for the New Member Winter Class kicking off with our Super Saturday scheduled for January 10th. We currently have over 40 women who have shown interest and are on the invitation list to hopefully attend.

-Jen Parker, New Member Development Chair

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.



The World Needs More Women Leaders ... Could You Be One of Them?

Save the date!

Find out more about state government during

Day at the Capitol Wednesday, March 11, 2009

Meet interesting people and learn the ropes in Lansing

The day includes:

- breakfast
- legislative review
- lunch with local legislators
- tour of the Capitol

Carpools will be arranged.

For more information, e-mail Marcia Miner at
aumannl@comcast.net.



SOS Committee

The Playing, Learning, Growing program

Being homeless has a profound and negative impact on a child's development and learning. The Playing, Learning, Growing program will provide parent education and family support (pregnancy until kindergarten), help parents learn how to observe their children, and address parenting concerns. This program increases parents' feelings of competence and confidence, enhances parent-child interactions and strengthens family relationships.

We held our first 10 week Playing, Learning, Growing Program at Time for Tots this fall. We had four families and four Junior League volunteers participate over the 10 weeks. They met every Wednesday evening for organized playtime. Activity 'stations' were set up for the kids with different themes every week - music, colors, and letters. We'll be conducting another 10 week PLG session in the winter/spring - contact Tonja Fox texastonja@yahoo.com if you'd like to volunteer for this rewarding program. Volunteer commitment involves meeting one night per week for four consecutive weeks

Children's Book/Activity Area

The Children's Book/Activity Areas initiative is to engage children during the time that parents are waiting for Food Distribution. Often children come with their parents and are subject to long waiting periods. Supporting the Food Distribution Center

with an activity area and storytelling will put parents' minds at ease while they wait in line and lift the spirits of the children whose families are going through a hard time. Most importantly, it will promote literacy in this group of at-risk kids.

This fall we organized three Children's Book/Activity Areas at the Food Distribution Site. Our volunteers helped with the set-up, read to the children who were at the site with their parents, distributed free books to each child, and stored the books following the activity. If you are interested in volunteering please contact Kim Walsh at dnkwalsh@comcast.net.

Personal needs drive

During the November GMM we had a personal needs drive for SOS. This was a great success: we received donations from 24 ladies for the total of 60 DIAD hours which means approximately \$900 worth of items. Thank you all for making donations! There will be another drive for SOS this spring.

-Gemaya Griffin, SOS Committee Chair

Introducing the Grants and Sponsorship Committee

The Grants/Sponsorship committee has incredible ladies who have brought lots of great ideas on how to move forward with our goal of raising \$5,000 for the 2008/2009 year. The ladies are from left to right: Elizabeth Damianov, Heidi Nelson, Fanny Russell, Elaine Reed, Felicity Thompson, and Marcia Wallin.



During our first couple of meetings we didn't know where to start without a "road map." After several meetings we came up with a strategic plan. Immediate Past President, Heidi Nelson has been invaluable on this committee, leading us in the right direction and filling in gaps where we didn't know how to handle issues at hand.

Presently we have two subcommittees: the Grants committee with Heidi Nelson and Elaine Reed; and the Sponsorship committee with Elizabeth Damianov, Marcia Wallin and Fanny Russell who is a Sustainer.

The Sponsorship committee is working on sponsoring two or three General Membership meetings in the new year - while the Grants committee is diligently working on raising funds from local organizations. Despite the tough economic times, we believe we will reach our goal!

-Felicity Thompson, Grants/Sponsorship Committee Chair

2009 Calendar



All calendar items are subject to change. Please visit our website for the most current events and DIAD opportunities at www.jlaa.org.

January

10 Super Saturday
13 GMM, 7-9 PM
27 BOD Meeting, 7:30-9:30PM

February

10 GMM, 7-9 PM
21 MSC Training, East Lansing, 8:30-1:30
24 BOD Meeting, 7:30-9:30 PM

March

10 GMM, 7-9
11 Day at the Capitol
14 Luck O' The League
24 BOD Meeting, 7:30-9:30 PM
31 JLAA annual dues payment due

April

14 GMM, 7-9
28 BOD Meeting, 5:30-7 PM
BOD Transition Mtg, 7-9 PM

May

5 BOD Transition Mtg, 7:30-9:30 PM
12 Annual Meeting, Location TBD

June

Have a great summer!

JLAA's Casino Night Fundraiser "Luck O' The League"



WHEN

Saturday, March 14th 2009 at 6:30 p.m.

WHERE

Lake Forest Golf Club Ann Arbor, MI

TICKET PRICE

\$45

QUESTIONS

kellylclay@gmail.com or corbie19@yahoo.com

**LIVE like a Millionaire
PLAY like a Millionaire
GIVE like a Millionaire**

LIVE ...like a millionaire

Be there for the live drawing when one person gets the chance to Live like a millionaire winning hundreds of dollars in prizes prizes!\$!\$

PLAY...your heart out at gaming tables

Featuring Black Jack, Texas Hold'em, Craps, and "anyone can play" games like Darts, Putt Putt, and Nintendo Wii Sports!

GIVE...back to your community

By buying a ticket for \$45 you can support the community and numerous JLAA charitable projects!

Purchase tickets at upcoming GMM's or mail checks to:

Junior League of Ann Arbor
Attn: Kristin Finn
805 Sycamore Place Ann Arbor, MI 48104