

NYJL MINUTE

September/October 2014

Annual Meeting Celebrates A Successful Year at the NYJL

On June 5, volunteers gathered at All Souls Church for the 2013-2014 Annual Meeting, presided over by NYJL President Fiona Grant Small. Volunteers received an update on the highlights and progress of the 2012-2015 strategic planning goals, including the announcement that the NYJL Annual Fund had raised an unprecedented \$130,000.

During the awards portion of the evening, the following were named our 2013-2014 Committees of the Year: Da Vinci Explorers and Steps to Success (Community) and Forum for Nonprofits (Support). The following 10 women were honored for their extraordinary contributions to the NYJL: Sustainers Service Award honorees: Julie Horner and Deni Wendt, and Women to Watch: Jill Annitto, Sara Burke, Karen Laudeman, Meredith Hultman, Contessa Officer, Jessica Redding, Diana Spurgat, and Jennifer Wiese.



Women to Watch 2013-2014: Pres. Fiona Grant with Sara Burke, Diana Spurgat, Jennifer Wiese, Karen Laudeman, and Exec. VP, Suzanne Manning. Photo by Kaeisha O'Neal.

WHAT'S INSIDE

- PIP Ribbon Cutting
- Meet the NYJL Leadership Team
- Thank You Annual Fund Donors



SAVE THE DATE

HOMECOMING

The NYJL kicks off the 2014-2015 volunteer year at our annual Homecoming fundraiser on Friday, October 10 from 7:30-11:30 p.m. at the Astor House. To purchase tickets, visit www.nyjl.org.

Two Inaugural Corporate Sponsors Announced for 2014-15

Diversification of revenue sources is a major objective of the NYJL's Board of Directors' strategic plan. With that goal in mind, the Board Development committee is focused on creating a corporate sponsorship program to secure partners who align with our mission and commitment to community service.

We welcome two inaugural corporate sponsors for the 2014-15 volunteer year. The first of which is Brooks Brothers. On October 24 Brooks Brothers will host the Fall House Tour kick-off reception at their flagship store at 346 Madison Avenue. Brooks Brothers will also host an NYJL Shops! event in the spring.

Village Obstetrics is a boutique obstetrics practice specializing in high-risk pregnancies. Their partnership will tie into Fall House Tour, plus they will deliver an Affiliation and VTL co-sponsored training on October 6 focused on women's health
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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 of and leadership of trained volunteers. Its purpose is exclusively educational and charitable.

Stacey Lawrence Lee
President

Suzanne Manning
Executive Vice President

Cynthia Irons
Support Senior Council Head

Kathleen O'Leary
Internal Communications Council Head

Lauren Goodwin
Communications Associate

Audrey Beerman, Patricia Daughn,
Jennifer Farrell
Internal Communications Associates

Please send submissions for the
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to publications@nyjl.org by
September 15.

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nyjl.org

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT



Dear NYJL Volunteers,

I hope you all had a terrific summer and welcome you back to what is shaping up to be an incredibly exciting year for the NYJL. I enjoyed a wonderful family vacation to the Galapagos where we learned that so much goes on behind the scenes before the evidence of evolution becomes apparent to us. The same can be said for the upcoming year at the NYJL, which will show us the evidence of all the hard work and planning that has been done by Boards and Management Councils and committees over the past several years.

If you joined us over the summer for one of our terrific tapas nights, you enjoyed the evolution of our Food and Beverage service led by Chef John Donnelly and Events & Headquarters Manager Christine Moncrief. Our beautiful townhouse is normally closed during July and August and this first foray into remaining open was very well received. John and Christine's efforts are now extending to a complete renovation of our beloved pantry which will result in expanded menus and improved service to our volunteers. Be sure to stop by to see the pantry's new look and enjoy their new offerings.

The pantry isn't the only renovation underway at our treasured headquarters. Thanks to the Garden subcommittee of our Headquarters Beautification Task Force, we will all be able to enjoy the benefits of a beautifully redesigned garden by this time next year. Frances Root and her incredible team of experienced gardeners will work in partnership with The Horticultural Society to refashion the garden into a lovely, more usable space to benefit us all. The Horticultural Society (or "The Hort", as it is affectionately known) provides educational and social services programs whose objectives are closely aligned with our own. Their Apple Seed and Green Tween education programs teach plant science and nutrition to public school children. Their GreenHouse program uses horticultural training and therapy to help Rikers Island inmates redirect their lives while their GreenTeam program provides vocational training and transitional employment for GreenHouse graduates and other underemployed adults. I can't wait to see the results of this promising partnership!

Our new venture with The Hort is not the only exciting partnership for the NYJL. We're so pleased to announce our two inaugural corporate sponsors for the 2014-2015 volunteer year. Our Development committee has put so much effort into helping the NYJL make strides to diversify our revenue and the onboarding of Brooks Brothers and Village Obstetrics as our first corporate sponsors is a brilliant achievement. You can read more about these exciting and mutually beneficial relationships in this issue of the Minute. We're also taking the opportunity in this issue to thank our Annual Fund team along with our generous and dedicated donors for helping us raise over \$130,000. This is a truly incredible accomplishment and my heartfelt gratitude goes out to each and every one of you.

Our makeover is not limited to our physical space. In the near future we will all realize the benefits of a redesigned website and new POS system. A huge thanks to our Communications Task Force and Food and Beverage committee for their extraordinary work to push these initiatives forward.

All of these accomplishments are the results of volunteers' diligent work to execute against our strategic plan and this is literally a pivotal year for us in that regard. This is the final year of our 2012-2015 strategic plan and, concurrently, the first year of our 2015-2018 strategic plan. Under the leadership of Board of Directors member Gale Kroeger and co-chair Allison Kellogg, we will both conclude and launch strategic plans during this year. It's a thrilling time if you're a list geek like me who gets a charge out of checking things off your considerable to-do list as well as creating new lists of executables to move you ahead towards a better tomorrow.

We couldn't do any of these things if it wasn't for our devoted staff. We are so lucky to have this talented group of people to keep the business side of the Junior League humming along, and I am delighted to have former NYJL President and longtime volunteer Diann Rohde at the helm as interim COO to help us navigate through this critical year in our evolution.

I hope to see you all at Homecoming on October 10 to welcome you back and toast to a very promising volunteer year!

Stacey Lawrence Lee

Calendar

Visit the calendar on the Membership Area of nyjl.org for additional event information.

SEPTEMBER

1 Monday

Labor Day, NYJL closed

6 Saturday

Affiliation Run Club, 9:00 a.m.

9 Tuesday

Pine Room, Dining Room, and Pantry service resumes

Daytime Book Group, 12:30–2:00 p.m.

11 Thursday

August/September Birthday Lunch, 12:00 p.m.

Intermediate Bridge Class, 11:15 a.m.–1:15 p.m.

Advanced Bridge Class, 1:30–3:30 p.m.

16 Tuesday

Mah Jong Class, 10:00 a.m.

Duplicate Bridge, 1:00 p.m.*

*Optional lunch beforehand, 12:15 p.m.

17 Wednesday

Career Networking, 12:30–2:00 p.m.

Intermediate Bridge Class, 11:15 a.m.–1:15 p.m.

Advanced Bridge Class, 1:30–3:30 p.m.

Sustainer Fall Cocktail Reception, 6:30–8:30 p.m.

Evening Book Group, 6:30–8:30 p.m.

18 Thursday

Advanced Beginner Bridge Class, 1:00–3:00 p.m.

23 Tuesday

Mah Jong Class, 10:00 a.m.

Nonfiction Book Group, 6:30 p.m.

24 Wednesday

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

Intermediate Bridge Class, 11:15 a.m.–1:15 p.m.

Advanced Bridge Class, 1:30–3:30 p.m.

25 Thursday

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

30 Tuesday

Mah Jong Class, 10:00 a.m.

OCTOBER

1 Wednesday

Intermediate Bridge Class, 11:15 a.m.–1:15 p.m.

Advanced Bridge Class, 1:30–3:30 p.m.

The Salon “Theater Talk,” 6:30 p.m.

2 Thursday

Advanced Beginner Bridge Class, 1:00–3:00 p.m.

Thirsty Thursday – Meet the Board of Directors and Management Council, 7:00–9:00 p.m.

4 Saturday

Affiliation Run Club, 9:00 a.m.

7 Tuesday

Mah Jong Class, 10:00 a.m.

8 Wednesday

Barnes Foundation Trip, 8:00 a.m.

Intermediate Bridge Class, 11:15 a.m.–1:15 p.m.

Advanced Bridge Class, 1:30–3:30 p.m.

9 Thursday

Philharmonic Rehearsal and Lunch, 9:30 a.m.

Travel Talk, 12:30 p.m.

Advanced Beginner Bridge Class, 1:00–3:00 p.m.

Metropolitan Museum of Art Lecture: French Painting from Delacroix to Courbet, 11:00 a.m.

10 Friday

Homecoming, 7:30–11:00 p.m.

14 Tuesday

Daytime Book Group, 12:30–2:00 p.m.

15 Wednesday

Intermediate Bridge Class, 11:15 a.m.–1:15 p.m.

Career Networking, 12:30–2:00 p.m.

Advanced Bridge Class, 1:30–3:30 p.m.

Evening Book Group, 6:30–8:30 p.m.

16 Thursday

Lecture Luncheon, 11:30 a.m.–2:00 p.m.

18 Saturday

Brunch & Figaro: Live in HD, Brunch 11:00 a.m.,
Opera 12:55 p.m.

21 Tuesday

October Birthday Lunch, 12:00 p.m.

22 Wednesday

Intermediate Bridge Class, 11:15 a.m.–1:15 p.m.

Advanced Bridge Class, 1:30–3:30 p.m.

Evening Lecture, 6:30 p.m.

Nonfiction Book Group, 12:30 p.m.

23 Thursday

Advanced Beginner Bridge Class, 1:00–3:00 p.m.

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

24 Friday

Fall House Tour – Kick-Off Party, 7:00 p.m.

25 Saturday

Fall House Tour, 10:00 a.m.

27 Monday

Duplicate Bridge, 1:00 p.m.*

*Optional lunch beforehand, 12:15 p.m.

28 Tuesday

Daytime Great Decisions, 11:00 a.m.

Intermediate Bridge Class, 11:15 a.m.–1:15 p.m.

Advanced Bridge Class, 1:30–3:30 p.m.

‘Lil’ Goblins Halloween Ball, 4:00–6:30 p.m.

29 Wednesday

Salon “I Love Italy,” 12:30 p.m.

Advanced Beginner Bridge Class, 1:00–3:00 p.m.

Sustainers

Sustainers Recognized for Service to NYJL

Congratulations to Julie Horner and Denise ("Deni") Wendt who received the Sustainer Service Award at the Annual Meeting on June 5. The award recognizes Sustainers who go above and beyond in their volunteer service to the NYJL. Over the years, Julie has successfully created and executed several Sustainer-sponsored programs including the Daytime and Nonfiction Book Groups, Metropolitan Museum lectures, Great Decisions, and Performing Arts Plus. Her efforts in Sustainer programming have been invaluable in promoting Sustainer participation at the NYJL that also attracts attendance by Active and Provisional volunteers. Deni, whose recent efforts have focused on behalf of both the Thanksgiving Eve Ball and Annual Fund, was instrumental in guiding both committees to not only meet but exceed expectations and position both committees as vital and enduring revenue streams for the NYJL. We look forward to Julie and Deni continuing to volunteer their time and efforts to our organization.

Welcome New Sustainers

Stephanie Bruckner	Justine Oddo
Mary Cooper	Kimberley LaMarque
Barbara Fabiani	Orman
Victoria Freedman	Janice E. Seymour
Emily Hayes	Mary Shelton
Joan Heath	Kathleen Stoddard
Nanette Heide	Drucker
Helen Jones	Jaime Tashjian
Susan Lewis	Jephtha Tausig
Elizabeth Markey	Heidi Thompson
Teresa McLaughlin	Randa R. Trivisonno
Patricia Miranda	Marguerite Viklund
Deborah Montgomery	Susan Whitman

In Memoriam

Patricia Munro Risher
July 14, 2014



Dear NYJL Volunteers,

Welcome back to another exciting and fun-filled year at the NYJL. This year you will notice some physical changes at Headquarters. As the Food & Beverage service prepares for its re-launch, several enhancements have been made in the Pantry. The summer food and beverage offerings during the *Passport to Summer* program were delicious. Chef John is planning more delectable offerings and dining choices this fiscal year.

At the spring Sustainer reception, *Passport to Summer*, immediate past president Fiona Grant Small announced that the donations made to the Linda J. Blatz Memorial Fund will be used to renovate and beautify the garden. Our beloved friend and fellow volunteer, Linda Blatz, would be so pleased that the Fund is being allocated to improve our garden area.

The Sustainer programs this year will provide you with a selection of wonderful events to attend. Our first event is the fall Sustainer reception, *Autumn in New York – A Season for Giving*, which will be held on September 17. In an effort to help our community partners, Mott Haven Academy and PS 64, we will be collecting school supplies to donate to these two community partners. We encourage attendees to participate in this worthwhile endeavor. All Sustainer events are open to the entire membership.

The lectures in October and November feature Alexander Vreeland speaking about his book, *Diana Vreeland Memos: The Vogue Years* on October 16; Apparel designer Nina McLemore speaking on Executive Presence on October 22; and Author Diana Oswald speaking about her book *Debutantes: When Glamour was Born* on November 13. These lectures are expected to sell out and I encourage you to register early via www.nyjl.org.

I am looking forward to welcoming you back to the NYJL and I hope to see you at the Sustainer fall reception on September 17.

With warm regards,

Jeannie Egas-Trouveroy

Sustainer Chair and Council Head for Sustainers

Closing Out the Year in Style

A beautiful warm evening set the stage on June 4 for the Sustainer Spring Reception, *Passport to Summer*. The sold-out event, attended by both Actives and Sustainers, featured delectable hors d'oeuvres created by Chef John, lovely floral decorations, and piano music by Ron Gold. During the course of the evening, President Fiona Grant Small announced that the donations made to the Linda J. Blatz Memorial Fund will be used to renovate and beautify the NYJL's gardens. Congratulations to the Sustainer Evening committee on a fun-filled evening.



Sustainer Spring Reception - Edward Blatz, Mrs. Edward (Anne Marie) Blatz, Elizabeth Blatz, Jeannie Trouveroy, Fiona Grant Small, Diann Rohde, Susan Blatz, Edward Blatz, Jr. Photo by Brook Christopher.

PIP Returns Tompkins Square Park Back to the Community

On June 7, the Playground Improvement Project (PIP) returned its 23rd annual project, a renovated Tompkins Square Park, to the community. NYJL President Fiona Grant Small led the ribbon cutting ceremony and was joined by distinguished speakers including City Councilwoman Rosie Mendez, Manhattan Borough Commissioner of the NYC Department of Parks and Recreation William T. Castro, and PS 64 Principal Marlon Hosang.



Pres. Fiona Grant addressing the audience at PIP Tompkins Square Park, Ribbon Cutting, June 7, 2014. Photo by Sandra Yencho.

Throughout five spring weekends, the NYJL's PIP committee teamed up with nearly 1,000 volunteers, including NYJL volunteers, NYC Department of Parks and Recreation employees, PS64 students and leadership, corporate sponsors, service organizations, neighborhood residents, and children. Together, they revitalized Tompkins Square Park and created a beautiful and educational play space by cleaning, painting, gardening, and landscaping the much-beloved playground and park area.

Of special note is the mural created in the playground area by the students in the NYJL's community committee, Project Muse at PS64. The students' artistic inspiration and creativity led to the bright and colorful mural that will grace the park for years to come.

The NYJL and PIP also purchased a dozen BigBelly Solar units for the park. These state of the art, solar panel trash receptacles will help to minimize staff hours, keep litter and pests at a minimum, and increase cleanliness in the park.

More than \$100,000 and close to 10,000 volunteer hours were contributed to ensure the success of this year's PIP. For more than 20 years, the NYJL has helped transform Manhattan's playgrounds and parks. PIP and other NYJL community projects are funded through the proceeds of our special events such as Fall Fête. For more information about how the NYJL's fundraising activities support our work in the community, visit nyjl.org.

Corporate Sponsors

(continued from page 1)

and pregnancy, and the NYJL will welcome Village Obstetrics doctors and clients at a Playground Improvement Project day in the spring.

"These are just the first of a number of strategic corporate sponsorships we hope to forge in the months and years to come," says Board Development committee Co-Chair Barbara Paddock. "I encourage all NYJL volunteers who have relationships with companies that might be a good fit with the NYJL to reach out to the Development committee or Development Manager, Regan Huneycutt, to start a conversation."

16th Annual Fall Fête

On Saturday, November 8 from 7:00–11:00 p.m., the FUNdraisers committee will host its 16th annual Fall Fête at the Colony Club to raise vital funding for NYJL community projects including this year's Playground Improvement Project. The evening will feature the announcement of our Outstanding Sustainers and Volunteers, and attendees will also have the opportunity to purchase park benches with name plaques.



Fall Fête "The Gilded Age" at the Colony Club, held on November 9, 2013.

Reconnect with friends at this cocktail-attire event, filled with exciting live and silent auctions, delicious appetizers, refreshments, and dancing. Nearly 350 NYJL volunteers, their guests, and other NYC men and women attended the glittering event last year. Auction items from last year included a private shopping party at Theory, and tickets to the 2014 Barclays golf tournament.

General admission and VIP tickets are available. VIP tickets include a private cocktail reception and gift bag, giving early access to the evening's festivities. For more information and to purchase tickets please visit www.nyjl.org.

MEET THE 2014-2015 NYJL LEADERSHIP

The New York Junior League is governed by volunteers who serve on the Board of Directors and Management Council. The Board of Directors is responsible for determining and implementing long-range strategic planning and fiduciary oversight. The Management Council is charged with managing the day-to-day volunteer operations of the NYJL. The Nominating committee slates all members of the Board of Directors, who are voted on by the NYJL membership at the Annual Meeting. Each member of the Management Council is slated by the Nominating committee and voted on by the Board of Directors.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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Executive Vice President



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Cynthia Vitari
Director At Large



Derval Whelan
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MANAGEMENT COUNCIL



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Serra Eken
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Courtney Guzman
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Jeannie Egas-Trouveroy
Sustainer Council Head



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Adult Education & Mentoring Council Head



Kara Van Norden
Training Council Head



Leah Wenger
Affiliation Council Head



Dana Wolf
Finance Council Head

Volunteer Development Council
Head to be announced.

Thank you Annual Fund donors

More than 955 individuals generously donated to the 2013-2014 NYJL Annual Fund, exceeding the \$130,000 campaign goal and raising a record-breaking \$132,649 with 36% of the membership participating. In addition, 18 committees accomplished 100% participation in the campaign, six more than last year! Many thanks to the Board of Directors, Communications Task Force, Da Vinci Explorers, Development, Food & Beverage Task Force, Forum for Non-Profits, Girls Leadership Institute, Governance, Headquarters Beautification Task Force, Management Council, Nominating, Non-Profit Boards Clearinghouse, Performance of a Lifetime, Placement, Steps to Success, Sustainer committee, Sustainer Nominating committee and Training & Leadership Task Force. Thank you to all donors who contributed to the Annual Fund this year!

Annual Fund Astor Angels \$1,000+

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John and Dayna Cassidy
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Annual Fund Leadership Circle \$500-\$999

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NYJL Develops Nonprofit Leadership

The Nonprofit Boards Clearinghouse committee is excited to announce course dates for its five-night fall course. Participants gain competence and confidence in board leadership skills through workshops on topics that include board roles and responsibilities, monitoring financial policies, understanding legal responsibilities of board members, and developing strategic plans. The course includes a Q&A session with current nonprofit executive directors and a networking event with members from NPBC's extensive roster of nonprofit organizations in the NYC area. Each course participant is assigned a volunteer advisor to facilitate a potential board placement. "The NYJL Nonprofit Clearinghouse course is unique as it trains present and potential board members to understand their duties, gain insight into the workings of a nonprofit and help find pathways to advancing the organization's mission," says Diann Rohde, former NYJL President, former AJLI Board Member, and NPBC course presenter. "To have trained board members is a gift to a nonprofit and to making the New York City community stronger." The course will be held at the NYJL on Tuesday evenings from 7:00-9:00 p.m. on October 21, 28, November 4, 11, and 18. The course is \$300 for NYJL volunteers and \$325 for the general public. Please visit nyjl.org for more information.