

Women building better communities

February 2010

Volume X, Issue 5

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.

Community

DIAD Projects for 2010-11 Voted In

Kristin Hicks, DIAD Chair



he ballots were cast and the votes were counted at the January GMM. Here is a list of the DIAD projects voted in by League Members:

- 1) Habitat for Humanity and 2) St. Vincent Catholic Charities Operation Backpack in summer 2010,
 - 3) Sparrow Women Working Wonders 5K in September 2010,
 - 4) Caring About Kids and 5) Special Olympics in November 2010,
- 6) Ronald McDonald House Dinners in winter 2011,
- 7) MSU Safe Place Race for the Place 5K in April 2011,
- 8) Haven House Mother's Day Gift Bags in May 2011 and
- 9) Haven House Exit Basket and 10) Volunteers of America Soup Kitchen with dates TBD. It looks to be a great League year with many wonderful opportunities to volunteer in our community!

Community

Caring About Kids for Christmas

Kate Quinn, DIAM



n November 30, 2009, volunteers from the Junior League of Lansing happily delivered gifts for 350 children to DHS in Lansing. For many years JLL has partnered with DHS to purchase, wrap, and deliver holiday gifts for children in the foster care system.

Thank you to the Junior League volunteers who shopped for over 350 children: Patty Black, Virginia Brick, Laura Brown, Shelly Bugg, Jodie Burditt, Suzanne

Carr, Jennifer Charette, Daniela Cibelli, Peggy Cole, Heather Conway, Bethe Day, Tiffany Dowling, Barb Fishell, Amanda Garcia-Williams, Kimberly Garrison, Heather Gilkey, Sara Gillespie, Lisa Gnass, Nicole Godby, Hillary Henderson, Kristin Hicks, Jaimie Hutchison, Constance James, Tracy Jelneck, Suzanne Johnson, Renee Knake, Kelly Kobus, Amanda Lake, Amy Lothamer, Susan Lupo, Ivana Marinig, Amy Sue Melville, Lisa Meny, Shelley Mielock, Diana Mitchell, Becky Myers,

Nannette Naser, Lori Noyer, Nancy Nyquist, Darcy Pace, Trinh Pham, Nicki Proulx, Kate Quinn, Traci Riehl, Rachel Rosenbaum, Meghan Sifuentes, Stacy Slobodnik-Stoll, Kirsten Soltis, Betsy Svanda, Polly Synk, Michelle Thompson,

Melissa Topolewski, Ann Volegsang, Lynna Walta, Alex Wiesner.

A special thank you to the volunteers who stepped in at the last minute to ensure that all the gifts got to DHS. They loaded and delivered the 350 gifts. Thank you to: Laura Brown, Kelly Kobus, Kristin Hicks, Kimberly Garrison, Angela Emlet-Dardas.

JLL Email Addresses

Just a reminder to use these emails:

FOCUS

focus@jllansing.org

New Member Recruitment membership@jllansing.org

Webmaster

webmaster@illansing.org

Public Relations
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Signature Fundraiser fundraiser@jllansing.org

JLL Office (Nancy) 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, Tiffany Dowling.

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 Monday before each GMM. Email submissions should be sent to Focus@jllansing.org in Microsoft Word, Times New Roman 12 pt. font. 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...

Tracy Jelneck, President



Celebrate

hope that you all enjoyed our first General Membership Meeting of 2010. There sure was a lot of activity going on at

Walnut Hills Country Club. We had our OPS training with our guest speaker, Noah Smith from Capitol Services. Noah is the legislative advocate for all Michigan Junior Leagues. What a privilege it was to have him come and speak.

At the same time in an adjourning room, the New Member class was having their first training. We wish a warm welcome to the 31 women in the New Member class.

Linda Glover and Lannie Slabaugh from Resolution Services Center presented some interesting information on conflict resolution at our GMM. It was interesting to note that in those instances where a mutually agreed upon conclusion was reached, 93% of the agreements were still being kept. It is amazing what can be accomplished when people work together for a common goal.

We also held our Annual Meeting where the 2010–2011 Board, Nominating and Placement and New Member advisors were voted in. Congratulations ladies!! We also voted and selected our 10 Done in a Day projects. It is so exciting to see what this amazing organization has to offer. Let's celebrate!

Tracy

Fund Development

Spring Fundraiser Details

Diane Sloan, Spring Fundraiser Chair



re you going through the winter blues? Feeling lazy and lethargic? Are you ready to make good on your New Year's Resolutions? Then we've got the perfect solution for you. Sign up for those Salsa classes you've been hearing so much about! It's the talk of the town. It's the best time to do something for yourself. Classes will begin on Friday, February 26th and will continue each Friday through

March 19th. The classes will be held at Meridian High School in Haslett from 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Lessons are \$15 each or the series of 4 for a discounted price of \$50. This is the first part of our Junior League Spring Fundraiser. The second part is the 'Show Us Your Salsa' event. Whether you take the lessons or not, come to Enso on March 26th for a fun night out with friends, music and dancing. So take your relationship with your husband or boyfriend to a new level while you learn some new dance moves, or grab a group of girl-friends (and boy friends!) and sharpen your salsa skills together, or come alone and step outside of your comfort zone. This is sure to be a fun time for all, while raising money for a good cause.

New Member Cookie Exchange

Lydia Millbrook, New Member Advisor



ust as winter arrived, on the evening of December 15, the New Members gathered for their last social of 2009—The New Member Cookie Exchange. About 30 women attended the event at **Suzanne Johnson's** home, with at least 22 of them as New

Members. Suzanne, a wonderful hostess, welcomed us into her beautiful home where we savored good wine and appetizers.

This year instead of donating cookies to the community, the New Members have given a monetary donation to The Greater Lansing Food Bank in the amount of \$250. This amount will feed a family of four for one month. The New Member Recruitment Committee would like to thank all the New Members and Actives that contributed to this cause. If anyone would like more information on the food bank, go to www.lansingfoodbank.org.

We would like to thank Board Members Tracy Jelneck, President and Betsy Svanda, President Elect for stopping by, along with Active Members Amy Lothamer and Kristin Hicks. A special thanks to Suzanne Johnson for hosting this event and to Members of our committee for making this event a success! Our Committee Members include Courtney Schnelker, Chair, Ivana Marinig, Vice Chair, and the following Advisors: Kate Marchyok, Kelly Kobus, Jennifer Schick, and I, Lydia Millbrook.

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The Placement Process

Kate Powers, Placement Chair



The Nominating/Placement Committee is looking forward to helping the Membership fulfill their Junior League of Lansing goals through their annual placements. The committee's placement process uses a points system, which the advising team

has been tracking and recording for each Member throughout the year. The total point score is then used to prioritize Members during the placement process for the following year.

Current Point Values:

- GMM attended: 2 points
- GMM not attended but advance notice given: 1 point
- Signature Fundraiser: 2 points
- Spring Fundraiser: 2 points
- DIAD: 1 point
- Fall interview: 3 points
- Winter interview: 3 points
- Timely payment of dues: 1 point

At the March GMM the NP Committee will hold our annual Placement Fair. This will give you the opportunity to see what opportunities are available to you, on each council. From that point, you will work closely with your advisor to answer any questions that you might have about the different placements. Prior to the start of the April GMM, placement cards will be distributed. Please fill out and return that card to your advisor before the meeting begins. You will be asked to submit your top three placement choices, as well as your choice for a Done In A Day (DIAD) project. You will receive your placement and DIAD information at the May celebration meeting.

Please let your advisor know if you have any questions regarding this process.

Community

Toothpaste for Care Free Dental

Thuy Pham, DIAM/DIAD Vice-Chair



are Free Dental Clinic was the recipient for January's DIAM project. The organization provides dental treatment to the underserved. They requested toothpaste.

We collected \$111 and 19 tubes of toothpaste with a total of 21 participants at the

meeting. Thanks for your generosity!

Sustainer News

Kris Kildea, Sustaining Advisor



hope everyone is having a great start to 2010. 2009 closed out with 3 exciting Junior League events that would not have been successful without the help of so many Sustainers.

Masquerade Ball

The annual fundraiser was held at the Turner Dodge Mansion on October 30th. The night was filled with good food, drinks, music, and friendship and of course funds were raised to help support our many projects. Sustainer Catherine Brennan did a wonderful job helping the committee this year and putting together a wonderful team of Sustainers to volunteer their time at the ball! Thank you to all of those that came out to help, Lynn Fiedler, Ginny Brooks, Mary Beth Pirich, Kathy Colby, Sue Mills, Amy Abbott, Janine Medler and Cheri Vincent-Riemer.

Chicago Bus Trip

As we boarded the amazing Dean "Party Bus" at 6:30am on Friday, November 20 we were greeted by festive hostesses Kathy **Colby** and **Ginny Brooks**. We had a small group this year but the traveling accommodations were magnificent. The ride to Chicago gave us time to catch up and have light breakfast. It was a beautiful, sunny day to spend shopping on Michigan Avenue. The trip home allowed for more time to visit, more snacks, a little wine and a movie. It was the perfect day with wonderful friends!

Holiday Open House

A huge thank you goes out to Becky Beauchine Kulka for opening her home to us this year and to Debbie Petersmark and Laura Nugent for all of their help. There was a light dusting of snow to get us all in the mood for the holidays. It was wonderful to see so many Actives and Sustainers attend this year. The event would not have been a success without the help of so many Members supplying refreshments and their time. Thank you to Actives Nicole Proulx, Betsy Svanda, Tracy Jelneck, Kimberly Garrison, Tiffany Dowling, Becky Paalman, Lori Noyer, Lisa Gnass and Sustainers Sharon Regan, Mary Beth Pirich, Jane Bitsicas, Amy Crites, Debbie Petersmark and Becky Beauchine Kulka.

If you have any news that you would like reported in the FOCUS, please contact me at kriskildea@aol.com or 655-5451. I hope all of you realize what a positive impact you make in League and I look forward to working with all of you for a few more months. The MSU Hospitality Auction is Saturday February 6. I hope to see you there.



Linda Dansby, Wendy Faulhaber & Betty Moore



Jane Bitsicas & Liz Morgan



Ruth Ridgway, Mary Ellen Maas & Janine Medler

New Member Social

Kate Marchyok, New Member Advisor



he first New Member Social of the fall was held on Tuesday, November 17, 2009. New Member Recruitment Vice-Chair Ivana Marinig graciously hosted the event at her home. It was a wonderful opportunity for New

Members to mingle with fellow New Members, Actives, and Board Members.

In a twist on the classic JLL DIAM, the New Members rose to the occasion and participated in a "Done in a Social" to benefit the Greater Lansing Food Bank. An astounding amount of non-perishable food items were collected, donated, and graciously accepted by the food bank, just in time for the Thanksgiving holiday.

We would like to thank Board Members Tracy Jelneck, President, Betsy Svanda, President Elect, and Suzanne Johnson, Membership Vice President, for stopping by, along with Active Members.

Christina Michols. Sara Ford &

Maureen Neugent.



The New Member Class



You're are invited to attend the

JLL Endowment/NSU School of Hospitality Business Auction 2010

Private Reception for JLL Members and friends February 6, 2010 • 4:30-5:45 PM • Kellogg Center – lower level

Cocktails and appetizers (yes mojitos)!! Prepared by MSU School of Hospitality Students

Silent Auction begins at 5 PM • LIVE AUCTION BEGINS AT 6:00PM (THERE IS A \$10.00 ENTRY FEE FOR THE AUCTION) FABULOUS VACATION PACKAGES!! • Week-end Get-Aways!! • Dining and Event Packages!!

Your attendance at this event benefits The Junior League of Lansing Endowment Fund and The MSU School of Hospitality Business

Please rsvp to Ginny Brooks @ 655-8153 or GinnyBrooks11@gmail.com.

Don't miss the fun — pre-party limited to 70 guests!!

Membership Changes

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(S) Berger, Nancy nberger64@comcast.net

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(A) Campbell, Amanda 2728 Lupine Drive, Okemos, MI 48864-3374

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Community

Women's Center of Greater Lansing Benefits from DIAM

Thuy Pham, DIAM/DIAD Vice-Chair



This is an organization that supports women to achieve economic self-sufficiency and develop emotional and physical well-being.

Their request was for CATA bus tokens.

There were no tokens received, but we did collect a whopping \$69 for purchase. Thank you so much ladies for your support!

Community

Smiles at the Special Olympics

Andrea Branoff, Done In A Day Committee

n November 21st, seven JLL Members plus one brother and three children of JLL Members helped to add a special touch to numerous participants at the Special Olympics held at The Summit in Dimondale. We had a great table set up where friendship bracelets and necklaces were made in all shapes and sizes. The participants loved making the jewelry and often made it for Christmas presents. Many smiles were shared!

Thanks to the following JLL volunteers for your time, creativity and smiles at this event: Bethe Day, Bridget Seitz, Amy Suhrheinrich, Angela Emlet-Dardas, Shiela Steger and Jane Campbell.

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Dear Shelly,

I wanted to take a moment to thank you and the members of Junior League of Lansing for providing 17 care packages to our MSU

students. You will be happy to know that all 17 found a "home" and the students were thrilled. On behalf of the students and the School of Social work, I sincerely thank you for your support.

Warm Regards, Melanie McGuire



February & March

BIRTHDAYS

New Member Birthdays are in Bold

ACTIVE BIRTHDAYS		Buta-Blair, Kim	02/20
Cibelli, Daniela	02/01	Gucky, Janet	02/20
Thompson, Michelle	02/02	Chegwidden, Janet	02/21
Melville, Amy Sue	02/06	Benivegna, Susan	02/22
Richard, Tameko	02/08	Charchut,Eleanor	02/22
Edmonds, Jennifer	02/17	Werbelow, Louise	02/22
Forillo, Susie	02/22	Stearns, Libby	02/23
McNiel, Pattie	02/25	Swords, Christy	02/23
Komray, Kelly	02/28	Fenech, DeAnna	02/24
Pickelman, Faye	02/28	Stover, Besty	02/26
Pace, Jennifer	02/29	Foster, Jan	02/27
Kobus, Kelly	03/04	Wakeland, Pam	02/27
Purdy, Amanda	03/04	Regan, Sharon	02/28
Dowling, Tiffany	03/05	Hay, Donna	03/01
Mitchell, Diana	03/05	Swift, Anne	03/01
Gleason, Kelsey	03/07	Barron, Marni	03/02
Gillespie, Sara	03/14	Combs, Susan	03/05
Rosenbaum, Rachel	03/16	Spagnuolo, Teresa	03/07
Hicks, Kristin	03/17	Stover, Marlene	03/08
James, Connie	03/17	Fuller, Lori	03/09
Marining, Ivana	03/18	McKouen, Polly	03/10
Ferrini, Christine	03/18	Murray, Debbie	03/13
Ayotte, Carol	03/19	Shepard, Nancy	03/14
Riggins, Courtney	03/21	Wirth, Peggy	03/14
Skene-Pratt, Erin	03/22	MacDonald, Caroline	03/15
Branoff, Andrea	03/23	Martyn, Cheryl	03/16
Walta, Lynna	03/24	Bellingar, Rosalie	03/19
Quinn, Kate	03/25	VanWieren, Mary	03/22
Powers, Kate	03/31	Roe, Char	03/23
		Kelly, Jamie	03/24
SUSTAINER BIRTHDAYS		McLean, Barbara	03/24
Olofsson, Pat	02/08	Dudley, Carolyn	03/26
White, Gail	02/11	Tuck, Suzanne	03/27
Hopping, Alicia	02/14	Hicks, Cathy	03/30
Liedholm, Margaret	02/15	Morgan, Liz	03/31
Whitaker, Beth	02/19	Papesh, Maggie	03/31

A Night at the Movies!

Tiana Hawver, Arrangements Chair



he February Movie Night is a Junior League of Lansing (JLL) favorite. On Tuesday, February 9, we will have our GMM at NCG Cinemas in Lansing. Following the shortened meeting, members are invited to stay and see the movie *When in Rome* star-

ring Kristen Bell, of *Veronica Mars* fame, and Josh Duhamel, who starred in both *Transformers* movies.

Movie Synopsis: Beth (Bell) is a young, ambitious New Yorker who is completely unlucky in love. However, on a whirlwind trip to Rome, she impulsively steals some coins from a reputed fountain of love and is then aggressively pursued by a band of suitors.

Cost: The cost is \$8. This includes the movie ticket as well as a small drink and small popcorn. If you only want to attend the movie, the cost is \$5. Make checks out to "Junior League of Lansing" and send them to:

Tiana Hawver 880 S Bridge St, Apt 5 DeWitt, MI 48820

GMM: The meeting will be held upstairs at NCG. They will have that space closed to the public for our meeting. NCG

is located at Eastwood Towne Center in Lansing. The address is 2500 Showtime Drive, Lansing.

The start time for the GMM and movie are still being worked out as the theater has not set the viewing times as of the FOCUS deadline.

Calendar of Events

February

- 6 MSU School of Hospitality Auction
- 9 GMM at NCG Cinemas

NEXT FOCUS DEADLINE

Monday, February 8, 2010 • 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

JLL Endowment Fund Contributors 1/1/09-12/31/09

Alexandra Wiesner, Endowment Treasurer



The Endowment Board would like to thank those who have supported the Mission of the Junior League of Lansing by contributing generously to the Endowment Fund from January 1, 2009 to December 31, 2009. This contributor list does not include

those who have contributed to the Every Member Drive in celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the Endowment Fund. Those contributions were listed separately in the December edition of FOCUS.

BENEFACTOR

(*gifts of* \$1,000 *or more*)

Stephen and Brenda Ramsby Michigan State University School of Hospitality

SUPPORTERS

(Gifts between \$100 and \$249)

Dr. M Castellani and Lisa Hildorf Junior League (IMO) Joan Legg Marilyn Nugent June Stow

FRIEND

(gifts between \$1 and \$99)

Mary Ann Austin
Zoe Bassos
Carolyn Boger
Chrissie Brogan
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