

JUNE 2017

GREENLEAF



THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF POUGHKEEPSIE
2016-2017 YEAR END ACTIVITIES REPORT

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT



By Cammie Jones

New chapters mean new promise and the league is truly in good hands in regards to moving forward with the mission of building stronger communities.

As the league closes in on another year, there is much excitement in the air. We welcome not only a new President, Linda Fakhoury, but we gain a new leadership slate and bring in one of our largest and most diversified provisional the league has stretched its quest of equity by asking ourselves how we

"Think Differently" and not forget about the importance of implementing diversity and inclusion efforts throughout our league's programming and community collaborations.

Throughout this year, the league would make a conscious effort in following through with these themes. We diversified our scope of award recipients for Denim and Diamonds and worked with women-owned businesses to support our events. We provided prom dresses and accessories to girls throughout the county with a strong recruitment plan to assist our young women within the City of Poughkeepsie that come from one of the most impoverished school districts in New York State. A college scholarship was launched and will provide a local female student the opportunity to pay for college at Dutchess Community College, a local institution led by a female president. The league would make efforts to help local veterans through Operation Holiday Box and provide a grant to Youth Mission Outreach, Inc. who serves adolescents in the City of Poughkeepsie with several educational enrichment programs. We would also participate in International Women's Day with over 40 non-profits whose mission is to support women leaders in the county. Furthermore, we would revamp our authors' luncheon by focusing on real-life social justice issues that many of our community members and families face on a daily basis. Even more, we would continue the mission of empowering survivors of domestic violence through our annual Mother's Day Dinner. What a year!

This year proves that we definitely reached our goal but there is room to continue these efforts and I have no doubt that with the next President that will occur.

As the league moves forward in welcoming **Linda Fakhoury** as President, I am confident that she will move this league to higher mountains and more accomplishments, while continuing to align the league with community efforts. Our members will continue to obtain thorough professional and personal development opportunities, which will assist them in reaching their ultimate goals of leadership development. Linda's leadership efforts during her time in the league have proven to the board, our members and myself, that she is ready and will do a phenomenal job in this role. As Linda outlines her strategic direction for the league, I think it is important for members to trust her guidance, be open-minded and support her as she takes on this great role as President.

I want to thank the league's members for entrusting in me this opportunity to serve as President. I also would like to thank the 2016-2017 Board of Directors for their hard work and diligence in serving and moving the league's mission forward! Over the last year, the best part of this role was seeing the growth within several members as they served in specific roles in the league. We have quite a gifted chapter of strong and mighty women. It was an honor to serve all of you and I thank you for this opportunity. I am beyond confident of the direction the league is heading. As the Allstate Insurance guy says, "You're in good hands."



LEAGUE VOLUNTEERS AT LOCUST GROVE ESTATE

The members of the Junior League of Poughkeepsie came out in full force to volunteer their time at Locust Grove this fall. The league has collaborated with volunteer efforts at Locust Grove for the past few years and wanted to give back to the organization that has given so much to the league. Past service efforts at Locust Grove would defray costs for the rental of the hall for Denim and Diamonds this year and last, as well as the 2016 Authors' Luncheon. JLP helped to beautify the local landscape on the grounds of the Samuel F.B. Morse Estate in addition to brush clean up, raking of leaves, walnut removal, and walking trail maintenance. It was a great effort as we had a



large turnout from our provisional class, actives, as well as the Fakhoury boys who reminded us all to enjoy the beauty of fall while rolling in leaves. We hope this tradition will continue for years to come.

SIXTH ANNUAL DENIM & DIAMONDS GALA

By Jessica Glass, Denim & Diamonds Co-Chair



JLP held its Sixth Annual Denim & Diamonds Gala on Friday, November 4, 2016 at Locust Grove, honoring Women of the Year, **Nancy Daniele Miller, Susan L. Moore, and Karen Kosack**, and Organization of the Year, **The ARC of Dutchess**. This signature JLP event continued to build upon the success of prior years, with tickets again selling-out and a whopping \$19,000 being raised to support the JLP's programs and mission. Over 150 guests enjoyed live music and

entertainment, and delicious food and libations graciously donated by Twisted Soul, Cosimo's Poughkeepsie, Tomas Tapas Bar, Essie's Restaurant, The Poughkeepsie Grand Hotel, Mill House Brewing Co. and Hudson Plaza Wine & Spirits. Event Chairs, **Jessica Glass** and **Erin Cafarelli**, wish to again thank our league members for their generous support of Denim & Diamonds and the JLP.

Nominations for Denim & Diamonds 2017 Woman & Organization of the Year are presently being accepted!

The deadline for all nominations is July 15, 2017. Submit nominations to Erin Cafarelli at ecafarelli@childrenshome.us.



ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY AND OPERATION HOLIDAY BOX

Sustainer Co-Chair **Carolynn Frankel** hosted the Annual Holiday Party this year and it was definitely a success. The gathering was well attended and filled with an overflow of delicious food thanks to our giving membership, a holiday band and joyous conversations. In addition to the large turnout of Actives and Sustainers, the 2016-2017 Provisional Class joined us, which gave them the opportunity to speak with many of our Active and Sustaining members about the benefits of Junior League membership.

The Junior League of Poughkeepsie has once again kept its annual tradition of giving back to the community during the holiday season through **Operation Holiday Box**. This year's recipient was the **"Hudson Valley Hero Project."** The Hudson Valley Hero Project has devoted its energy to passionately advocating for the service members and veterans in the Hudson Valley. Items were collected and donated for their "Deployment Closet," to ship to those persons who have been sent overseas and also to help provide for our local Veterans.



Thanks to the generosity of the Junior League Members, friends and family, we were able to donate enough to help the Hudson Valley Hero Project in shipping 46 boxes filled with tons of items for the servicemen and women overseas! The boxes were shipped to Afghanistan just before the holiday season to add some holiday cheer to them while being away from home!



2017 POLAR PLUNGE

By Laila Fakhoury

Brrrrrr! Junior League Provisional and Active Members, along with their family and friends, came together as the JLP Team to help support and raise money towards the Special Olympics! Some were brave enough to jump in, while others were there as their cheerleaders (and towel holders!). Altogether, the JLP Team raised and donated over \$1600 for the Special Olympics of the Hudson Valley!



2017 SPECIAL OLYMPICS

By Linda Fakhoury, President-Elect

Once again, the New York State Special Olympics were held right here in our own County, in Poughkeepsie! Over 20 Junior League of Poughkeepsie members, along with their friends and family, came together, made posters, and were Fans in the Stands at the Opening Ceremony, and the Figure Skating Competition! **Laila Fakhoury**, a Provisional League member, bought her 4-year-old son Joey and her 8yo son Julien, to support these amazing athletes -- Julien was so impressed that he went backstage to meet the Athletes, get their autographs and take pictures with them!



2017 JLP COMMUNITY GRANT

This year the League resurrected the community grant and was able to provide a \$500 Grant to an Organization in the Community! Grant Committee Co-Chairs **Linda Fakhoury** and **Caroline Blackburn**, along with committee members **Sarah Ryan**, **Kim Hutsko**, **Danielle Strauch**, and **Diana Fakhoury**, spent an evening reviewing over 13 applications, all who were well-deserving. This year's grant recipient was **Youth Mission Outreach!** The monies will go towards them acquiring software and hardware that will enable them to have fully operable computers to be used for their **Bridges of Hope Tutoring Program**, which would help expand computer literacy to their program participants from all throughout the community.



2016 NATIONAL NIGHT OUT



By Linda Fakhoury, President-Elect

In August of 2016, the Junior League of Poughkeepsie participated in the National Night Out event hosted by the **City of Poughkeepsie Police Athletic League!** National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhoods safer, more caring places to live. National Night Out enhances the relationship between neighbors and law enforcement while bringing back a true sense of community. Furthermore, it provides a great opportunity to bring police and neighbors together under positive circumstances. Members of the JLP interacted with community members and law enforcement, and spread the name and mission of the JLP! Families stopped by the table to learn all about our League, and we were interactive

with the children, coloring pictures and bookmarks with them! A wonderful experience was had by all! We look forward to participating in National Night Out again in August of 2017!



NOVEMBER 19TH AT NIGHT

By Linda Fakhoury, President-Elect

In honor of the Junior League of Poughkeepsie creation in 1919, League members get together every 19th of the month, at noon, for an informal lunch and discussion about the league and life in general! In November, since the 19th fell on a weekend, we were creative and had a 19th at Night and had a Paint and Sip Event! JLP Members came together at Cuneen-Hackett to showcase their artistic talents, while sipping on wine and feasting on yummy treats!



DCC SCHOLARSHIP UPDATE

With much success from the league's fundraising efforts from the 2016 Authors' Luncheon, the league was able to move forward with launching a scholarship at Dutchess Community College for an incoming student. The scholarship will officially launch in 2018 and will provide \$750 to a Dutchess County female resident who has shown a passion for leadership and alignment with the league's mission of active community service. We thank everyone who was involved in making this possible and look forward to meeting our first recipient in Spring 2018.



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY



The Junior League of Poughkeepsie would join several non-profits at the Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce's International Women's Day Celebration on March 8, at Dutchess Community College. The event would include live music & entertainment, nonprofit tables and moving speeches. International Women's Day is a global day celebrating the economic, political and social achievements of women past, present and future. Annually on March 8th, thousands of events are held throughout the world to inspire women while educating people about the plight of women in other countries.

The league was able to make an impact at this event by

speaking to several women throughout the county about the league's mission and efforts, as well sharing information in regards to how to join! We look forward to supporting International Women's Day for years to come and are grateful to participate in events that support our mission and goals of women empowerment.

ARE YOU FULLY
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ONLINE?

FACEBOOK: JLPOUGHKEEPSIE

WWW.JLPOUGHKEEPSIE.ORG

2017 IRISH COFFEE

Sustaining Member **Susan Moore** graciously opened her home to Junior League members for a lovely brunch in honor of St. Patrick's Day. Sustaining members, Actives, and Provisional Members alike enjoyed great food, interactive conversation, and a relaxing morning together. We thank our hostess, Susan Moore, for continuing this long, cherished Junior League tradition.



A SUPER SATURDAY

by Erin Cafarelli, JLP Training Coordinator

On Saturday, February 4 at Dutchess Community College, twenty-six JLP members gathered for a **super** packed day of professional development training. From Batgirl to Wonder Woman to Super Girl, Soldiers and Doctors, this year's Super Saturday had an extra SUPER feel to it, as Junior League members were encouraged to wear something that represented their favorite SUPERHERO.

A survey, given to the membership earlier in the year provided a great tool for selecting the best topics to cover at the training. Members were interested in learning about planning events, work/life balance, board service, public speaking and budgets. Local experts were engaged to enlighten and empower participants to take leadership roles in their career and personal life.

The day began with an overview of the Junior League of Poughkeepsie and a review of the various board and committee positions within the League for members to serve on. This was followed by general session presented by **Dr. Lubna Somjee** entitled *The Importance of 'Being,'* who explored the various reasons we are driven to be busy and discussed concepts that could help one take a step back - in order to move forward, professionally and personally.

Members had a choice for a second session. **Melissa McCoy**, Chief Advancement Officer at Abilities First led a session on *How to Plan a Sensational Event*. Junior League Member **Filomena Fanelli** of Impact PR & Communications presented *Speak Up: Using Public Speaking to Find Your Voice*. **Christine Kane**, CFRE, Executive Director at Audubon International, **Elizabeth Rowley**, CFRE, President & CEO of the Community Foundation of Orange & Sullivan and **Sheila Appel**, US Regional Director, Corporate Citizenship & Corporate Affairs at IBM Corporation presented a panel discussion entitled *Do you have what it takes? A Conversation on Board Service*.

This year's sessions were met with rave reviews. We are fortunate to have such a wonderful pool of professional, enthusiastic and giving women in our community who shared their experiences and expertise with us. Overall, a SUPER Saturday was had by all.



2016-2017 PROVISIONAL PROJECT

By Kim Hutsko, Provisional Chair

The Provisional members this year were **Jamie Cevetillo** (Fishkill), **Diana Fakhoury** (Poughkeepsie), **Laila Fakhoury** (Wappingers Falls), **Alicia Favata** (Poughkeepsie), **Kim Helmeyer** (Standfordville), **Antionette Jackson** (Hyde Park), **Meghan Lambert** (Highland), **Amber Mahmud** (Poughkeepsie), **Erin O'Dea** (Poughkeepsie), and **Sarah Ryan** (Poughkeepsie).

The Provisional project this year was to refurbish the supervised visitation rooms at the **Dutchess County Department of Community and Family Services**. These rooms are utilized by children and teens who are court-ordered to have supervised visitations with family members for various reasons. The goal of the class was to create a warm, friendly and safe environment for the children and teens who unfortunately need to use these rooms.

The provisionals were able to receive couch donations from **Davis Furniture**, painting supplies from **Home Depot** and **Valspar** graciously donated all of the paint needed for the project. The ladies also received monetary donations and book and toy donations from supports in the community, including family, friends and fellow JLP members. Additionally, **Meghan Lambert's** sister-in-law, **Nicole Schroeder**, held a **Barefoot Books** fundraiser and also donated a collection of books.

The ladies spent three days painting the themes for both rooms – one a space theme and the other an underwater theme. With fundraising money, they were able to purchase a small table and chairs for each room. The response from workers in the building and the Commissioner was overwhelming – they were incredibly impressed with the work done by the provisionals. These rooms will leave a lasting impact in the community for years to come. Many thanks and congratulations to the provisional class for such a dedicated and hard working job on the completion of this absolutely wonderful project!



2017 CHILDREN'S AUTHORS' LUNCHEON

On Sunday, April 23, 2017, the Junior League of Poughkeepsie would host its Children's Authors' Luncheon at The Cunneen-Hackett Arts Center. The luncheon featured three authors, several literacy-focused raffle baskets, book sales, and simple yet delicious fare donated by Sugar and Spice, The **Crooked Roosted** and **Twisted Soul**. Committee Chairwomen **Carolynn Frankel** and **Diane Cicatello**, along with committee members **Erin Cafarelli**, **Linda Fakhoury**, **Dana Gavin**, **Jessica Glass**, **Hope Jankunas**, **Cammie Jones**, **Amber Mahmud**, **Gina Marma**, **Nancy Miller**, **Mimi Ryan**, **Sabrina Schutzsmith**, and **Danielle Strauch** planned the event, which was intended to raise funds to assist in launching a girls empowerment leadership program within the league. The celebrated local authors presented on the afternoon, told stories that reflected the experiences and challenges facing children today, such as bullying, loss of loved ones, and diversity and inclusion.



Children – and those still young at heart – had an opportunity to meet three incredibly talented (and local!) published children's book authors: **Lesa Cline-Ransome**, **Lu Ann Kaldor**, and **Jesse A. Saperstein**. Lesa Cline-Ransome is known for her works such as *Light in the Darkness*, *Whale Trails*, and *Freedom's School*. Lu Ann Kaldor is the author of the beautifully illustrated *The Angels on my Tree*. Jesse A. Saperstein is well known for his power books, *Atypical Life with Asperger's in 20-1/3 Chapters* and *Getting A Life with Asperger's*. In addition to a light lunch, attendees were then able to hear excerpts and a lively discussion from the authors' books, hosted by **Rocco Staino**, a local contributor to *School Library Journal* and the *Huffington Post*.

Ticket sales, a raffle and book sales all contributed to this highly successful event; the JLP exceeded its \$3,000 fundraising goal and is now postured to launch its female leadership program.



2017 CINDERELLA'S CLOSET



by Danielle E. Strauch, Esq., Cinderella's Closet Chair

The League was proud to partner with the **Italian Center** for a second consecutive year in hosting our Fourth Annual Cinderella's Closet on Sunday, April 9, 2017.

Once again, the League helped local high school students feel like Cinderella by providing more than 500 dresses, in all sizes, at no cost. The event offered free hair and makeup services donated by a local salon and private fitting rooms together with tons of jewelry, accessories and shoes.

It was a wonderful sight to be seen watching Poughkeepsie's local students walk over our pink carpet to racks and racks of beautiful dresses.

Many local students commented that they "loved our energy" and our "beautiful selection" of dresses. Thank you to all of our League members and volunteers who afforded our local students with their own fairytale dress and future to match!



2017 AJLI NATIONAL CONFERENCE

by Linda Fakhoury, President-Elect

On May 18-20, 2017, **Linda Fakhoury** (President-Elect) and **Alicia Favata** (Provisional Member) participated in the AJLI Junior League Annual Conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota. This year's conference theme focused on "Disrupt Convention," encouraging League members to disrupt and make change, and make a difference in the communities we live in! Our keynote speaker was **Cheryl Strayed**, author of the #1 New York Times bestselling memoir *Wild*. Cheryl's amazing and motivational speech stressed to us that we should not be afraid to do things just because it scares us---sometimes we need to find that power within ourselves that would impact the world! Linda and Alicia participated in numerous workshops dealing with diversity & inclusion, leadership and professional development, marketing and public relations, fundraising, communication, membership recruitment and retention, and many more! Linda and Alicia interacted with league members from around the world, learning and gaining insight from them, making connections, and developing a network for future

camaraderie. The Prince-themed Gala and awards ceremony to end the Conference was an enjoyable experience, and truly inspired and empowered them to help move the JLP forward in making change.



2017 MOTHER'S DAY DINNER

by Domonique Garrett, Mother's Day Dinner Chair

Mother's Day Dinner was held on Friday, May 12, at Christ Episcopal Church in the City of Poughkeepsie. Provisional, Active, and Sustaining members contributed to the night's success by serving food, cleaning, and providing child care services. Over 20 women from 2 community agency participated in an evening of pampering including dinner, live music, giveaways, and a raffle while their children enjoyed dinner, games, making a Mother's Day gift and a movie.



Thank you to the Mother's day Committee members for their time, talent and ideas, as well as members who purchased items and volunteered.

A very special thank you to our partnering organizations and vendors: **Poughkeepsie Grand, Adams Fairacre Farms, Locanda, Alexis Restaurant, Double O Grill, and Golden Krust Caribbean Bakery & Grill.**



LEAGUE CELEBRATES TWO MEMBERS AT DCRROC FORTY UNDER 40 AWARDS



The Junior League of Poughkeepsie would have two members honored as recipients of the Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce's (DCRCOC) 2017 Forty Under 40 Class. President-Elect **Linda Fakhoury, Esq.** and Treasurer **Dr. Hope Jankunas Frederick** were honored at Changepoint Church on Tuesday, April 25, 2017 with 38 other movers and shakers within the Hudson Valley. The DCRROC recognizes a talented and diverse group of young professionals in the Hudson Valley as the top Forty Under 40. The award is bestowed annually to 40 people under the age of 40 who have shown a strong commitment to the Hudson Valley. The Shaker Awards honor the next generation of leaders in our region. Congratulations to our members for being leaders not only within the league but within the community as well.



HUDSON VALLEY KIDVENTURE

On May 20 and 21, 2017 Chamber Foundation held the Hudson Valley KidVenture event in Poughkeepsie. The event featured a host of interactive activities for kids aimed at helping them discover all that the Hudson Valley has to offer. Local vendors and organizations exhibited their wares along Market Street and within the Mid-Hudson Civic Center. Highlights included Touch-a-Truck, where kids had the opportunity to experience super-sized vehicles, a Hot-Air-Balloon Playhouse, zoo animals from the Two by Two Zoo, a captivating illusionist show, an interactive science exhibit from IBM, wildlife shows, and virtual reality goggles by Samsung. Provisional class members **Sarah Ryan**, **Jamie Cevetillo**, and **Amber Mahmud** and President **Cammie Jones** volunteered at the event and got involved in the fun.

JUNE DINNER

Our Annual June Dinner meeting was a perfect ending to another successful year within the league. Under the leadership of our Sustainer Co-Chairs, **Diane Cicatello** and **Carolynn Frankel**, the league was able to celebrate and welcome our new provisional class to Active status as well as fellowship with each other and reminisce on all of the amazing happenings within the league.

President **Cammie Jones** would provide a thorough analysis of the year's events and programming efforts and pass over the Presidency to President-Elect **Linda Fakhoury**. The league would welcome in a new leadership slate.

Even more, Incoming **President Linda Fakhoury** would outline her goals with moving the league forward. We are excited about the new beginnings within the league and look forward to seeing everyone flourish within their roles and as members.



IN MEMORIUM

The Junior League of Poughkeepsie would
like to observe the life of the following
members who passed on this year:

KATHY HEAVEY

GINNY SWARTZ

PHYLLIS TEASDALE



**JUNIOR LEAGUE OF
POUGHKEEPSIE**

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