

*The Junior League of the City of New York  
130 East 80th Street  
New York, NY 10075*

Presorted  
First Class Mail  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Brooklyn, NY  
Permit No. 7379

## *I volunteer because . . .*

### **Joie Anderson – Outstanding Sustainer, 2008**

*"I volunteer because I always learn something. I love doing it with the JL because I get to work with and make friends with people of all ages, educational levels, and backgrounds and this gives me a wider perspective on the world, which in turn makes me a better volunteer."*



### **Elizabeth Finan – Outstanding Volunteer 2007 - Sustainer Nominating Chair**

*"I volunteer because I wholeheartedly believe in the mission of the NYJL. It is so important that we continue to lend our time and talents in the community so it will be a better place to live for all."*

# NYJL MINUTE

Winter/Spring 2016

## PIP's 25th Anniversary Project: Marcus Garvey Park

**I**t's fitting that in 2016, the year the NYJL celebrates 115 years and PIP celebrates 25 years, the Play-ground Improvement Project (PIP) committee will focus on a park that is also steeped in history. Marcus Garvey Park, PIP's 2016 project, has been central to the Harlem community for over 150 years. The park, originally known as Mount Morris Park, opened to the public in 1840. It is believed the park was named for Robert H. Morris, the 64th Mayor of New York City. In 1973, the park was renamed for Marcus Garvey, an advocate for economic independence in the black community and the founder of the Universal Negro Improvement Association and African Communities League (UNIA-ACL).

Today, the 20-acre park has outlets for young children, teenagers, adults and the elderly. Children can enjoy the multiple playgrounds and during the summers take swim lessons in the park's outdoor pool. Harlem Little League's home ball park is Shea Field, located within Marcus Garvey Park. The park's Richard Rogers Amphitheater, named after the composer who grew up near the park, provides a lot of entertainment for community members. The amphitheater hosts the annual Charlie Parker Jazz Festival, named after the famous jazz musician, along with many other musical and theatrical performances, all of which are free and open to the public. *(continued on page 9)*



### WHAT'S INSIDE

- Steps to Success
- Rights of Passage
- Meet the OSs and OVs



### SAVE THE DATE

#### Spring House Tour

**J**oin us on Saturday, May 7, 2016 for our **Spring House Tour**, devoted to showcasing New York City's prestigious and luxurious residences. To purchase tickets, visit [www.nyjl.org](http://www.nyjl.org).

## Counting Down to the Winter Ball

**O**n Saturday, March 5, the New York Junior League Winter Ball returns to The Pierre Hotel to toast the 2015-2016 Outstanding Sustainers and Outstanding Volunteers, the New York Junior League's brightest stars, at the fitting "Starlight Soiree!"

Join the celebration of this deserving group of women as they receive the NYJL's highest award in recognition of their leadership and community service. Guests will be dazzled at this star-studded soiree as they enjoy dinner in the Grand Ballroom, compete in bidding for exciting live and silent auction items, and dance the night away.

To learn more about the NYJL's largest annual fundraiser, which ultimately increases the NYJL's reach into the lives of local women and children, visit the Winter Ball web page ([www.nyjl.org/winter-ball](http://www.nyjl.org/winter-ball)). The page provides information about underwriting and corporate sponsorship opportunities, gift-in-kind details, Winter Ball auction donations, and this year's exceptional Outstanding Sustainers and Outstanding Volunteers.

## NYJL MINUTE

### *NYJL Mission Statement*

*The New York Junior League is an organization of women committed to promoting volunteerism, developing the potential of women, and improving communities through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. Its purpose is exclusively educational and charitable.*

Stacey Lawrence Lee  
President

Serra Eken  
Executive Vice President

Leah Wenger  
Support Senior Council Head

Kathleen O'Leary  
Internal Communications Council Head

Lauren Goodwin  
Communications Associate

Pauline Millard and Christina Rak  
Internal Communications Associates

Please send submissions for the  
Fall 2016 issue  
to [publications@nyjl.org](mailto:publications@nyjl.org) by  
July 15, 2016

NYJL Minute is a publication of  
The Junior League of the City  
of New York, Inc.  
130 East 80<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, NY 10075  
Phone: (212) 288-6220  
[nyjl.org](http://nyjl.org)

## OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT



Dear Volunteers,

*I hope you all enjoyed the holidays and are having a wonderful 2016 so far. I know that on Saturday, March 5, I will be celebrating our Outstanding Sustainers and Outstanding Volunteers with many of you at Winter Ball, "A Starlight Soiree" at the Pierre Hotel. These women exemplify the best qualities a New York Junior League volunteer can possess and are very deserving of the highest honor our organization bestows.*

### **Outstanding Sustainers**

- Celeste D. Rault
- Elizabeth A. Smith

### **Outstanding Volunteers**

- Charlene Chuang
- Courtney Morris Guzman
- Caroline Gordon Organisciak
- Sarah Thorpe Tanner
- Kara Suzanne Van Norden

*Congratulations to all of our honorees!*

*For our 25th annual Playground Improvement Project at Marcus Garvey Park, the planning is well underway and now is the time to purchase a tribute bench for the park at [nyjl.org](http://nyjl.org). It's a lovely way to commemorate the NYJL's admirable work in the community.*

*Our Community Improvement Project (CIP) committee is busy refurbishing Hartley House. This is the fourth CIP project we've embarked on and the committee sets the bar higher each year. I can't wait to see the finished product!*

*My appetite is wetted for our new culinary event "Savor the Spring" on April 7. I encourage you to save the date now and help support this brand new fundraising event!*

*It's been a busy year so far and for many of our volunteers, spring is our busiest season. We have so many exciting things to look forward to and many accomplishments to celebrate together. You continue to amaze me with your dedication to the NYJL and to those in our community. Thank you for helping to turn compassion into action for 115 years!*

Best,

# Sustainers



Dear NYJL Volunteers,

As the New Year begins I want to thank you for supporting the Sustainer programs. The Sustainer Council area welcomes all membership categories at their events and hopes to see more Actives at future events. The upcoming Winter and Spring schedule has a host of diverse luncheons and evening lectures from which you can choose to attend. At the Sustainer luncheon on January 21, guest speaker, Cornelia Ravenal, will speak about Hazing in America Today. In the evening, the Sustainer Evening committee will partner with Winter Ball and the Affiliation

committees at the Courtesy, Couture and Cocktails event.

Sustainers continue to amaze me with their breadth of experience and their willingness to continue to volunteer on other non-profits as well as at the New York Junior League. This year there are 138 Sustainers who are actively engaged on a committee. At last year's TCS Team NYJL brunch on October 31, I was especially inspired by the camaraderie among the 14 NYJL marathon runners who spent one year training together; all for a common cause, in support of the NYJL's community partners. A member of the TCS Team, sustainer Christine Flach currently serves on Crisis Intervention and the Financial Advisory committees while working a full-time job. Christine shared her experience as part of TCS Team NYJL. "The opportunity to run the TCS NYC Marathon with Team NYJL combined two passions into one extraordinary event... It motivated me to reach for the stars by pushing the physical and mental boundaries on one's self and celebrate the important charity work that we do at the NYJL... I am so grateful to have run with an inspiring team of 14 women running for a common passion that is the New York Junior League... It was an amazing and unforgettable experience!"

Whether you are an Active or Sustainer, our volunteer experience is enhanced through maintaining long-established friendships and an on-going belief in the mission of the NYJL.

Warm regards,

*Jeannie Egas-Trouveroy*

2015-2017 Sustainer Council Head

## Outstanding Sustainer Reception

The Sustainer Evening committee invites you to attend the Outstanding Sustainer reception on Friday, February 19 to celebrate this year's honorees, Celeste Rault and Elizabeth ("Betsy") Smith.



**Sustainers attend Meet the Board of Directors and Management Council on September 24**

From left to right – Margaret Carnwath, Nancy Scully, Allison Hyers and Claire Mungiguerra



**Packing for Travel luncheon co-chairs**  
(from left to right) Deni Wendt, Susan Fisher and Celeste Rault



## SALON AND THEME LUNCHEONS

### Theme Luncheons:

#### Chinese New Year

Thursday, February 4, 12:00 p.m.  
Reception, 12:30 p.m. Lunch  
\$30 per person; beverages are additional.

Celebrate the Year of the Monkey and learn which animal symbolizes the year you were born. As this celebration features a special menu, reserve/cancel on the NYJL website by February 1. There will be no refunds after this date.

#### St. Patrick's Day Lunch

Thursday, March 17, 12:00 p.m.  
Reception, 12:30 p.m. Lunch  
\$30 per person; beverages are additional.

Erin Go Bragh! Join us as we celebrate all things Irish.

### The Salon

Over lunch in the NYJL's Roosevelt Dining Room, join in a lively informal discussion of each meeting's topic. For information and reservations, contact Marcy Sendax at mpidnyc@icloud.com or (646) 872-8047.

### Travel Websites

Wednesday, January 13, 12:00 p.m.  
Join us as we explore websites that can open up your world to new and interesting places to visit and great things to do while there.

### Tech Talk: Your Mobile Phone, Social Media and Apps

Wednesday, March 2, 12:00 p.m.  
Get more out of your iPhone as we explore popular apps that can make your life easier to live and work in NYC. Become tech savvy in the 21st century!



# Calendar

Visit the calendar on the Membership Area of [nyjl.org](http://nyjl.org) for additional event information.

## JANUARY

### 19 Tuesday

Mah Jongg, 10:00 a.m.

### 20 Wednesday

Great Decisions/Daytime, Brazil's Metamorphosis, 11:00 a.m.  
VTL, 7:00 p.m.

Affiliation Evening Book Group: *Sea Harbor* by Colson Whitehead, 7:00 p.m.

### 21 Thursday

Lecture Luncheon: Hazing in America Today, 11:30 a.m.

### 25 Monday

Affiliation Femme Finance Club, 7:00 p.m.

### 26 Tuesday

Winter Antiques Show and Lunch, 11:00 a.m.  
New Member Orientation, 7:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.

### 27 Wednesday

General Membership Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

### 29 Friday

Astor House Events 5th Annual Après-Ski Soirée Alpine Chalet, 7:00 p.m.

## FEBRUARY

### 2 Tuesday

Mah Jongg, 10:00 a.m.  
Nonfiction Book Group, *Don't Sweat the Small Stuff...and It's All Small Stuff*, by Richard Carlson 6:00 p.m.  
VTL, 7:00 p.m.

### 4 Thursday

Theme Lunch: Chinese New Year, 12:00 p.m.

### 6 Saturday

Affiliation Run Club, 9:30 a.m.

### 9 Tuesday

Mah Jongg, 10:00 a.m.  
Daytime Book Group, *The Children Act*, by Ian McEwan 12:30 p.m.

### 10 Wednesday

Career Networking, 12:30 p.m.

### 11 Thursday

Lecture Luncheon: Inside The New York City Ballet, 11:30 a.m.

### 16 Tuesday

Mah Jongg, 10:00 a.m.  
New Member Orientation, 7:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.

### 17 Wednesday

VTL – 7:00 p.m.  
Affiliation Evening Book Group: *The Luminaries* by Eleanor Catton, 7:00 p.m.

### 18 Thursday

Performing Arts Plus: Philharmonic Rehearsal & Lunch, 9:15 a.m.

### 19 Friday

Outstanding Sustainer Reception, 7:00 p.m.

### 23 Tuesday

Mah Jongg, 10:00 a.m.  
Affiliation Femme Finance Club, 7:00 p.m.

### 24 Wednesday

Great Decisions/Daytime, Middle East Alliances, 11:00 a.m.  
New Membership Sip and See, 7:30 p.m.

### 25 Thursday

February Birthday Lunch, 12:00 p.m.  
Great Decisions/Evening, Middle East Alliances, 6:00 p.m.  
Thirsty Thursday: Red Carpet Ready, 7:00 p.m.

## MARCH

### 1 Tuesday

Mah Jongg, 10:00 a.m.  
Nonfiction Book Group, *Empress Dowager Cixi*, by Jung Chang, 6:00 p.m.  
VTL, 7:00 p.m.

### 2 Wednesday

The Salon: Tech Talk, 12:30 p.m.

### 5 Saturday

Affiliation Run Club, 9:30 a.m.  
Winter Ball, 7:00 p.m.

### 7 Monday

New Member Orientation, 7:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.

### 8 Tuesday

Mah Jongg, 10:00 a.m.  
Daytime Book Group, *The Dinner*, by Herman Koch, 12:30 p.m.

### 9 Wednesday

Career Networking, 12:30 p.m.

### 10 Thursday

Lecture Luncheon: A History of New York in 101 Objects, 11:30 a.m.

### 12 Saturday

Leadership Day, 9:00 a.m.

### 15 Tuesday

Mah Jongg, 10:00 a.m.  
March Birthday Lunch, 12:00 p.m.

### 16 Wednesday

Affiliation Evening Book Group: *The Night Circus* by Erin Morgenstern, 7:00 p.m.

### 17 Thursday

Theme Luncheon: St. Patrick's Day, 12:00 p.m.  
Thirsty Thursday: St. Patrick's Day 7:00 p.m.

### 22 Tuesday

Mah Jongg, 10:00 a.m.  
New Membership Offsite, 7:00 p.m.

### 23 Wednesday

NPBC 5-Night Course, 7:00 p.m.  
Great Decisions/Daytime, The Rise of ISIS, 11:00 a.m.

### 24 Thursday

Great Decisions/Evening, The Rise of ISIS 6:00 p.m.  
Ladies who Lead, 7:00 p.m.

### 28 Monday

VTL, 7:00 p.m.

### 29 Tuesday

Mah Jongg, 10:00 a.m.  
Affiliation Femme Finance Club, 7:00 p.m.

### 30 Wednesday

NPBC 5-Night Course, 7:00 p.m.

## APRIL

### 2 Saturday

Affiliation Run Club, 9:30 a.m.

### 4 Monday

VTL, 7:00 p.m.

### 5 Tuesday

Mah Jongg, 10:00 a.m.

Nonfiction Book Group, *American Nations: A History of the Eleven Rival Regional Cultures of North America*, by Colin Woodard 6:00 p.m.

### 6 Wednesday

NPBC 5-Night Course, 7:00 p.m.

### 7 Thursday

Lecture Luncheon: Creative and Stylish Entertaining by Lela Rose, 11:30 a.m.

Savor the Spring, 7:00 p.m.

### 9 Saturday

NPBC Spring Accelerated Course, 8:30 a.m.

### 12 Tuesday

Mah Jongg, 10:00 a.m.

Daytime Book Group, *Grand Central* by Karen White, 12:30 p.m.  
VTL, 7:00 p.m.

New Member Orientation, 7:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.

### 13 Wednesday

Forum for Nonprofits, 8:30 a.m.

Career Networking, 12:30 p.m.

NPBC 5-Night Course, 7:00 p.m.

### 14 Thursday

Thirsty Thursday: PIP, 7:00 p.m.

### 19 Tuesday

Mah Jongg, 10:00 a.m.

Lecture and Dinner: Mrs. Sizzle and Friends, 6:30 p.m.

### 20 Wednesday

New Membership Offsite, 6:30 p.m.

Affiliation Evening Book Club: *Mr. Penumbra's 24 Hour Bookstore* by Robin Sloan, 7:00 p.m.

NPBC 5-Night Course, 7:00 p.m.

### 21 Thursday

April Birthday Lunch, 12:00 p.m.

Thirsty Thursday: Trivia Night, 7:00 p.m.

### 25 Monday

VTL, 7:00 p.m.

### 26 Tuesday

Mah Jongg, 10:00 a.m.

Affiliation Femme Finance Club, 7:00 p.m.

### 27 Wednesday

Great Decisions/Daytime, The Future of Kurdistan, 11:00 a.m.

New Member Orientation, 7:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.

### 28 Thursday

Great Decisions/Evening, The Future of Kurdistan, 6:00 p.m.

Placement Sneak Peek, 7:00 p.m.

## MAY

### 3 Tuesday

Mah Jongg, 10:00 a.m.

Nonfiction Book Group, *Age of Ambition: Chasing Fortune, Truth, and Faith in the New China*, by Evan Osnos 6:00 p.m.

### 4 Wednesday

VTL, 7:00 p.m.

### 5 Thursday

Thirsty Thursday: Annual Fund, 7:00 p.m.

### 6 Friday

Spring House Tour Kickoff Party, 6:00 p.m.

### 7 Saturday

Affiliation Run Club, 9:30 a.m.

Spring House Tour, 10:00 a.m.

### 10 Tuesday

Mah Jongg, 10:00 a.m.

Daytime Book Group, *The Triple Package*, by Amy Chua and Jed Rubenfeld, 12:30 p.m.

New Member Orientation, 7:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.

### 11 Wednesday

Career Networking, 12:30 p.m.

Chair Training, 7:00 p.m.

### 12 Thursday

Lecture Luncheon: Why Men Never Remember and Women Never Forget, 11:30 a.m.

Placement Previews, 6:00 p.m.

### 17 Tuesday

Mah Jongg, 10:00 a.m.

### 18 Wednesday

Performing Arts Plus: Dinner and ABT Ballet, 5:30 p.m.

Affiliation Evening Book Club: *Weekends at Bellevue: Nine Years on the Night Shift at the Psych ER* by Julie Holland, 7:00 p.m.

### 19 Thursday

May Birthday Lunch, 12:00 p.m.

### 24 Tuesday

Mah Jongg, 10:00 a.m.

### 25 Wednesday

Great Decisions/Daytime, Migration, 11:00 a.m.

### 26 Thursday

Great Decisions/Evening, Migration, 6:00 p.m.

### 30 Monday

Memorial Day, NYJL Closed

### 31 Tuesday

Mah Jongg, 10:00 a.m.

Affiliation Femme Finance Club, 7:00 p.m.

## JUNE

### 1 Wednesday

Spring Sustainer Reception, 6:30 p.m.

### 7 Tuesday

Mah Jongg, 10:00 a.m.

### 9 Thursday

June/July Birthday Lunch, 12:00 p.m.

Annual Meeting, 6:00 p.m.

### 10 Friday

End of Year Party, 7:00 p.m.

### 14 Tuesday

Mah Jongg, 10:00 a.m.

### 15 Wednesday

Affiliation Evening Book Club: *The Likeness* by Tana French, 7:00 p.m.

### 21 Tuesday

Mah Jongg, 10:00 a.m.

### 28 Tuesday

Mah Jongg, 10:00 a.m.





## NEWS

### Shining the Light on Domestic Violence

**D**omestic violence is an epidemic affecting individuals in every community and is blind to age, economic status, sexual orientation, gender, race, religion, and nationality. October was National Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM), and communities across the nation came together to speak out against violence and to share stories of bravery and survivorship. The NYJL and the Crisis Intervention committee joined the movement all month long.

DVAM evolved from the Day of Unity held in October 1981 and conceived of by the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence. The intent of the Day was to connect advocates across the nation working to end violence against women and their children.

Crisis Intervention volunteers undertake intense training to become advocates for domestic violence and sexual assault survivors in New York City hospitals. The NYJL and Crisis Intervention partner with New York Presbyterian Hospital's Domestic and Other Violence Emergencies (DOVE) program to serve as advocates for rape and domestic violence survivors, ages 12 and older, in the emergency room. Each volunteer is on call for one 14-hour shift per month.

On October 20, the NYJL invited the Center Against Domestic Violence (CADV) to our Volunteer Training and Leadership event to help volunteers gain insight from CADV's expertise and leadership in its 35-year fight to end domestic violence. Volunteers learned what domestic violence is, why women stay in violent and abusive relationships, how to recognize the signs of domestic violence, and how to prepare a safety plan. More critically, CADV challenged volunteers to think about why after many decades of advocacy there is still no large-scale community response to domestic violence. NYJL ended DVAM on October 27 with



NYJL supporting domestic violence awareness at the Shine the Light Walk in Harlem.

the annual Shine the Light March and Speak Out in Harlem, which included local organizations, faith-based leaders, public officials, and individuals.

That night in October and every night beyond, the NYJL and Crisis Intervention hope to shine a light on domestic violence and keep in mind New York City Council member Inez Dickens's words from Shine the Light 2014: "We are standing up as women and we are no longer going to hide because domestic violence flourishes with fear." Being a Crisis Intervention volunteer is an extraordinarily rewarding experience. Through training, partnering with other DOVE advocates, and advocating for survivors, volunteers learn about healthy relationships, friendship, and true partnership.

### Girls' Leadership Institute Discovers Who They Are

**T**he Girls' Leadership Institute (GLI) committee started the new volunteer year at the SCAN-Johnson Center in East Harlem with the inspiring and discoverable theme, "Who Am I?"

Throughout the month of October, GLI planned various self-empowering and goal-oriented lessons for the young female mentees aged 7-11 years old. Each lesson began with the mentees

learning about a female role model who is relevant to the lesson topic. The weekly programs taught mentees how to set and achieve goals as well as the importance of making good decisions through various hands-on and interactive activities, ranging from creating inspirational boards to building crafts and completing fun worksheets.

The month was rounded out with a safety-focused Halloween party where the mentees made yummy and healthy treats, including clementine pumpkins and spooky ghost bananas. At the end of each lesson, the mentees recited the GLI Affirmation as a group, reinforcing the mission and ideals of positivity and leadership.

### Savor the Spring!

**J**oin the FUNdraisers Committee for the NYJL's inaugural epicurean affair, **Savor the Spring**, on Thursday, April 7 from 7:00-11:00 p.m. at the Angel Orensanz Foundation on the Lower East Side. Guests will taste signature cocktails and dishes by a host of celebrated New York chefs, while exploring a silent auction featuring a number of unique culinary-inspired items. VIP ticketholders will also enjoy a private lounge and luxe gift bag. For more information and to purchase tickets, please visit: [www.nyjl.org](http://www.nyjl.org).

## NYJL Annual Fund: Giving for the Next 115

What do CHEF, the NYJL Leadership Training Program, and the Astor House garden all have in common? Each has benefited from volunteers' generous donations last year. "In addition to assisting with the maintenance of headquarters, Annual Fund donations support other critical initiatives like community projects and training," says Caroline Donohue who, along with Aneesa Sheikh, Nancy Ward, and Merrie Martinson, is leading this year's Annual Fund Team. Last year, individual giving helped the NYJL start two new community committees, Reading Rangers and Personal Empowerment Project, and expand two existing ones, Steps to Success and CHEF.

"I am a supporter of the Annual Fund, as it is vital to our efforts in the community. As co-chair of CHEF, I am so happy we are able to expand our presence this year. We are increasing the number of workshops we hold and adding in larger scale events to support healthy education in NYC. This would not have been possible without the support of the NYJL and Annual Fund," says Katie Cooke, CHEF co-chair, of her donation to the Annual Fund.

"Individual giving is so important," says Annual Fund co-chair Aneesa Sheikh. "It helps to fund training of volunteers, supports the community, funds new projects, and sustains the infrastructure of the NYJL, and that's why our goal is to reach 100% member participation this year." Beyond these community contributions, donations have helped expand our training program for young philanthropists, the Jr. Junior League, and develop the NYJL Leadership Training Program.

The fund has also supported the ongoing renovations of the beautiful Astor House garden that began last winter thanks to generous donations to the Linda Blatz Memorial Fund. "I support the Annual Fund because it helps us to sustain our wonderful headquarters and beautiful garden that we have been so lucky to have all these years," says Sustainer Nancy Scully. Now in its sixth year, the fund raised a record-setting \$144,000 last year. This year's campaign is already off to a great start, thanks to many generous donations from volunteers. The ultimate goal this year is \$145,000 and 100% committee participation.

"Every gift matters," says Regan Huneycutt, Director of Development. "When you donate to the Annual Fund, you are helping the NYJL attract more potential revenue from outside sources. Membership participation is one of the factors that companies look for when deciding whether to award a grant, or become a corporate sponsor. No gift is too small, and every volunteer who donates to the fund boosts this all-important percentage of participation rate."

Wondering how to donate? Donations may be made anytime at [www.nyjl.org](http://www.nyjl.org) (click on the Donate box on the home page). Gifts of \$100 or more may be pledged now with final payments due by June 30, 2016. New this year: you can choose to be reminded of your balance throughout the year and/or set up an installment plan for payments. If your employer has a matching gift program, you may be able to double or even triple your donation. For any questions about the Annual Fund, please email [annualfund@nyjl.org](mailto:annualfund@nyjl.org).

## NPBC Develops Nonprofit Leadership and Relationships

On the heels of a successful and sold-out fall nonprofit training course, the Nonprofit Boards Clearinghouse committee is excited to announce course dates for their spring five-night and accelerated course. Participants will gain competence in board leadership skills through workshops on topics that cover board roles and responsibilities. The course includes a networking event with members from NPBC's extensive roster of nonprofit partners.

NPBC is always looking for new NYC nonprofit organizations to partner with and introduce them to their students. This fall, NPBC was able to on-board a number of new nonprofit partners including Eryc Taylor Dance, Union Settlement Association, City Growers and New York Classical Theatre. "The NYJL Nonprofit Boards Clearinghouse course offers a much needed resource to New York City based nonprofits by training present and potential board members to understand their role as a member of a board, how to effectively fundraise and how to work with an executive director to achieve the nonprofit's goals," says Janice Zaballero, Executive Director, Breast Treatment Task Force. "We've partnered with the Clearinghouse for the five years and have found many excellent board members through the program."

The NPBC five-night spring course will be held at the NYJL from 7 p.m. – 9 p.m. on consecutive Wednesday evenings – March 23, March 30, April 6, April 13 and April 20. Students can also take advantage of the accelerated course held Saturday, April 9 and Wednesday, April 20. The course is \$325 for NYJL volunteers and \$375 for the general public. To register for the course or to join the NPBC nonprofit roster, please visit [nyjl.org](http://nyjl.org) or contact [npbc@nyjl.org](mailto:npbc@nyjl.org) with any questions.





## NEWS

### CHAMP Brings Health Education to HAFOP

Every Saturday, through rain, snow, sleet or sunshine, the ladies of New York Junior League's Community Health Access Module Program (CHAMP) committee meet with the seniors of Health Advocates for Older People (HAFOP) for a discussion over healthy living. CHAMP's initiative is to develop and deliver preventative health education modules to the residents of at-risk and underserved communities. The members of HAFOP have been excited to gather together to hear CHAMP's presentations on health topics for seniors for more than 5 years!

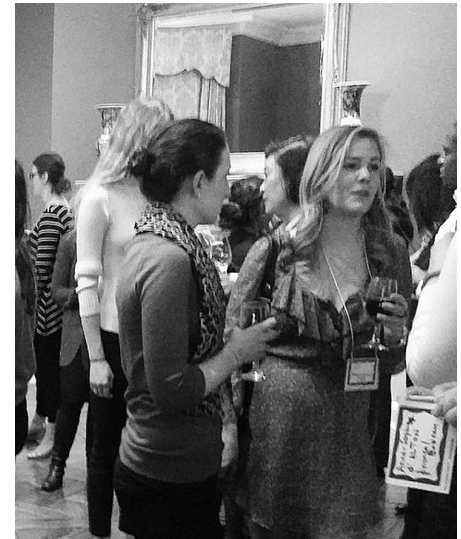
In early fall of 2015, the discussion on one Saturday for this workshop centered on Diabetes. The group had a very engaging discussion regarding early signs of the disease for which we should all watch, what to do when symptoms may arise, and what potential next steps are for dealing with the disease. Though Diabetes is a serious topic, the HAFOP participants were happy to be a part of the discussion and share personal, endearing stories of friends and family who live with the disease. It is in these portions of the discussion that CHAMP volunteers and the HAFOP community have come to grow a wonderful personal connection. One HAFOP participant has been living with Type II Diabetes for almost a decade and appreciated the opportunity to share her experiences with her HAFOP friends who otherwise did not know of her lifestyle limitations or wealth of knowledge in the area. Keeping the mood light and conversational, this HAFOP member had the group laughing with stories of the great and not-so-good sugar free delicacies from the area's bakeries.

For CHAMP volunteers, leading or supporting the HAFOP workshops has become a cherished part of NYJL volunteering. The clients who attend the workshops are enriching their lives by learning about the science and signs of health and CHAMP volunteers learn valuable life lessons from this group of seniors. The HAFOP community is never shy to offer a mantra, notion, or bit of encouragement for the upcoming week while they have a younger ear held captive. It is in these human moments, often resulting in a good chuckle or a sweet smile, which make for a delightful connection between the ages in this group. Without such a dynamic, the workshops couldn't be as effective or memorable, both for this senior community or the NYJL volunteers.

### Steps to Success Helps Immigrants Live the Dream

Over the past two years, the collaboration between NYJL Steps to Success committee and the English-Speaking Union (ESU) has grown broader and deeper. The partnership began with the idea of hosting eight lecture-style workshops throughout the year and now boasts a ten-part mentorship each semester during which the volunteers work closely with their clients to help them gain confidence and proficiency in career skills. Interest from the ESU clients has also increased—volunteers now mentor up to 20 individuals per workshop.

Many success stories have emerged as a direct result of the Steps to Success-ESU partnership. During the last workshop series, NYJL volunteers mentored a recent immigrant from Tunisia, where he had been an author and a professor. Upon moving to the United States, he met with difficulty transitioning into



Steps to Success members network with English Speaking Union clients. Photo: Rachel Spence

a world in which he was unfamiliar. He came to ESU with no idea on where to begin his search, stressed and worried about how he would support himself in his new country. The man diligently attended each session, participated actively, and asked many curious questions. Under the mentorship of the women of Steps to Success, he reformatted his resume to present his experience more strategically and became more comfortable with networking, something strictly forbidden in his native culture. He learned to humbly but effectively present his skills and experience and, as the series progressed, he began to open up and let his warm and engaging personality shine. He even created his own personal business cards with which to network. When the series was complete, ESU was happy to report the man had accepted a teaching position at New York University. Steps to Success is just as happy to know that he is able to share his gift of writing with other aspiring authors.

The Steps to Success committee volunteers see their work as an adventure and continue to be inspired by these success stories as they work to positively impact the community with the ESU.

## We're Sleeping Outside So Homeless Kids Don't Have to

On March 18, volunteers of the Rights of Passage at Covenant House committee will sleep on the sidewalk in Hell's Kitchen outside of Covenant House New York as participants in the Young Professional's Sleep Out to support homeless youth. Covenant House is the largest privately-funded agency in the Americas providing food, shelter, immediate crisis care, and essential services to homeless youth in 27 cities throughout the US, Canada, and Latin America.

Rights of Passage volunteers weekly at Covenant House, working with homeless youth ages 16 to 22 to help drive self-empowerment and help along their path to independent living. Volunteers show a true passion for their partner's mission as they serve on the Covenant House New York Associate Board and participate in fundraising efforts including the Covenant House Sleep Out: Young Professional Edition and New York City Half Marathon, jointly known as the "Covenant Challenge."

Last year, five committee volun-

teers (Kelly Edwards, Molly O'Connor, Caroline Peck, Kristine Shoemaker, and Lauren Vitale) participated in the Sleep Out, raising over \$11,000 for Covenant House. New York City Sleep Out participants together raised \$478,000 in the largest Sleep Out in Covenant House history, with 280 participants. It was also the first in history with snow!

One NYJL volunteer warmly remembers that cold evening:

Before taking our bags to the streets, we participated in intimate breakout sessions with the Covenant House youth—we heard about their courageous journeys and traded questions. We glimpsed the personal impact of the Covenant House, saw the light that it sparks in homeless youth when they speak of how their lives have changed, and heard the sincere gratitude of the kids to the staff for the dependable community, education, and resources. Support that was previously lacking inspires these kids to move forward and define their own futures to lead successful, independent lives. In the breakout session, a former resident and 2015 Sleep Out participant shared what Covenant House meant to her: "When I came to Covenant House ten years ago, I put homelessness behind me. This is where I found out what love really is."

The experience gave us a small taste of the challenges that homeless youth face, and further reinforced the importance of the support we provide.

The same night, Sleep Outs were also taking place in Anchorage, Atlanta, Fort Lauderdale, Los Angeles, and Philadelphia. Specifically in New York City, participants and donors helped to fund the Workforce Development Program, which, at a cost of about \$1,000 per student, helps kids transition into employment. The efforts of the 2015 Sleep Out impacted 478 homeless teenagers, young adults, and single mothers and their children's lives for the better.

This year, eight Rights of Passage volunteers will join the Sleep Out team. Five volunteers will also run the New York City Half Marathon two days after they Sleep Out in support of homeless youth.

**The Sleep Out:** Young Professional's Edition is Friday, March 18, 2016, and the New York City Half Marathon is Sunday, March 20, 2016. To learn more about the work of the Rights of Passage at Covenant House please email [rightsofpassage@nyjl.org](mailto:rightsofpassage@nyjl.org).

## PIP's 25th Anniversary

*(continued from page 1)*

We hope that you will help PIP continue its tradition of refurbishing New York City parks and celebrate its 25th anniversary by joining the committee during one of its nine park days this spring! In addition to volunteering in the park, you can support PIP through the "Adopt-a-Bench" program. Your tax-deductible donation will support projects within the park and a plaque with a personalized inscription will be installed on a park bench. If you are interested in adopting a bench, or making another donation to help further PIP's efforts this spring, please contact the Playground Improvement Project Committee at [playground@nyjl.org](mailto:playground@nyjl.org).



East River Shelter Workshop, March 12, 2015. Photo: Brook Christopher

# Meet the 2016 Outstanding Sustainers and Outstanding Volunteers

## OUTSTANDING SUSTAINERS

### *Celeste D. Rault*



Since transferring to the New York Junior League from Houston in 1986, Celeste has held roles as a museum docent on the National Academy of Design committee, an archivist serving as Chair of the Archives committee, and a fundraiser as a member of the Centennial committee and the co-chair of the 2014-2015 Sustainer Annual Fund team.

Celeste is currently a vice-chair on the Sustainer Daytime committee. She finds this to be one of her most rewarding experiences and enjoys seeing the energy that her fellow Sustainers still have for the NYJL and the committee. "We all look back," Celeste says, "and know we made a difference in someone's life and at the same time, made lifetime friends at the NYJL."

As a result of her experiences at the NYJL, Celeste has also taken on leadership roles with the Neighborhood Coalition for Shelter, NYC Parents in Action, Winston Prep School, and the Buckley School Parents Committee. Both of Celeste's daughters, Christine and Catherine, were NYJL College-Age Provisionals and Christine is currently a volunteer on the Done in a Day committee.

### *Elizabeth A. Smith*



Elizabeth's advice to her fellow volunteers is to do what it takes to make time in your life to give back and to not be afraid to care. For over 25 years, she has been following her own advice. She has taught English to recent immigrants, helped to create a resource handbook for families of those suffering from

Alzheimer's Disease, co-chaired the committee responsible for developing the NYJL's Centennial Exhibit at the Museum of the City of New York, served as the Treasurer on the former Board of Managers as well as a Director at Large on the current Board of Directors. Currently, Elizabeth is a member of the Financial Advisory committee.

The experiences that Elizabeth has had at the NYJL have also gone on to help shape her other volunteer commitments as well. She is a Trinity College Parent Director, volunteers on the Benefit Committees for Search and Care and Her Justice, where she is also a corporate partner, is the former Assistant Treasurer for the Colonial Dames and is active with the Church of the Heavenly Rest. Professionally, she is a Partner at Baker Hostetler, a law firm. Her daughter, Hollis, was a College-Age Provisional.

## OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEERS

### *Charlene Chuang*



Charlene recommends the NYJL to women who want to "challenge themselves in developing relationships, making an impact, and deepening their personal growth," and since joining the NYJL in 2006 she has done all three. Charlene has co-chaired the Milbank/Pelham-Fritz, Da Vinci Explorers, and New Beginnings committees, and sat on the Nominating Committee and the Active Annual Fund team. Currently, Charlene sits on the 115th Anniversary Planning committee and is on the Management Council as the Adult Education & Mentoring Council Head. In 2012, Charlene was recognized as an NYJL Woman to Watch.

Charlene appreciates the NYJL for offering her "a wide range of experiences and opportunities in a capsule period" which she has been able to apply to her work with other organizations as well. She is very active within her alma mater, MIT, and currently serves on the Alumni Association Board of Directors among a number of other roles.

Professionally, Charlene is a consultant, helping organizations drive forth their missions by crafting and applying the frameworks of thinking that they need.



## *Courtney Morris Guzman*



Courtney's proudest accomplishment within the NYJL is "fostering an environment where volunteers are able to shine and fully express their incredible talent." Courtney has volunteered on the Nonprofit Boards Clearinghouse committee, serving as Treasurer and co-chair, sat on the Board of Directors Strategic Planning committee and the Training and Leadership Task Force and served as the Training Council Head on the Management Council. Currently, Courtney is the Membership Senior Council Head on the Management Council, overseeing the Training, Volunteer Development, and Sustainer Councils. Under her leadership, Nonprofit Boards Clearinghouse was selected as a 2012 Committee of the Year, and in 2013 she was recognized as a Woman to Watch.

Through her experiences within the NYJL, Courtney has developed the confidence to step forward and become a leader within other organizations that she is involved with as well. She is on the Board of Trustees for Dancing Classrooms, is a Group Leader with the Power of 10 Women's Diversity Group at Banc of America Leasing, and does Pro Bono Consulting for Rational Animal. Professionally, she is a Vice President at Bank of America.

---

## *Caroline Gordon Organisciak*



Caroline considers the NYJL to be a "well-oiled machine that makes a tangible difference in the lives of our constituents, while also training volunteers to become better, stronger versions of themselves in their career paths." Since joining the NYJL in 2006, Caroline has been an important

addition to that machine, chairing multiple committees including the Playground Improvement Project committee, the Community Improvement Project committee, for which she was one of the inaugural co-chairs, and the Community Program Research committee, which she currently Chairs. During the inaugural year of the Community Improvement Project, it was selected as a 2013 Committee of the Year.

Caroline has also been able to apply the skills that she has learned through the NYJL to other areas of her life as well. She often references her favorite VTL on public speaking in both her professional and expanded volunteer life, and the events that she has been involved with through the NYJL have helped her to become a better networker as well. She is a volunteer with the University of Pennsylvania's "Penn Fund" as well as a mentor through the Jay H. Baker Wharton Retail Center. Professionally, Caroline is the Vice President of Sales for the G-III Apparel Corporation - for women's brands Kensie and G.H. Bass.

## *Sarah Thorpe Tanner*



If Sarah could offer her fellow volunteers one message, it would be that "we focus on being sure that we continue to live Mary Harriman's vision and evolve with our community's needs." For over ten years, Sarah has continued to live Mary's vision, training new volunteers as a Provisional Group Leader, selecting the NYJL's leadership as a member of the Nominating committee, and helping to plan for the NYJL's future as a member of the Strategic Planning committee. Currently, Sarah sits on the Board of Directors as the Treasurer and is the chair of the Finance committee. She is also the chair of the Food & Beverage committee. In 2007, Sarah was selected as a Woman to Watch. That same year, the Finance committee won Committee of the Year under her leadership.

Sarah credits the NYJL for helping her to define her leadership style following in the footsteps of so many smart, engaged and collaborative women. She applies that style professionally as the Marketing Media Director at ESPN and in volunteer work with Disney VoluntEARS and her alma mater, Colgate University.

---

## *Kara Suzanne Van Norden*



Wanting to make a difference in the community and connect with other dedicated volunteers, Kara joined the NYJL in 2005. Since then, she has emerged as a skilled and collaborative leader in both the community and training areas. Kara first joined the Senior Friends committee, which provides companionship to the elderly, and eventually advanced to co-chair. Her efforts were recognized with a Woman to Watch award in 2008. Next she mentored children while co-chairing the TutorTime committee. In 2011, she was elected to serve on the Nominating committee.

Turning her talents to the training area, Kara served in vice chair roles on the Nonprofit Boards Clearinghouse committee. Currently, she is the Training Council Head on the Management Council, where she oversees committees devoted to creating future nonprofit leaders both at the NYJL and in the greater New York City area. This year she is also a member of the NYJL's 115th Anniversary Planning committee.

Beyond the NYJL, Kara has been actively involved in the First Presbyterian Church since 2003, from co-moderator on the Board of Deacons to chair of the 300th Anniversary celebration subcommittee. Currently, she is also the community drives co-chair for the St. Thomas More Playgroup in Manhattan.