

# The JLP Greenleaf

*Junior League of Poughkeepsie - Women Building Better Communities*

## President's Message

By : Caroline Nelson

**Springtime is the time for new beginnings. And in the case of the Junior League of Poughkeepsie, springtime is also a time for enrichment and growth.**

This spring, Cammie Jones assumes the Presidency of the Junior League of Poughkeepsie. Frankly, there is no better woman for the job. I encourage you all to “lean in” as they say, when she speaks about where she would like to guide this League. She is one of the most driven and inspired women I have ever known. She truly feels that pull: the call to service, to our community, and to her friends. From board service, community partnership, community engagement, leadership training, to non-profit work, fundraising events, and charity auctions: she’s done it all. I’ve often wondered whether Cammie has more hours in a day than the rest of us. But certainly, that’s not it. She simply “makes” or “finds” the time, like each and every one of us do. How do we juggle it all? We might not even know ourselves. All we know is that we want to make it work. That is one central principal of JLP service: “we can make anything work.” Another that quickly comes to mind is: “if you want something done, give it to a busy person”. And so, when Cammie suggests that perhaps we should think differently about an issue or an approach to an event, I hope that, whether or not we take that approach, we entertain an engaging discussion on it. That’s enrichment.



We also welcome a number of new members to the Board of Directors. New positions always means more growth: in the physical sense and in a metaphorical one. Since the JLP has welcomed large classes of Provisional Members over the past two years, the League has been able to re-institute many Board positions, and Committee Chair positions, which have long remained unfilled. I am confident that this growth will be a positive one. If there is one thing that has thrilled me most about JLP Board service over the past two years, it is that my friends and colleagues in the League have continually surprised me with their very diverse talents and gifts. It’s so lovely to be surprised in that way, especially in the springtime.



## Volunteering at Locust Grove

By : Caroline Nelson

The members of the Junior League of Poughkeepsie came out in full force to volunteer their time at Locust Grove this fall. These volunteer efforts helped the League defray costs for the rental of the beautiful hall for our Denim & Diamonds fundraising event, and for the Authors' Luncheon. JLP also helped to beautify the local landscape on the grounds of the Samuel F.B. Morse Estate.

League members volunteered their time on two Saturdays: September 19th and October 24th. The October date coincided with Make A Difference Day, which is a nationally-recognized day of community service. Job duties on these dates included brush clean up, walnut removal, and walking trail maintenance. We also solicited community support for these efforts, engaging students from John Jay High School as well as Girl Scout Troop 10009.

It was a great effort as there were more than 100 hours of community service donated to Locust Grove over the course of the two days. We hope this successful venture will lead to continued community partnership.

## Imagination Library

By: Erin Cafarelli

Proceeds from the sale of the Bargain Box have been allocated to establish a chapter of Imagination Library with the Junior League of Poughkeepsie as one of our core programs.

Imagination Library is a non-profit organization founded by Dolly Parton (Dollywood Foundation), that is focused on developing early childhood literacy, prior to children entering kindergarten. Each month from birth until a child reaches his/her fifth birthday, Imagination Library will send them a free age-appropriate book that is selected by a committee of teachers, child development specialists, and librarians. The program encourages both literacy and parent-child interactions.

JLP has set aside \$6,000 to fund this endeavor and a committee has been formed to seek additional funds through grants, fundraisers and community support.



## Denim & Diamonds

By: Jessica Glass

**JLP held its Fifth Annual Denim & Diamonds Gala on Friday, November 6, 2016 at Locust Grove, honoring Women of the Year, Janelle Styles, Randi Petrovits, and Rev. Luader Smith, and Organization of the Year, Miles of Hope Breast Cancer Foundation.**

The event was a smashing success, with tickets selling-out days in advance and over \$15,000 being raised to support the JLP's programs and mission. Over 150 guests enjoyed live music and entertainment, including line dancers, and delicious food and libations graciously donated by Twisted Soul, Nic L Inn, Yolo Bistro, Gusto and Porco Cafe Fresh, Mill House Brewing Co. and Hudson Plaza Wine & Spirits. Stunning pieces of diamond jewelry donated by Jaymark Jewelers and Zimmer Brothers Jewelers were raffled off, much to the delight of the lucky attendees who won them.



**Save the Date \*Denim & Diamonds 2016\*  
November 4, 2016 @ Locust Grove**

*Nominations for Woman & Organization of the Year are being accepted! Email your nominations to [jglass@srddlaw.com](mailto:jglass@srddlaw.com) by July 15, 2016.*

## Operation Holiday Box

By: Kim Hutsko



This year's operation holiday box benefited women and children from the House of Hope shelter. In addition to a few games and a gift card, we were able to give them shopping bags full of clothing which included, robes, pajamas, t-shirts, sweatpants and undergarments. They were extremely appreciative for our generous donations!

## JLP Holiday Party

By: Caroline Nelson

Maria (Til) Cerdan-Dumas hosted the Annual Holiday Party this year, which was very well attended. The 2015-2016 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. Importantly, members brought gifts for our Operation Holiday Box to the party, which benefitted the House of Hope, a domestic violence shelter near Wappingers Falls.



# Liberty Learning Exchange Conference

By: Catherine Larkin

The City of Brotherly Love was a gracious host for the Liberty Learning Exchange back in February. I was able to meet lovely women from various sized leagues and speak about the obstacles and triumphs. Many topics were discussed and some excellent take-aways were provided. Hopefully in the new membership year some of the topics discussed will be implemented. They plan on continuing this opportunity and it might be something you should continue to further your League career.

## Irish Coffee

By: Caroline Nelson



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. Additionally, Sustainer Representative Sandy Bredthauer arranged for a small group of Irish Step Dancers to dazzle us with their dance moves. These young women were quite the sight to see!

## Provisional Class

By: Catherine Larkin

- Gina Marma from Verbank.
- Dana Gavin from Hyde Park.
- Danielle E Strauch from Poughkeepsie
- Danielle Mitchell from Hopewell Junction.
- Domonique Garrett from Poughkeepsie.
- Sarah Husted from Poughkeepsie.
- Elizabeth Everett from Wappingers Falls.

## Special Olympics

By: Caroline Nelson

This year, the New York State Special Olympics came to Poughkeepsie NY. Over 1500 volunteers assisted with the Games, and the Junior League of Poughkeepsie was well-represented in that effort. Over 20 members and friends from the "JLP Team" acted as Fans in the Stands at the Opening Ceremony at the games, and at the Figure Skating Competition. The Special Olympics will return to Poughkeepsie next year, and the JLP will absolutely be involved again if we can. Ask anyone who volunteered at this event, and they will tell you that those young people were incandescent! It was an inspiring event.





# Super Saturday

By: Cammie Jones

**Super Saturday was mighty super this year as the league provided an extensive day of leadership training for its members!**

Super Saturday was on Saturday February 6, 2016 at Dutchess Community College (DCC) and the keynote speaker was none other than the President of Dutchess Community College, Dr. Pamela Edington. Dr. Edington discussed her journey in becoming the first woman president at DCC, why women leaders are needed in the community and how the league can make a major impact in Dutchess County. Additionally, the league would have women community leaders that have taken the lead in several aspects within the Hudson Valley facilitate the workshops for the day. The following women would lead the sessions on event management, personal and professional development and community collaboration: Sheila Appel of IBM, Ellen Henneberry of Walkway Over the Hudson, Jennifer Killian of Dyson Foundation, Cristin McPeak of Community Foundations of Hudson Valley, Melissa Clark of United Way Dutchess- Orange Region and Tracy Mackenzie, Family Court Judge.



**Super Saturday was a tremendous success and was one of the largest attended in recent years, showing that our league is growing, filled with powerful women who are leading and ready to make a difference in our community!**





# Cinderella's Closet

By: Holly Goff-Brucher & Nicole Lichwick



Our 3rd annual Cinderella's Closet was another big success glamorizing about 50 young ladies. This year our event was held at the Italian Center which offered more of a homey feel and more space to spread out. The girls had lots to choose from thanks in part to our community who supplied us with tons and tons of dresses, shoes and accessories. Once again, beautiful cookies and treats were donated, hair, makeup and nail services were offered thanks to our awesome volunteers and every girl got to walk the pink carpet and take home a pink goody bag. Fun was definitely had by all.





## Author's Luncheon

By: Caroline Nelson



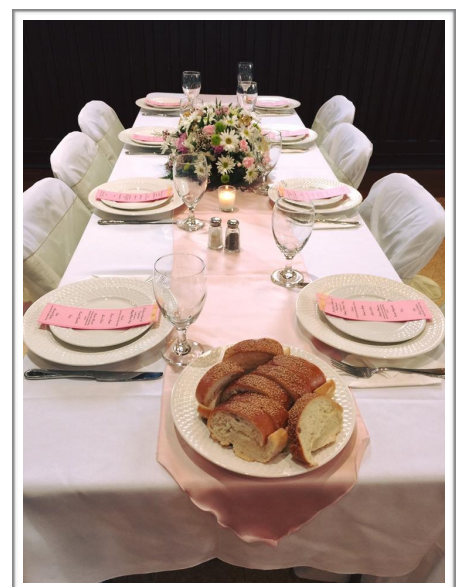
On Sunday April 17, 2016, nearly 100 guests joined the Junior League of Poughkeepsie at Locust Grove, the Samuel F. B. Morse Estate, for an Authors' Luncheon. The Luncheon featured three authors, silent auction and raffle, book sales, and simple yet delicious fare catered by Lola's Café. Committee Chairwomen Susan Moore and Margaret Cusumano, along with Committee Members Melissa Hietanen, Tina Hawkinson, Janelle Styles, Caroline Conston, and Mary Beth Kaminsky planned the event,

## Mother's Day Dinner

By Jill Ibrahim

Mother's Day Dinner was held on Friday, May 6th at the Christ the Episcopal Church in Poughkeepsie. Over 15 Active and Sustaining members rolled up their sleeves to set-up, serve food, clean-up and provide childcare services so that 20 women from 3 community agencies could have a pampered Mother's Day. Thank you to all members who purchased items and volunteered to make this signature event a success. A very special thank you to our partnering organizations and vendors: Sierra Lily, The Poughkeepsie Grand, Stephano's, Tomas Tapas, Durants, Dr. Christopher Brellocks/DCC, and Adams Fairacre Farms.

which was intended to raise funds for the JLP Scholarship Fund at Dutchess Community College. Internationally-acclaimed author, Alyson Richman, mystified the crowd as she discussed how the nearly-unbelievable storylines of her books, *The Lost Wife* and *the Garden of Letters*, were based upon true actual historical events. Kathy Leonard Czepiel discussed her novel, *A Violet Season*, and the varying leaps that writers of historical fiction could, or should, take when penning novels of that genre. And last but not least, local author Chris Orcutt transported the room to high-end, hunt-country Hudson Valley while he read one of his passages from his book, *One Hundred Miles from Manhattan*. To top it off, every guest enjoyed a signature cocktail made with Peony Vodka, and took home a bag of goodies and books. Ticket sales, a raffle, book sales, and a silent auction all contributed to this highly-successful event; the JLP exceeded its \$5,000 fundraising goal and is now postured to launch its scholarship fund at Dutchess Community College. Special thanks to the Finance Committee: Hope Jankunas Frederick, Christina Piracci, and Kim Hutsko, who secured enough sponsorship to make this event a financial success.



# AJLI National Convention

By: Cammie Jones

On May 12-14, 2016, Cammie Jones (President-Elect) and Catherine Larkin (Membership Co-Chair) would attend The Association of Junior Leagues International 94 th Annual Conference in Atlanta Georgia! This year's conference focused on leagues being "All In" and addressing how league can make a difference in their communities with their programming and outreach. The keynote address would come from Carlotta Walls Lanier, a civil rights pioneer who was a part of The Little Rock Nine, a group of African-American students who, in 1957, were the first black students ever to attend classes at Little Rock Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas. She was the first black female to graduate from Central High School. Her keynote address focused on the importance of answering to social justice issues within one's community and leading the torch for community change, a theme that would take part in most workshops throughout the conference. 239 leagues were present at the annual conference and participants were given the opportunity to attend sessions that focused on diversity and inclusion, achieving community impact goals, parliamentary procedures, marketing and branding, governance and policy, membership management and much more. The conference was truly an inspiring and empowering experience for both Cammie and Catherine. Lessons learned from the conference in regards to community impact, branding, membership management and diversity and inclusion will definitely be focus areas implemented within our league for the next upcoming years of service! We are ready to take the lead with our league!





## "TLC from the JLP" Provisional Project

By: Catherine Larkin

The Provisional Project this year was working with Mid-Hudson Alcoholism Recovery (MARC) and the residents of Florence Manor on TLC from the JLP. MARC contacted us, since the last time we worked with them was so successful, to have a night of makeovers and job force preparation.

The Provisionals were able to secure a partnership with Ridley Lowell which provided cosmetology students for haircuts and nail treatments as well as educational opportunities for the women. There were also two women obtained by the provisionals who were providing makeup tips.

The residents of Florence Manor were provided with folders that had resources available to them as well as goodie bags with makeup provided by Ridley-Lowell & Mary Kay. The night was enjoyed by all. Many of the residents were motivated by the night and their new beginnings.



# Junior League of Poughkeepsie's 2016-2017 Slate

*\* DENOTES BOARD POSITION*

## EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

\*President: Cammie Jones, \*President-Elect: Linda Fakhoury

## ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

\*Recording Secretary: Catherine Larkin

Corresponding Secretary: Kim Hutsko

Communications Chair: Dana Gavin

## FINANCE COUNCIL

\*Treasurer: Hope Frederick

## FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

Gina Nykto-Marma (chair), Dana Gavin, Sarah Husted

## MEMBERSHIP COUNCIL

\*Membership Council Chair: Jessica Glass

Training Coordinator: Erin Cafarelli

Provisional Chair: Kim Hutsko

## \*NOMINATING/PLACEMENT

Caroline Nelson, Jill Brodsky Ibrahim, Nicole Lichwick

Denim & Diamonds Co-Chairs: Jessica Glass & Erin Cafarelli

Mother's Day Dinner Chair: Domonique Garrett

Cinderella's Closet Chair: Danielle Strauch

Imagination Library Chair: Gina Nykto-Marma





## YEAR IN REVIEW

### JUNIOR LEAGUE OF POUGHKEEPSIE

*Women building better communities®*





## YEAR IN REVIEW



  
**JUNIOR LEAGUE OF  
POUGHKEEPSIE**  
*Women building better communities®*

*The JLP Greenleaf designed by: Sabrina Schutzsmith*