

**JUNIOR LEAGUE OF LANSING**

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**MISSION STATEMENT**

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

## SLAM DUNK!!!

*Tracy Jelneck, President Elect*



**L**isa Hildorf hosted a special sports dinner party for four wonderful guests with the MSU Head Basketball coaches and their spouses on Tuesday, June 17. These four guests earned their spot on the team by being the leader in ticket sales (Ifield Joseph) or the highest tip winner (David Baker) at the annual Junior League of Lansing Celebrity Luncheon.

The pre-game pep talk was presented by bartenders Alan Atkinson and Mark Castellani. Deb Atkinson designed the menu and directed Lisa Hildorf, as the assistant chef, to prepare a meal of



*Ifield Joseph, Suzy Merchant, Gary Rakan*



*Lupe & Tom Izzo, David Baker & spouse, Suzy Merchant & Gary Rakan*

## Fund Development



*Chef Lisa Hildorf*

roasted pork chops, lasagna,

asparagus, and Caesar salad. Homemade pie and cookies took the team down the home stretch with a final slam dunk. It was an awesome event where everyone left with Spartan "gear" and memories of a comfortable, enjoyable evening with two sporting super-stars: Tom Izzo and Suzy Merchant.

This dinner event was the grand prize from the Sparrow W3/5K OK event from the fall of 2007. The Junior League of Lansing was the winner of this special sports dinner party and passed this on as an incentive prize at the Celebrity Luncheon.

Talk about a win-win situation!!!!

The Sparrow W3/5K OK Event is set for Sunday, September 7, 2008. The grand prizes this year are travel trips with the Men's or women's basketball teams. Your contribution of \$1,500 to W3 earns you a chance to win one of the grand prizes as well as breakfast with the coaches on Saturday, September 6. Please contact Lisa Hildorf (339-9255 or hildorf@aol.com) to learn more about contributing to this event.

# JLL Endowment

Debby Harrison, Sustainer



*Char Roe*

**M**ay 14, 1984 was a date that changed fundraising as the Junior League of Lansing would know it. With the challenges of declining volunteer time, the need was there to raise money in a new way. With the research of a task force, it was recommended and approved that our League set up an **Endowment Fund**.

With this being our **25th anniversary**, it seemed timely to reflect a bit and share with you this year, some of the special people

who made this happen. Thus, it seemed appropriate that we begin with the JLL Endowment Fund's first chair, **Char Roe**.

With Char's background in many volunteer activities and ties to a family foundation, the Ransom Fidelity Fund, she seemed like the perfect choice to lead us toward a long term sustained funding source. A bit of a challenge, since historically our League had just raised the money and then immediately fulfilled various needs in the community.

From 1984–1990, Char chaired the Endowment Board with what fellow trustee Joe Foster recalled, “**a WE must make this happen attitude.**” We saw the Endowment grow from \$251 to \$77,013.35. Our monies went from being in a simple savings account to best interest in CD's where 1/2 of the interest earned was tendered to be used for League projects if so chosen.

The Endowment had several successful money raising campaigns during her tenure. The formation of the original Founders and other giving categories were first. The discussion and decision to employ the Heritage Development Company to train League members to be successful fund raisers was another. The JLL Endowment also saw additional growth with acquisitions from major donors, carefully updated documents, and a trustee selection process in place.

Char said to me, “You know I did not do this alone. There were many dedicated League and Community members who were a terrific help.” This is true but with her leadership, Char Roe took a recommendation and made it a viable reality. We as an organization will be forever grateful.

## Junior League of Lansing Endowment Fund

*A Legacy for League.  
A Legacy for Lansing.*

**1984 – 2009**

### *25th Anniversary Every Member Drive*

**\$25 for 25 years**

**Let Us Continue to Build  
Our Commitment  
to the  
Greater Lansing Community**

Our goal is to have every member of the  
Junior League of Lansing  
New Member, Active, Sustainer,  
Non-Resident Active and Sustainer  
contribute a minimum of \$25  
to the Endowment Fund  
as we celebrate our 25th Anniversary.

\_\_\_\_\_ \$25  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$250  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$2,500

All donors will be recognized in upcoming  
issues of Focus and at our year-end  
Anniversary Party.

We hope to see your name listed in our  
**\$25 for 25 EVERY MEMBER Drive**  
in the next issue of Focus!

Please make checks payable to the JLL Endowment  
and identify it as \$25 for 25 EVERY MEMBER Drive  
271 Woodland Pass Centre, Suite 115  
East Lansing, MI 48823

## JLL Email Addresses

Just a reminder to use these emails:

### FOCUS

focus@jllansing.org

### New Member Recruitment

membership@jllansing.org

### Webmaster

webmaster@jllansing.org

### Public Relations

publicrelations@jllansing.org

### Signature Fundraiser

fundraiser@jllansing.org

### JLL Office (Nancy Shepard)

office@jllansing.org

*FOCUS* is the newsletter of the Junior League of Lansing, published 9 times each year for the use of its members. Any inquiries regarding *FOCUS* may be directed to the office staff or the following address:

#### Junior League of Lansing

271 Woodland Pass Centre, Suite 115  
East Lansing, MI 48823  
517-324-3734  
office@jllansing.org  
Focus@jllansing.org

Junior League of Lansing, Michigan reaches out to women of all races, religions, and national origins who demonstrate an interest in and a commitment to voluntarism. The JLL strives in all endeavors to be sensitive to the special needs of our members and guests. If there is a special need, please notify the Education Vice President, Kate Quinn.

*FOCUS* accepts advertisements to help offset the publication costs. For advertising rates or to place an advertisement, please contact the Junior League of Lansing office.

*FOCUS* submissions are due by 5:00 p.m. on the Wednesday following each GMM. Email submissions should be sent to Focus@jllansing.org in Microsoft Word. Articles should include a title, author and author's placement. All photos should be digital and sent to the Focus email address with the word "photo" in the subject line. Photos must include a caption with the names of those pictured and the title of the accompanying article.

# President's Message...

Amy Suhrheinrich, President



## Women with Vision— We are the Junior League!

Although this issue arrives in September, the article deadline is mid July. I am actually writing this message from the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island looking at the Mighty Mac Bridge. What a fantastic setting to put together an article about *Vision—what we want to become*. The Mackinac Bridge was thought to be impossible—how could one connect the two peninsulas by work of man? The leaders of this project had true vision and what a resource they provided for the State of Michigan!

At the May Meeting, I challenged each of you to think of what your personal Vision for the upcoming year might be and I hope that you have put some thought into this challenge. I can see that many members have already done so. Being a part of a committee allows you to have power in numbers and make a difference within League and the Lansing community. We began our summer with a fantastic Leadership Team Training. Sustainers and Past Presidents, **Kim Hartman, Janet Freund, and Lynn Fiedler**, remind us about our Mission, Vision, and the training we can receive from our organization.

The Signature Fundraiser is a fine example of a powerhouse of women. **Traci Riehl and Collette Evangelista** began their year providing training and future planning for their committee. The entire committee has been working diligently all summer on the details of our signature fundraiser, "A Night in New York." You will not be disappointed. Please look for the article in this issue to see how you can support them as their end result will provide the financial resources for our League to operate and make an impact in this community. We know that any contribution you may give, either of time and/or talent will make a big difference- please show your support!

CPRD has also had a busy summer of planning as we will embark upon the journey of voting in the next Signature Project for our organization. They too will keep us up to date on their progress.

New Member Recruitment is creatively planning and organizing the recruitment of new members. They have true Vision of how we need to update our methods of educating women in our community about the Junior League- it will be exciting for all of us to read about their efforts and new techniques of providing information to dynamic women. The variety of events and their venues is truly a sign of changing times. **Shelley Mielock and Courtney Schnelker**, the Chair and Vice Chair of New Member Recruitment would appreciate names of potential members.

**Beth Cook and Kim Watters**, our Nominating and Placement Chairs, have been working behind the scenes collaborating with our wonderful team of advisors. They hope to provide you with support and give you resources and a voice that will allow you to grow within the Junior League organization.

The space in this article cannot begin to be large enough to share with all of you the dedication that so many have given over the summer months. Just as the Mighty Mac was not constructed in one season, the League too cannot complete its Mission overnight.

Each leader and each worker on that bridge had to cooperate and follow through with their role to complete such an unbelievable feat. We, as Junior League members, must understand our role in the current Junior League year so we can support and offer guidance to one another and accomplish our goals for this year. I look forward to all of the pieces falling in line and celebrating in May our successes! I am excited to serve in this role and I hope you hang on to your vision and pursue your goals. Have a fantastic League year!

Warmest regards,

*Amy*



## Membership Welcome Back!

Suzanne Johnson, Member Relations Chair



**W**elcome Back! I hope that you all had a great summer. We will be kicking things off with a welcome back wine and cheese social September 25 from 7pm–9pm at 2056 Timberview Dr. in Okemos. Please come by and catch up with your fellow League members and share your summer adventures!

We are looking forward to a fun year that includes family, couples and girls only events. Be sure to check the member relations section of your focus each month for our coming events!

Please help us recognize any active or sustaining member who put forth extraordinary effort for League each month by nominating them for Kudos. To nominate a member please email her name, placement and achievement to: [sssjohnson@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sssjohnson@sbcglobal.net). Each person nominated for Kudos throughout the year will be considered along with other nominees for the Recognize Excellence Awards at our final meeting in May.

Anyone interested in participating in the Junior Pal program will be able to do so at the September meeting. Please fill out the forms that will be provided and leave them in the box provided. If you want to participate and will not be at the September GMM, please contact me at 381-2534 so that I can send you a form. If you are unable to complete the form at the GMM, you may mail them to:

Suzanne Johnson  
2056 Timberview Dr., Okemos, MI 48864

Please have all forms back to me no later than September 23, 2008. Your Junior Pal will be mailed to you on October 1, 2008.

Congratulations to sustainer **Karen Noe**, who recently celebrated her 50th wedding anniversary with her husband David and their two daughters and grandchildren on June 20, 2008. *Now that's something to celebrate!*

## Communications Going, Going Green!

Becky Paalman, Communications Vice President



**T**his fall JLL will take an initiative to go green and do our part to protect the environment.

In order to do our part we need your assistance. At the September GMM there will be a sheet to sign-up to receive the FOCUS newsletter via email instead of snail mail. Also this year, we will implement evites instead of postcard invitations. Arrangements will be using [www.evite.com](http://www.evite.com) to invite members and give meeting details. You'll also be able to see who will be in attendance at each meeting right on the evite site. We are looking forward to this initiative and to moving forward into the technology realm.

## Membership New Member Recruitment

Shelley Davis Mielock, New Member Recruitment Chair



**T**he New Member Recruitment Committee hosted a Wine Tasting informational social at Motion Marketing & Media (M3 Group) on Tuesday, July 22. The group of prospective new members received a warm welcome from M3 Group President and JL PR Chair, **Tiffany Dowling**. They also heard from **Becky Myers** about her Junior League experience. **Kristen Pfeiffer** ended the presentation portion of the social by reviewing the wine selections. Thank you to Active members **Renee Knake**, **Kate Quinn**, **Tracy Jelneck** and sustainer **Mary Rose Seibold** for attending this wonderful event.

We have two more recruitment events coming up, so please let me know the names of any ladies you'd like to be invited to find out more about League. Also, we love having active and sustaining members there to socialize and welcome the guests—so please stop by if you have time. On Saturday, August 23 we will be hosting a **Mimosas in the Morning** event at Bella Blu II located at 1219 Turner Street in Old Town from 11AM–Noon. The final recruitment event will be held on Tuesday, September 23 and will be a **Coffee and Sweets Sampling** at Capital Honda on Jolly Road in Okemos from 7–8 PM. You can RSVP for either event by emailing me at [shelmielock@comcast.net](mailto:shelmielock@comcast.net), calling me at 517.333.8808 or if you're a Facebook user you can RSVP under our Junior League of Lansing events pages (and invite your Facebook friends to attend!).

## Community Summer Project— Habitat for Humanity

Daniela Cibelli, DIAD Chair



**O**n June 9th, members of JLL worked on one of the houses for Habitat for Humanity in Lansing.

With other crew members, including the home owners, we were able to work on the front and back yard. Lots of weeds were pulled and lots of dirt and mulch spread.

The result: beautiful landscape framing the new house, job well done ladies!!

Thank you to **Virginia Gibson**, **Kristy Kellom**, **Christina Williams**, **Josefina Cibelli** for participating with me.

Stay tuned for more Habitat opportunities!!!!!!



# AJLI Conference

Amy Suhrheinrich, President & Tracy Jelneck, President Elect



**A**my and I had the opportunity to attend the 86th annual AJLI conference in San Diego, California from April 30–May 3, 2008. The theme

of the conference was Create, Change, Thrive. There is so much to learn and that was definitely demonstrated at the conference. Thank goodness we are a training organization. I had the opportunity to sit on some training in parliamentary procedure. Boy, you can sure get lost in the technicalities of parliamentary procedure.

I also received some training on the ‘new’ Form 990. For those of you that don’t know that is basically our tax form. All Form 990s for nonprofits can be viewed on [guidestar.org](http://guidestar.org). The IRS has incorporated numerous changes to the form. For example, we will now be required to report the number of volunteers. But what are volunteers? Are they active members? Sustainers? New members? Non-related members who volunteer at our events? Family members? Okay, family members may be reaching a little, but this is something that we will need to contemplate. Do we need to have the names of everyone that volunteered at every event or community service activity? Yes, I hear you. And that is just one change. If you would like to learn more about this feel free to log on to [www.stayexempt.org](http://www.stayexempt.org) or visit the IRS website at [irs.gov](http://irs.gov). If you come across anything interesting, please let me know.

We also attended training on social networking. Did you know that some leagues have a facebook or myspace page? I, for one, have not even accessed either of these websites. I must admit that I am scared to death. Have you googled yourself lately? Yikes! The Communications VP, however, has assured me that this is safe and it is something that could promote the activities of JLL. Go ahead. Check it out. You might just see something that you like.

Well, what can I say. Create, Change, Thrive. I think that about sums it up. Thank you for the opportunity to learn more and network with other leagues. It was an experience that I will treasure and continue to share with you throughout my years of service.



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# Sustaining Notes

Lynn Fiedler, Sustaining Advisor



**W**ow! Summer just flew by! I hope all of you had a fantastic time with your families and friends. Now it is time to get serious—just kidding! That’s the best thing about being a Sustainer, it’s all about fun!

*Here are some dates to mark on your calendars:*

- **Sustaining Committee Meeting—Wednesday, September 10th**  
We’ll meet from 10am until noon at the Junior League Office. Come join us as we catch up with all that has happened over the summer. We’ll also plan the activities for the upcoming year. We’ve begun plans for the traditional JLL events, but we’re also looking for any new ideas that you may have. Please contact me either by email at [dave.fiedler@comcast.net](mailto:dave.fiedler@comcast.net) or by phone 669-8141 (home) or 927-5634 (cell) to join this great group. We would love to see you.
- **Sustainer Fall Luncheon—Wednesday October 15th**  
This year’s Luncheon will be at the Walnut Hills Country Club. President Amy Suhrheinrich will provide us an update of JLL activities and the Community Research and Project Development (CRPD) Committee will provide us an overview of the projects under consideration for the JLL’s next Signature Project. The Signature Fundraiser Committee has also promised to give us a sneak peek at their plans for “A Night in New York.”
- **Annual Chicago Bus Trip—TBD**
- **Holiday Open House—TBD**
- **MSU School of Hospitality Auction—Saturday, February 7, 2009**

For those of you that want to be even more hands-on, here are some other ways to participate:

- Have you considered serving as a Sustaining Advisor to a committee? This is a great way to connect with the current Actives and what is happening in the League. Don’t worry—it isn’t a placement! The committees are looking for a Sustainer to assist them by providing wisdom and guidance.
- Host a small group February General Membership Meeting. If you are interested in hosting, please send me an email or call. This is an easy, enjoyable way to meet Actives and participate in a League activity.
- Assist at a Sustainer or Active event. Your assistance is always welcome, so please let me know if you would like to help.

If you have any other ideas, suggestions, or comments, please feel free to contact me.



# General Membership Meeting Minutes

May 14, 2008 • Country Club of Lansing

- I. **Invocation**—Tracy Jelneck, Fund Development VP, gave the invocation.
- II. **Call to Order**—Becky Myers, President, called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.
- III. **Welcome and Announcements**—Becky Myers, President, gave announcements and welcomed everyone to the annual May meeting.
- IV. **Approval of April 2007 Minutes**—Becky Myers, President. Mary Boyer made a motion to approve April 2007 minutes. Second by Susan Combs.
- V. **Memoriam to Members**—Becky Myers, President, honored Junior League Members that have passed within the last year.
- VI. **JLL 2007–08 Board Reports**—The following Vice Presidents reported on their councils: Communications Vice President Lori Noyer, Community Vice President Betsy Svanda, Education Vice President Kate Powers, Finance Vice President Alex Wiesner, Fund Development Vice President Tracy Jelneck, and Planning Council/President Elect Amy Suhrheinrich.
- VII. **Recognition of Newest Members**—Renee Knake & Shelley Mielock introduced the thirty-one new members of Junior League.
- VIII. **Introduction of Newest Sustaining Members**—Jane Bitsicas, Sustaining Advisor, advised Michele Ballein, Trish

Foster, Linda Hirt, Melissa Shanker, and Christy Swords are going sustaining.

- IX. **Annual Recognition Awards**—Kimberly Garrison, Membership Vice President, advised of the following annual award winners: Super New Member Award—Christina Williams; Super Sustainer Award—Ginny Brooks; Community Service Award—Joan Bauer; Leadership Award—Nancy Nyquist; Placement Award—Lori Noyer and Kay Donahue; Spirit Award—Betsy Svanda.
- X. **Presidential Remarks**—Becky Myers, President, gave her heart warming end of the year address. She recognized each of the 2007–08 Board Members.
- XI. **Passing of the Gavel**—Becky Myers, President and Amy Suhrheinrich, President elect, performed the traditional passing of leadership. Amy then introduced the incoming Board of Directors for the 2008–2009 year
- XII. **Presidential Address**—Amy Suhrheinrich, President 2008–09, gave her incoming Presidential address.
- XIII. **Adjourn**—The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM.



Respectfully submitted,  
DeAnna Fenech, 2007–08 Board Secretary

# Board Meeting Highlights

## May 6 Joint Board Meeting

- Thirty-two New Members were approved to Active Status. The members are as follows: Andrea Branoff, Stephanie Bredahl, Kim Brown, Shelly Bugg, Whitney Ezis, Michelle Fink, Lynn Garrett, Virginia Gibson, Kim Gregory, Lilly Gretzinger, Samantha Griggs, Tiana, Hawyer, Heather Henning, Kristin Hicks, Kristy Kellom, Kelly Kobus, Amy Lothamer, Ann McHenry, Lydia Millbrook, Thuv Pham, Kristen Pricco, Amanda Purdy, Amy Reid, Torye Santucci, Jennifer Schick, Nicole Schuppner, Bridget Seitz, Stacey Shaffner, Diane Sloan, Becky Tanis, Maggie Terry, and Christina Williams.
- 2008–09 Endowment Board of Directors are Sue Mills, Dave Brogan, Cheryl Bartholic, Frank Freund, Mary West and Tracy Jelneck.
- 2008–09 Community Advisory Board Members were approved

- Scholarships awarded to Sarah DiPietro, RaeAnn Barks, and Lo-Hua Yuan.
- Celebrity Luncheon at Texas Roadhouse raised \$9,000 net.

DeAnna Fenech  
2007–08 Secretary

## June Board Meeting

- Board approved Strategic Plan Goals for 08–09.
- Board approved bylaw change for Red Book page 15, Article IX: Committees; Section 2: Standing Committees; for the addition of one committee member to Nominating/Placement for a total of 8 advisors.



Molly Chan  
2008–09 Secretary

## Membership

# Membership Council Updates

Renee Knake, Membership Vice President



### Additions to Membership

We are pleased to announce that **Liz Goebel** has decided to return to active membership. Liz will be working with the Publications committee. We also are excited that **Michelle Thompson** has transferred from the Junior League of Los Angeles.

Michelle recently moved to Okemos with her husband, who is a professor at Michigan State, and their young daughter. She will be serving on the Community Service Committee. Welcome Liz and Michelle!

### Placement Changes

Summer brought a few placement changes, and we want to give a special thanks to these ladies for taking on their new roles! **Nicole Godby** has stepped into the role of Nominating and Placement Advisor based upon the Board's tentative approval for an additional advisor slot, and **Julie Urbain** has become Done in a Day Vice Chair. **Jodi Burdett** has agreed to serve on the Done in a Day Committee. **Katie Gallagher** has accepted the position of Publications Vice Chair

### Bylaw Change

At the September GMM Active members will vote on the approval of a bylaw change to provide an additional advisor for the Nominating and Placement Committee. The Board approved this change in June. **Nicole Godby**, who was next in line for an advisor position according the spring 2008 membership vote, agreed to step into this role pending final approval by membership in September.

The existing bylaw provides that "[t]here shall be one committee member for every 20 Active members." The Board believes that it is in JLL's best interest to allow for some flexibility in the ratio of advisors to membership. Under the revised language, an advisor will have no more than 20 advisees and may have less, with any change in the number of advisors subject to Board approval. If the bylaw change is approved, advisors each will have 15 or 16 advisees for the 2008-09 year. We believe this change will help advisors in their efforts to engage and assist membership. Also, an informal survey of other Michigan Leagues revealed that Junior League of Lansing is among the highest number of members per advisor, so this change will help to put us more in line with the other Leagues. The revised language appears below in bold face:

#### Bylaw 2b. Nominating/Placement Committee

The committee shall be composed of a Nominating Chair and a Placement Chair who are appointed by the Board and who serve without a vote on matters pertaining to the nominating function. There shall be at least one committee member for every 20 Active members. **The Board shall approve any change in the number of committee members.**

For more information on these changes, please contact Renee Knake, Membership Vice President, at reneeknake@yahoo.com or 337-2954.

## Community

# Signature Project

Lisa Gnass, Signature Project Chair



### Food Education + Story Time = a FEAST for Lansing 2nd Graders

It's hard to believe that it's been two full years since JLL began the process of creating a program that would work to combat obesity in children. At that time, the Greater

Lansing Food Bank entrusted our ranks to take on this important issue, one that's proving already to be catastrophic for society.

As we always have, JLL members were ready to take on the task. The result of hours of research, brainstorming, meeting, writing and reading children's literature resulted in the creation of FEAST, or Food Education + Story Time. And since those early days, with the philosophy that healthy food is needed to build healthy bodies and reading is necessary for healthy minds, JLL has provided thousands of healthy snacks for Lansing second graders and thousands of books for them to take home to share with their families.

We look forward to our third, and final, year of visiting schools in the Lansing School District, bringing along with us great food and wonderful literature. As always, we would be honored if you'd join us even for one visit. Contact Lisa Gnass at lisagnass@gmail.com or Ann Vogelsang at ann@vogelsangs.com if you're interested in tagging along or joining our sub list. Also, keep a lookout for FEAST updates in upcoming Focus issues. We look forward to sharing our stories, and the future of FEAST, with you!

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# Meet Our Community Advisory Board Members



*Tracy Jelneck, President Elect*

## **Ginny Acheson**

Virginia Acheson is the Principal at Sheridan Road Elementary School in the Lansing School District. She has been with the Lansing School District as both an administrator and teacher for over thirty years. Mrs. Acheson graduated from Michigan State University with both a Bachelors and Masters degree.

## **Mark Criss**

Mark Criss is the Executive Director of the City Rescue Mission of Lansing. Before entering into the ministry, Mark spent fifteen years in the information technology industry. His duties during that time ranged from Program Analyst to Technology Director and Chief Information Officer. In 2003, Mark began serving as Associate Director and became Executive Director in 2004. Mark's call to the ministry began as a volunteer and years later God gave him the burden and desire to be in full time ministry.

Mark earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Michigan State University in General Business Administration and is currently attending Liberty University's Baptist Seminary to complete a Master of Arts degree in Theological Studies.

## **Scott Dzurka**

Scott Dzurka is the President/CEO of the Michigan Association of United Ways (MAUW), representing Michigan's 65 local United Way organizations statewide. Dzurka joins MAUW after 5 years as the Associate Director of the Michigan Association of Community Mental Health Boards where he oversaw member service programs and public relations. He also previously worked for the Michigan Association of Counties as its

Legislative Coordinator on Judiciary and Human Services Issues.

Dzurka has earned an Associate Degree from Delta College, a Bachelor of Arts degree in Public Administration from Michigan State University and a Master of Business Administration from the DeVos Graduate School at Northwood University.

## **Michael F. Gadola**

Michael Gadola is counsel to the Michigan Supreme Court and the State Court Administrative Office. He previously served as Majority Counsel in the Michigan House of Representatives and as Deputy Legal Counsel to Governor John Engler. Michael and his wife, Preeti, reside in Haslett with their children, Sameer and Malini.

## **Beany Tomber**

Since 1996, Beany Tomber has been the Ready To Learn (RTL) Coordinator for WKAR/TV, MSU. In this role she works with community agencies to plan and implement RTL training workshops and other activities for early childhood teachers, parents and childcare providers. Prior to 1996, Beany was the Corporate Development Director for WKAR. She is a member of the Ingham County Birth to Five Subcommittee, the Early Childhood Literacy Coalition, the Capital Area Community Services Board, and the Michigan Council on Crime and Delinquency Board.

## **Annie Topie**

Annie Topie oversees internal communications and community relations for Jackson National Life Insurance Company. Prior to joining Jackson in 2004, Annie was a Senior Account Executive at a public relations agency in Chicago. Annie holds a BA in Communications and French from Albion College.

*Dear Junior League of Lansing,  
I would like to thank you for honoring me with one of the thousand dollar scholarships. I am so glad to see that there are volunteer organizations out in the community. When I graduate from Central in 5 years I hope to join your group. I think that is' a great group. I was glad to see that you all loved my community service project which I help to keep for a long time. Thank you for helping me with my college education ad to continue to change people's lives. God bless all of you.  
RaeAnn Barks*



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# Become a Better Volunteer...Get Trained!

Kate Quinn, Education Vice President



We can not be reminded enough of the mission statement of the Junior League of Lansing, so here it is again: *The Junior League of Lansing, Michigan is an organization of women committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women, and improving our community through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. Its purpose is exclusively educational and charitable.*

The job of the Training Committee is to focus on the part of the mission statement that speaks of “developing potential” and providing “trained volunteers.” The Training Committee is devoted to “training” our members during the Junior League year. They help find dynamic speakers for the general membership meetings as well as providing training for members during Leadership Team Training Meetings, OPS and ODI.

This year, our Leadership Team Training Meetings were held over two evenings, June 10th and August 12th. Both meetings took place at the Hannah Community Center where the Board met along with this year’s chairs and vice-chairs and some past presidents who are now sustainers. The meetings were held to give the new Leadership Team vital information to help make the upcoming year successful. Some topics that were discussed were: how to take minutes, how to interpret the budget, the use of our office manager, Nancy Shepard, strategic and annual planning, parliamentary procedure, policies pertaining to Junior League placements, and much more. Members in attendance were also given some time to socialize and meet as councils. Thank you to everyone who attended these meetings!

OPS stands for Operational Procedural Systems. OPS meet-

ings typically take place twice a year, before the October and January GMMs. These meetings are mandatory for committee chairs and vice-chairs and provide additional training opportunities. The Training Committee is working on some interesting and relevant topics to cover. If you have a suggestion, please contact **Amanda Lake**, Training Chair.

ODI stands for Organizational Development Institute and is a three-day conference that is put on by AJLI (The Association of Junior Leagues International). This conference is held three times a year in different locations. The locations and dates for this upcoming year are: October 3-5 in Orlando, Florida, November 14-16 in Columbus, Ohio, and March 13-15 in Albuquerque, New Mexico. In the past, we have tried to send two Junior League of Lansing members for this amazing opportunity, but this year we would like to send four. According to the AJLI website, the topics to be discussed are “Community Impact, Leadership Development, Organizational Capacity Building through fund development as well as a leadership course designed for the Presidents-Elect-Elect.”

According to policy 11.1 of our Junior League of Lansing red book, conference delegates shall: 1. Be informed of what will be expected of them by the Treasurer prior to attending the conference. 2. Commit to at least a year of participation in the areas covered at the conference. 3. Report back either verbally at a membership meeting or in writing through the FOCUS newsletter. 4. Be at least second year Active.

If you would like to be considered as an ODI candidate, please notify **Kate Quinn**, Education Vice President or your Nominating/Placement Advisor.

Thank you to the Training Committee for working so hard to help organize these important training opportunities for our members!

## MSC FALL TRAINING

September 27, 2008



We are lucky to have the Fall Training of Michigan State Council of Junior Leagues right here in the Lansing area. The Ann Arbor, Battle Creek, Birmingham, Detroit, Flint, Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo, Lansing, and Saginaw Valley Leagues will meet together at the East Lansing Hannah Community Center on Saturday, September 27, 2008 from 9:00AM to 1:30PM. Eleni Kelakos ([www.elenispeaks.com](http://www.elenispeaks.com)) will be the keynote speaker and breakout sessions will include Kids in the Kitchen, Membership Recruitment and Retention, Fund Development and Community Projects. We would love to have the Junior League of Lansing abundantly represented and it will be a great opportunity to network with Junior League members from around the state. It will be an interesting and informative day!



Also, please save the following dates: Saturday, February 21, 2009 MSC Winter Training and Wednesday, March 11, 2009 Day at the Capitol.



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*Serving the hungry of greater Lansing*

On behalf of the Greater Lansing Food Bank's Board of Directors, I want to extend a big "Thank You" to the Junior League of Lansing for all the hard work in your "Milk Money 4 Kids" campaign that helped make the recent Oprah's Big Give event such a success. The collection from the Lansing School District's staff and students will allow us to fill empty shelves and purchase milk for families served by the GLFB network of pantries.

During the summer months more than 65% of Lansing students will not be receiving the free and/or reduced lunch and breakfast they get at school. This means that the Food Bank will be seeing even more families in need of emergency food assistance.

Your support of the Greater Lansing Food Bank at this crucial time is greatly appreciated and will allow us to continue to fulfill our mission of serving the hungry in the greater Lansing area.

Sincerely,

*Sharon Krinock*  
Executive Director



Thank you for your very generous in-kind donation of women's clothing items. Many individuals in our community don't know how to assist those in need, especially those living in poverty, they like you trust that STVCC will know what to do if given the resources to serve. Shanell and her son Hubert were once homeless in our community; through the services STVCC is able to provide, due in part to your generous gift, this family is now self-supportive in a home of their very own.

Truly, we live in a community which embraces St. Vincent Catholic Charities mission and ministry to provide help and create hope for those we serve. To learn more about, and see first hand the many services STVCC provides, please join us for a "Tour of Hope." If you would like to take a Tour, please call Erica Newland at (517)-323-4734, ext. 1206.

Together we can transform the world,

*Andrea E. Seyka*  
Andrea E. Seyka, Acting CEO

## Membership Changes

- (A) **Goebel, Elizabeth (Liz) Lew (Mrs. Eric)**  
Reinstated  
3635 Powderhorn Dr., Okemos, MI 48864  
H & Cell: 517-927-9766, e.goebel@comcast.net
- (A) **Jelneck, Tracy**  
Please use home email  
H: Jelneck@cablespeed.com
- (A) **Knake, Renee**  
W: knakeree@law.msu.edu
- (A) **McNally, Veronica**  
Transfer to Birmingham, MI  
2340 Scotch Pine Dr., West Bloomfield, MI 48323  
Cell: 517-420-8525  
veronica\_valentine@hotmail.com  
Work information remains the same
- (A) **Menna, Marianne**  
New Address sometime in late August  
722 West Washington, Ann Arbor, MI 48103  
734-775-0919
- (S) **Peterson, Barbara**  
Deceased 06-01-2008
- (A) **Paalman, Becky**  
DOB: 08/19, W: 322-2200
- (NRS) **Sexton, Joanne (Reisig)**  
Past President 1973-1974, Deceased 06-26-2008
- (A) **Shumway, Nicole**  
W: 913-2198, W: nshumway@biggby.com
- (A) **Story, Jill**  
H: 517-643-2606
- (A) **Suhrheinrich, Amy**  
2601 Robins Way, Okemos, MI 48864  
Cell: 881-5429
- (A) **Thompson, Michelle**  
Transfer in from Los Angeles, CA  
Approximate date 08/10/2008  
3925 Sun Rapids Dr., Okemos, MI 48864
- (A) **Urbain, Julie**  
Email: julieu9@yahoo.com  
CPA, CHM MSU College of Medicine
- (S) **VanGorder, Janet (Jan)**  
Deceased 07/12/2008
- (A) **Watters, Kim**  
Email: kimwatters771@comcast.net

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# New Nominating/Placement Advisor Team

Beth Cook, Nominating Chair & Kimberly Watters, Placement Chair



Your Nominating/ Placement Advisor team is ready for a great League year! A goal of the Junior League of Lansing is to have every member experience a rewarding placement. To insure that this happens, every Active member is assigned an Advisor. The purpose of an Advisor is to allow both the committee chair and the committee members an avenue in which they are able to discuss ideas and concerns that may occur regarding League and a particular placement. Advisors will also be conducting fall interviews in Sept/Oct to receive feedback on current placements and also to discuss each member's goals for placement in the upcoming year.

This year's Advisors are excited to serve the membership of our Junior League. You should have already received an introductory letter from your Advisor. If you have not received a letter, please contact Beth Cook at [bcook@fbinsmi.com](mailto:bcook@fbinsmi.com) as soon as possible. Your advisor will be saving a seat for you at the September General Membership Meeting – we look forward to seeing you there!

## Nicole Godby—Pink

Andrea Billups  
Bethe Day  
Leslie Donaldson  
Katherine Donahue  
Tiffany Dowling  
Teagan Drayton  
DeAnna Fenech  
Katie Gallagher  
Elizabeth Goebel  
Elizabeth Latchana  
Lori Noyer  
Amy Reid  
Stacey Shaffner  
Michelle Thelen  
Kimberly Watters  
Stacey Young

## Hillary Henderson – Red

Rosalie Bellingar  
Gina Brick  
Jodi Burdett  
Daniela Cibelli  
Susan Combs  
Sara Gillespie  
Nicole Godby  
Kristin Hicks  
Kristy Kellom  
Kristi Moore  
Rebecca Myers  
Kristen Pricco  
Amanda Purdy  
Stacy Slobodnik-Stoll  
Kirsten Soltis  
Julie Urbain

## Kristi Moore—Blue

Jasmine Breslin  
Angela Emlet-Dardas  
Hillary Henderson  
Julie Howe  
Samantha Hughes  
Suzanne Johnson  
Christie Lemon  
Ivana Marinig  
Diana Mitchell  
Julie Morgan  
Shelley Mielock  
Nancy Nyquist  
Courtney Schnelker  
Katie Strong

## Nancy Nyquist—Orange

Cheryl Bartholic  
Christina Burnham  
Jane Campbell  
Molly Chan  
Heather Gilkey  
Tracy Jelneck  
Renee Knake  
Dawn Kroeger  
Rebecca Paalman  
Nicki Proulx  
Kathryn Quinn  
Deb Robinson  
Nicole Shumway  
Amy Suhrheinrich  
Alex Wiesner

## Kate Powers—White

Patricia Black  
Shelly Bugg  
Barbara Fishell  
Kimberly Garrison  
Valarie Green  
Jamie Hutchinson  
Susan Lupo  
Amy Sue Melville  
Karen Olson  
Pam Ruth  
Jessica Schaub  
Susan Soper  
Polly Synk  
Becky Tanis  
Michelle Thompson  
Beth Ann Whitaker

## Jessica Schaub—Purple

Stacy Carl  
Beth Cook  
Tiana Hawver  
Garbrielle Johnson  
Amanda Lake  
Darcy Pace  
Kate Powers  
Jennifer Rigterink  
Torye Santucci  
Nicole Schuppner  
Bridget Seitz  
Sara Smith  
Jill Story  
Elizabeth Svanda  
Maggie Terry

## Susan Lupo—Yellow

Andrea Branoff  
Stephanie Bredahl  
Margaret Cole  
Jennifer Faber  
Virginia Gibson  
Lisa Gnass  
Lilly Gretziner  
Holly Hatch  
Sheila Kelly  
Kelly Kobus  
Jennifer Main  
Ann McHenry  
Lisa Meny  
Jennifer Schick  
Christina Williams  
Ann Vogelsang

## Amy Sue Melville – Green

Colette Evangelista  
Whitney Ezis  
Michelle Fink  
Lynn Garrett  
Kim Gregory  
Marcia Gresens  
Samantha Griggs  
Heather Henning  
Amy Lothamer  
Kathrine Marchoyok  
Lydia Millbrook  
Thuy Pham  
Traci Riehl  
Rachel Rosenbaum  
Diane Sloan

Dear Jill,

Who are those lovely ladies who sit at the entrance at GMMs? They are always so welcoming and seem to know everything that will be happening at the meeting!

Sincerely,  
Grateful for the Guidance

Dear Grate,

You are describing the Arrangements Committee! Their job is to make "arrangements" for League's regular meetings and special events. These committee members sit near the entrance of GMMs to pass out nametags and assist members with sign-in. This is also where you will find agendas for the meetings. This committee is also responsible for the delicious food and beverages provided at the GMMs. If you need special equipment for the GMM, you should inform the Arrangements Committee Chair. A podium and microphone will always be available, but she can also be sure that you have any display tables, audio-visual equipment, etc. that you may need. Just be sure to notify the Arrangements Chair of your needs no later than the Thursday before the meeting. One other arrangements note: please remember to clean up after yourself at the table you sit at (throw away any cups, plates, extra papers); this is not the job of the Arrangement Committee!

Yours Truly,  
Jill



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## August & September BIRTHDAYS

### SUSTAINERS

McKay, Ellen	08/01
Condon, Georgia	08/03
Jakubiak, Karen	08/04
Brodbeck, Margaret	08/05
Dubenion-Smith, Shela	08/07
Crooks, Patti	08/12
Brown, Sue	08/15
Lazar, Cathy	08/18
Reed, Jan	08/19
Culpepper, Marilyn	08/20
DesJardins, Marilyn	08/21
Maas, Mary Ellen	08/21
Hagan, Barbara	08/22
Gillespie, Pamela	08/23
Parker, Candy	08/23
Quinn, Karen	08/23
Cooley-Sutherland, Louise	08/24
Weichman, Jamie	08/24
Hagan, Pat	08/26
Burns, Judy	08/27
Grettenberger, Sandy	08/27
Martin, Nan	08/27
Schaefer, Virginia	08/28
Stebbins, Jackie	08/29
Hayes, Annie	08/31
Wirtz, Barb	08/31
Brede, Peggy	09/01
Hidlay, Molly	09/01
Wilkinson, Judy	09/01
Nakfoor, Carol	09/02
Medler, Janine	09/04
Bacon, Sue	09/05
Haas, Catherine	09/08
Peery, Virginia	09/08
Horton, Marcia	09/10
Boger, Carolyn	09/11
Hoagland, Carolyn	09/12
Knapp, Sarah	09/12
Willoughby, Carolyn	09/12
Faulhaber, Wendy	09/13
Costello, Betsy	09/14
Kahl, Janice	09/14
Noe, Karen	09/14
Sessions, Betsy	09/14
Barnes, Candy	09/17
Martin, Dorothy	09/17
Bens, Kathy	09/18
Campbell, Arylie	09/20
Gardner, Donna	09/20
Maguire, Claudia	09/21
Kotz, Barb	09/24
King, Annette	09/25
Hornbach, Catherine	09/26
Gadola, Preeti	09/27
Ramsby, Brenda	09/28
Larson, Marilyn	09/30

### ACTIVES

Schuppner, Nicole	08/01
Godby, Nicole	08/02
Carl, Stacy	08/03
Bugg, Shelly	08/07
Brick, Gina	08/11
Schaub, Jessica	08/11
Johnson, Suzanne	08/18
Paalman, Becky	08/19
Svanda, Betsy	08/19
Meny, Lisa	08/24
Pricco, Kristen	08/27
Pace, Darcy	09/01
Drayton, Teagan	09/05
Brown, Kim	09/06
Riehl, Traci	09/06
SlobodnikStoll, Stacy	09/08
Henning, Heather	09/15
Billups, Andrea	09/17
Garrison, Kimberly	09/17
Lothamer, Amy	09/28



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# Absentee Ballot for the September 9, 2008 General Membership Meeting

If you are unable to attend the September GMM, please use the Absentee Ballot according to the instructions below.  
Refer to Directory — Bylaws, Page 13, Section 4.

1. Mark your Ballot
2. Place ballot in envelope
3. Seal the envelope
4. Write your name and the word "Ballot" on the envelope
5. Put sealed envelope into a larger envelope, and
6. Mail it to the Membership VP, Renee Knake

Ballot **MUST** be received or delivered **BEFORE** the start of the September 9th GMM – Mail to:  
Renee Knake, Membership Vice President  
1439 Meadowbrook Lane, East Lansing, Michigan 48823

<p><b>ABSENTEE BALLOT (1)</b> <b>Nominating Placement Committee</b> <b>Article IX Section 2b. Submitted by: JLL Board</b></p> <p>Please read the following proposed changes and vote by checking the box.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> YES      <input type="checkbox"/> NO</p>	<p><b>ABSENTEE BALLOT (1)</b> <b>Nominating Placement Committee</b></p> <hr/> <p>Signature</p>
--	--

## Rationale Change:

The Board believes that it is in JLL's best interest to allow for some flexibility in the ratio of advisors to Membership. Under the revised language, an advisor will have no more than 20 advisees and may have less, with any change in the number of advisors subject to Board approval. If the bylaw change is approved, advisors will have approximately 17 advisees for the 2008-2009 year. We believe this change will help advisors in their efforts to engage and assist membership. Also, an informal survey of other Michigan Leagues revealed that the Junior League of Lansing is among the highest number of members per advisor, so this change will help to put us more in line with the other Leagues.

## Bylaw as it currently reads:

The committee shall be composed of a Nominating Chair and a Placement Chair who are appointed by the Board and who serve without a vote on matters pertaining to the nominating function. There shall be one committee member for every 20 Active members. . . . .

## Proposed revision as it should read in the "Red Book":

(Key: Changes are in **bold**)

The committee shall be composed of a Nominating Chair and a Placement Chair who are appointed by the Board and who serve without a vote on matters pertaining to the nominating function. There shall be at least one committee member for every 20 Active members. **The Board shall approve any change in the number of committee members.** . . . . .

## Stage of Policy and Procedure Revision:

Board has approved the amendment. To be presented to general membership in August/September Focus for vote at the September GMM.

# Signature Fundraiser Travels to the **Big Apple**

Traci Riehl, Signature Fundraiser Chair and Colette Evangelista, Signature Fundraiser Vice Chair



**T**he Signature Fundraiser Committee announces the theme for the 2008 event: **"A Night in New York."** Mark your calendars to take a walk through Central Park and

stroll down Park Avenue on Saturday, November 15, 2008 at the Country Club of Lansing.

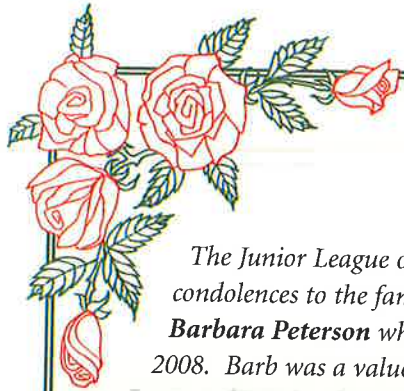
This year's event seeks to not only raise awareness of the mission of the Junior League of Lansing and raise funds for our programs, but also to bring together Actives and Sustainers to celebrate the Junior League of Lansing. We hope to build on the success of last year's incredible "Tinsel Town Gala" with an increase in participation of both Actives and Sustainers for 2008.

The Committee has been hard at work this summer. At our

first committee meeting, Veronica McNally shared information about "friendraisers" from an ODI training. A "friendraiser" is a person who you know who may be interested in contributing to the Junior League of Lansing.

The Committee needs your help to develop our "friend-raising" list. You do not have to contact "friendraisers" yourself, but we would like to add them to our prospecting list. Please send contact information for at least two "friendraisers" by September 1 to Traci Riehl [traciriehl@comcast.net](mailto:traciriehl@comcast.net) or Colette Evangelista [cdevan@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cdevan@sbcglobal.net) to be entered in a drawing! Actives and Sustainers are encouraged to participate.

Watch for more details on the Signature Fundraiser and bring your checkbook to the September GMM and Sustainer's Luncheon to be the first to purchase your tickets. We look forward to seeing you for "A Night in New York!"



## Condolences...

The Junior League of Lansing extends sincere condolences to the family and friends of **Sustainer Barbara Peterson** who passed away on June 1, 2008. Barb was a valued member of the Junior League of Lansing for over 30 years.

The Junior League of Lansing extends sincere condolences to the family and friends of **Sustainer Joanne (Reisig) Sexton** who passed away on June 26, 2008 in Mesa, AZ where she lived for many years with her husband, Authur Sexton. Joanne was President of the Junior League of Lansing in 1973-1974. She became active in the JLL in 1965 and was a member for 43 years.

The Junior League of Lansing extends sincere condolences to the family and friends of former Sustaining member **Nancy Sager Bixby Stackhouse** who passed away on

May 31, 2008. Nancy was an active member in the late 50's and early 60's.

The Junior League of Lansing extends sincere condolences to the family and friends of **former Sustaining member Suzanne Totte** who passed away on August 2, 2008. Suzanne joined League in 1966. She was actively involved for over 34 years.

The Junior League of Lansing extends sincere condolences to the family and friends of **Sustainer Janet (Jan) VanGorder** who passed away on July 12, 2008. Past JLL President, Sustainer Ginny Brooks, is Jan's daughter. Jan was a member of JLL for over 43 years. Her life long support of the JLL will be missed.





## Calendar of Events

### September

- Sept. 10 Sustaining Committee Meeting  
Sept. 23 Coffee & Sweets Sampling, Capital Honda 7-8 pm  
Sept. 25 Welcome Back Wine & Cheese Social 7-9 pm  
Sept. 27 Fall MSC Training 9 am-1:30 pm

### October

- Oct. 15 Sustainer Fall Luncheon

## NEXT FOCUS DEADLINE

**Wednesday, September 10, 2008 • 5 pm**

All articles must be sent in Microsoft word with Times New Roman 12 pt font. Email all articles as attachments to [Focus@jllansing.org](mailto:Focus@jllansing.org)

## Dates & Locations of General Membership Meetings

- September 9th** — Radisson Hotel Lansing  
**October 14th** — Hannah Community Center  
**November 11th** — Movie Night  
**January 13th** — Hannah Community Center  
**February 10th** — Sustainer Homes  
**March 10th** — Hannah Community Center  
**April 14th** — Hannah Community Center  
**May 13th**  
(Wednesday) —  
Celebration meet-  
ing at Country  
Club of Lansing



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