

LIGHTS

A Publication of the Junior League of Pittsburgh, Inc.

Final Report: 2007 Show House Marks Historic Level Of Achievement



The Junior League of Pittsburgh's 2007 Show House Committee extends a heartfelt "thank you" to the League and friends for your generous support of our 18th Designers' Show House - *Elegance on Beechwood*.

Because of your assistance, the 2007 Show House netted more than \$122,000 – our most profitable ever! We now find ourselves in the position of being able to not only pay for our third playground build but

also of supporting additional projects consistent with our mission.

The 2009 Show House Research Committee is kicking off its search at this year's Pittsburgh Home and Garden Show, beginning March 7. Please contact Research Chairs Jenny Danquist, jennynshowhouse@gmail.com or Carol Gomrick, carolgomrick@comcast.net, for more details.

By Kim Kisner and Christie Smith, 2007 Show House Co-Chairs

Training Opportunities Offer Sound Investment Of Your Time



Are you making solid financial investments? Want to become more familiar with the JLP's legacy projects? Need help formulating your 60-second elevator commercial? These and many more questions could be answered in February-April 2008 when you attend at least one of your required League trainings. Here's a peek at the first:

February 13, 2008 GMM

Please plan to attend the February GMM on 2/13/08 where Judy Eakin, HEARTH's Executive Director, will speak to us about homelessness in Allegheny County and how HEARTH is helping homeless women with children learn to be independent and economically self-sufficient.

In 1991, the JLP, in conjunction with other organizations, formed North Hills Affordable Housing to ad-

dress the issue of homelessness in the northern suburbs. This was a JLP project until 1998. North Hills Affordable Housing would later become known as HEARTH.

HEARTH stands for Homelessness End with Advocacy, Resources, Training and Housing. Its mission is to provide services that empowers families to become independent, self-sufficient and adequately housed. HEARTH's Benedictine Place offers transitional housing for women with as many as four children in furnished apartments. This year, HEARTH announced plans to extend the continuum of care with Benet Woods, the first permanent affordable family housing development in Northern Allegheny County

By Sara Lowery and Kim Kisner

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Greetings And Congrats To Our Extended JLP Family

New arrivals are powering a Junior League of Pittsburgh baby boom, which is continuing on into 2008! During the past year and into the present, members are adding to their family one (and two!) babes at a time. Read more on page two.



Office of the President

Happy New Year



Martha A. Wiegand
President
2007-2008

As we head into the second half of the Junior League year, it is a great time both to reflect upon the past and to look forward to the future.

So far this League year we have built a new playground, celebrated our 85th anniversary, relocated our headquarters, and continued the rich tradition of the Wear After Shop, member recruitment, Annual Appeal and our Done in A Day work. We have also been hard at work researching, developing and planning new fundraisers. The November teas allowed us to gain valuable member feedback in a setting that mixed both active and sustaining members. Volunteer and social opportunities for both actives and sustainers were abundant and the JLP's monthly happy hour has enjoyed great attendance.

What's on deck? This spring will include a focus on a variety of training opportunities for our members:

- CADC will be extremely active with our grant and scholarship program

- the Board is focusing on implementation of the November teas' feedback
- the next playground build is in the planning stages
- and fund development will be swinging into high gear on a number of new fundraisers.

Of course, volunteer and social opportunities will continue along with the Wear After Shop, member recruitment and DIAD work. Nominating is working hard to fill next year's Board and Chair positions, and placement is gearing up for the April Placement Fair.

If you are interested in getting involved with any of the above committees or activities, please contact me or any Board member.

Looking forward to a great second half of the JLP year!

Martha

By Martha A. Wiegand, JLP President, 2007-2008

Greetings And Congrats To Our Extended JLP Family

☞ Christin Pintar and her husband welcomed a baby girl, Madeleine Paulette on January 30th, 2007.

☞ Sara Bellisario met her second child Roman Stephen at 4:26 a.m. on March 18th. Roman weighed 8 lbs., 4 oz. and was 21.5 inches long. He joins Dad Leonard and big brother Dominic at home in Wexford.

☞ Kristen Fawcett greeted baby John David Rock on April 16th. John was born at 9:30 p.m. and weighed nine pounds. Kristen says while her older son Jason looks exactly like his Dad with dark hair and dark eyes – new baby John is a mirror-image of blonde-haired, blue-eyed Kristen.

☞ Lorraine Marks added to her family, welcoming Hayden James on the evening of December 26th – a week late and as Lorraine said, “On Boxing Day for the British!” Hayden weighed 8 lbs., 5 oz and was 19.5 inches long. He joined father Dan, and big sisters Alice and Olivia in Aspinwall. Hayden just had his one-month doctor's appointment, and now checks in at 11 lbs., 12 oz and 23 ¼” – a BIG growth spurt!

☞ Brooke McMorrow now has two beautiful little boys – Fletcher James & Harrison Beares arrived to greet the New Year - on January 1st, 2008. Fletcher was born at 6:33 a.m., weighing in at 4 lbs., 14 oz. and Harrison arrived two minutes later – his weight 5 lbs., 2 oz.

Brooke reports that she and husband Pete were hoping the twins would come on New Year's Eve so they could enjoy a tax credit. But, as the couple watched TV that night, they laughed that the boys weren't coming anytime soon. Brooke resolved to pack her hospital bag the next day so that she'd be ready when the boys were. She had no idea how quickly that would happen!

“At about 2:10 a.m. on one of my 20 nightly trips to the bathroom, my water broke. I couldn't believe how coincidental it was that they decided to wait until after the ball dropped to arrive and I didn't have my bag packed!”

The twins arrived five weeks early, and Brooke calls herself and her husband the, “happiest parents alive.”

Although the McMorrrows didn't get the honor of the first

(Continued on page 6)



Placement: More Than A Requirement. The Value Of Participation.

There's Plenty of Time To Fulfill Your Requirements!

Hard to believe -- we still have four General Membership Meetings remaining in our League year. Dates and details for GMMs are listed at the end of this article. Please note that each of the next three meetings will feature a training component.

A helpful reminder list that active members are required to attend one training session, the Placement Fair in April and the annual meeting in May.



In addition, DIADs, a KaBOOM! shift or appropriate makeup, a Wear After Shop (WAS) shift and a quota of \$100 are requirements for active members. You may check online for available WAS shifts or contact the store directly if you would like to complete a shift during daytime hours.

It is possible to make up attendance to a GMM with a DIAD or WAS Shift. Please make sure your advisor knows if you are making up a GMM.

One of the Placement Committee's goals this League year is to have no shift buyouts. Please do your part and complete your JLP requirements. You're putting our mission into action when you do!

REMANING GMMs:

February 13th: Training Offered

March 12th: Training Offered

April 9th: Placement Fair. **REQUIRED.**
Training Offered

May 28th: Annual Meeting. **REQUIRED**

By Christie Smith

One of the Placement Committee's goals this League year is to have no shift buyouts. Please do your part and complete your JLP requirements. You're putting our mission into action when you do!

From DIAD: Your Contributions Are Making A Difference

The DIAD committee thanks the members who have completed their 2007-2008 DIAD requirement. A total of eighty-four individual DIAD commitments were completed by our members, with several members volunteering more than once. Thanks to your efforts, the Junior League of Pittsburgh has been able to reach out into the community to provide many meaningful service hours to local organizations with the goal of building a better Pittsburgh.

Since June 2007, members have volunteered at DIAD events including the LETA Build, Airport Chamber of Commerce Wine Tasting, Cystic Fibrosis Foundation Wine Fundraiser, Sister's Place Crushed Grapes Fundraiser, Flu Shot Clinic, North Hills Community Outreach Yard Work Project, Variety Annual Gala, Old Economy Village Project, Manchester Bidwell Greenhouse Project, Pittsburgh Zoo Polar Lights Event, and the Carnegie Science Center Braincake Project.

Multiple spring DIAD events will be available for those members who have not yet completed the DIAD requirement. Selected DIAD events this spring will be designated as KaBOOM! makeup events for those members who were unable to volunteer at the KaBOOM! playground build last fall.

An upcoming DIAD that may pique your interest:

UPMC Canterbury in Lawrenceville is holding a wedding-themed Valentine's Day Party for its senior residents.

Volunteers are needed during the party to help with food and games on Valentine's Day, Feb. 14 from 1 PM-4 PM. Volunteers for the party are invited to wear old bridesmaid's dresses to go with the theme.

Please email Allison Grotjan at allison.grotjan@gmail.com if you're interested.

By Allison Grotjan and Reshma Paranjpe, DIAD Committee Co-chairs

AJLI Undertakes Scenario Planning Initiative

The following is an article about the AJLI Board of Directors' Scenario Planning initiative.

As League leaders learned at this past year's Fall Leadership Conference, the AJLI Board of Directors has launched a long-term strategic initiative called "Scenario Planning."

The initiative is designed to help us anticipate how The Junior League will continue to thrive 10-20 years from now. The Scenario Planning process examines the influences and changes to the world around us and combines that information with what we want our organization to be and what we acknowledge to be our organizational core competencies.

The AJLI Board is working with the world-renowned consulting firm, Global Business Network (GBN), which is headquartered in San Francisco. Their work began at the June 2007 Board Meeting and will be completed over a 9-12 month timeframe. GBN began with a review of the internal research data gathered over the past 18 months, as well as an overview of major external trends that could impact our organization. These included the implications of aging Baby Boomers and the emergence of Generation Y, currently people 10 – 28 years old, who will form our future membership.

The Scenario Planning process has enabled the Board to think about possible, different futures, where women view volunteering in different ways and where the definition of 'community' may be changing. Rapid advances in technology have been central to the conversations, as well as women's employment, as it impacts every aspect of our organization's future.

Thus far, the Scenario Planning work has enabled the Board to broaden their awareness of the environment that Junior Leagues must thrive in and provided a venue for the Board to have significant conversations about a future of growing membership, meaningful community work and broad recognition of The Junior League as the organization that can lead systemic change. The Board will keep Leagues informed of its progress and seek input from members through AJLI Conferences and Governance visits. At the recent Fall Leadership Conference, the Board also engaged League leaders in an exciting conversation about the changes in volunteering which leaders are seeing in their communities.

The Board anticipates three main outcomes of the Scenario Planning process:

- A long-range strategy for the organization
- An organization better equipped to be flexible and responsive to change
- AJLI will be a "learning organization"

Scenario Planning will ultimately help us learn what steps we should take to help realize our Mission in the years to come. With the help of this initiative, AJLI won't just be looking to the future, we'll be ready to meet it head-on!



The Scenario Planning process examines the influences and changes to the world around us and combines that information with what we want our organization to be...

Correction:

Under the Emerging Leaders and Community Organizations (page 3 of November Lights), Claire Walker was honored for work with the Pittsburgh Child Guidance Foundation and not Ruthie King.

Sustainers: Let's Stay Connected

Dear JLP Sustainers:

I hope this issue of Lights finds you well and staying warm. These past two months are my least favorite months in Pittsburgh, but recent articles in the newspaper about gardening and tomatoes hearten me. Spring can't be too far off!

When I am stuck indoors over these winter months, I like to reconnect with friends via e-mail or phone. For those of you who have internet access, there is an easy way to get phone numbers and e-mail addresses of Junior League friends. Just go to the JLP website at www.jlpgh.org and click on "Member Login" at the top, right hand corner of the screen. Next, enter your username and password, and then click on "Member Directory" at the top, left hand corner of the screen. Finally, enter in the first and last name of the JLP member who you wish to contact and click on "Search Directory." The member profile of the JLP member who you wish to contact will appear. Member profiles contain addresses, phone numbers and e-mail addresses for sustainer and active league members. A very easy way to stay connected with fellow league members!

If you wish to update your member profile, you can do that, too. Go to "My Profile," and click "Edit Profile." Make whatever change you wish and click "Submit Information." Your revised information will appear on the screen.

Best wishes for a Happy Valentine's Day!

Sincerely, Mary Kate Coleman, Sustainer Director

Congratulations!

Congratulations to sustainer Jean Thomas on the new addition to her family. William Henry Thomas was born on January 22nd. He was 8 pounds 6 ounces and 22 inches long. His 23-month-old big sister Emily is SOOOOO excited that the baby is finally here!



If you have any news that you would like to share with other sustainers, I would love to hear from you!

November Coffees Follow-Up Report

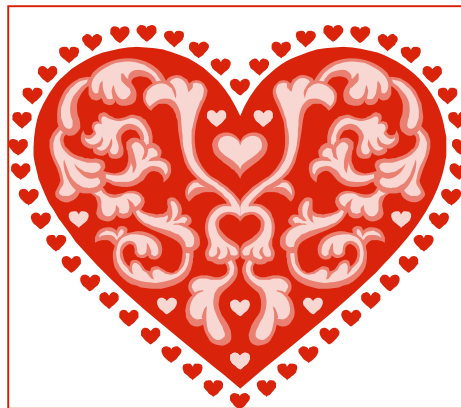
Many thanks to Jessica Lynch, Beth McCall, Suzy Golitko and Mary Adele Krolkowski for opening up their homes to the active members in November. The feedback from the meetings was overwhelmingly positive. Active members commented on how much they liked being able to meet in a setting that provided more one-on-one interaction than the GMMs provide. I also hosted a meeting and enjoyed the evening very much.

The format for the meetings was to discuss a series of questions dealing with JLP related issues. Prior to the meeting each Director prepared a question dealing with her area of responsibility. Each group went through the questions and discussed them while one member took notes, which were compiled and reviewed by the Board of Directors at its January retreat.

The feedback was very helpful to the Board. The notes from the group meetings contained many constructive suggestions that could easily be implemented to improve the JLP. Getting feedback from the active members also ensures that the Board has its finger on the pulse of the JLP. If you receive a call next year asking you to host a coffee, please consider saying "yes!"



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Insight & Perspectives

Get To Know...

Get to Know: Christina Keplinger



Christina Keplinger (left) and Jenn Tribble in the Dominican Republic. *Christina did not have a portrait photo handy.*

Christina moved to Pittsburgh in 2003 following law school.

Current Placement: Recruitment Chair, Membership Development

League Member Since: 2005

Hometown: Springfield, VA

Family Element: Holly, the “pink” cat!

Work?: Labor and Employment Defense Attorney at Eckert Seamans. I represent companies when their employees file a suit against them. Additionally, I counsel companies on aspects of the employment relationships.

Play?: Travel, reading, playing soccer and cooking. Although, don’t offer to help me make lasagna unless you like stirring for a minimum of 3 hours!

Favorite Vacation: 3-week jaunt through Nepal, India and Japan after passing the Bar exam.

If I could have dinner with one person, dead or alive, who would it be: Just One?!!!! Honestly, all 3 of my grandparents who are no longer living.

Why Join JLP?: To meet like-minded women in Pittsburgh and get more involved in the community.

If you could change one thing about the JLP, what would it be?: In actuality, there are quite a few things that I would like to see change. First and foremost, better coordination and communication between the committees would make a dramatic difference in the League experience ,as well as the impact that we collectively have in our community.

My favorite thing about the JLP: The super friends! The relationships and bonds that I have formed with the women in the League are, by far, the best part of being a member.

—By Michelle (Walter) Ziolkowski



If you have someone you think the League should get to know, please send her name to:
Michelle.Ziolkowski
@wachovia.com

Greetings And Congrats To Our Extended JLP Family

(Continued from page 2)

baby born at Magee Women’s Hospital – they were the first to deliver twins on New Year’s Day. Brooke quips, “Harrison is living up to the Hairy part of his name, being born with a full head of dark brown hair. Fletcher has a decent amount, but nothing like his brother!”

And the JLP baby boom continues - with actives:

Angie Cymbalak due February 11th

Nancy Dixon Davis due in June

Jenna Neal expecting in mid-June, and

Martha Wiegand awaiting her new arrival on July 14th (Bastille Day).

Two Provisional members are also expecting – Congratulations to Melissa Poloski and Ashley Comer-Romero and to all the new Moms!

Smash Comedy Hit Gets A Review

How do you feel about your vagina? In a series of in-your-face, groundbreaking interviews, Eve Ensler asked women from all walks of life to discuss their most sacred and private space. The result? *The Vagina Monologues*, presented this month by The City Theatre.

The setting is simple. Three women, the remarkable Erica Bradshaw, Holli Hamilton, and Laurie Klatscher, sit on stools in a relaxed atmosphere complete with cocktail tables and take turns relaying stories. The stories are compilations of the interviews conducted by Eve Ensler, and showcase both the delight and the horror of female sexuality. You cheer for the woman who learns to love her vagina, and in turn, herself, when a lover embraces the beauty and mystery of her vagina. You weep for the Bosnian woman raped repeatedly, whose life is shattered.

The commonality of the female experience is what binds us together as women. Topics such as “the hair down there”, looking at yourself in a mirror, orgasm and masturbation are all discussed with openness and humor. In one vignette aptly titled “The Flood” you hear about the elderly woman who had an ill-timed orgasm as an adolescent that repressed her sexuality for the rest of her life, notwithstanding occasional racy dreams about Burt Reynolds.

Looking around the room, seeing women of all ages, all colors and all backgrounds, laughing together and shaking their heads in both agreement and disbelief, leads to a sense of empowerment. What I loved most is that the show was not about men or man-bashing, or pushing down men to raise women up. It was about accepting yourself for who you are, every glorious, sometimes unknown and unexplored, part. Including your vagina. Yes, ladies I said the word.

'The Vagina Monologues'

Where: City Theatre, Hamburg Studio.

When: Through March 9; Tues. 7 p.m.;
Wed.-Fri. 8 p.m.; Sat. 5:30 and 9 p.m.; Sun. 2 p.m.

Tickets: \$35-\$40; City subscribers \$5 off; students \$15.

Also Dinner & a Show Thursdays,
Girls Night Out Fridays and Sound-Off Sundays.

More information: 412-431-2489
or citytheatrecompany.org.

By Shannon Voll



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About the Junior League of Pittsburgh



Women building better communities.

For more than 80 years, the Junior League of Pittsburgh has been the driving force behind the kinds of initiatives and institutions that make our community a healthier, more vital place to live.

Junior League members, reflecting a wide range of backgrounds, interests and professional pursuits work together to identify unmet needs, forge effective coalitions and work for change. Time and time again, the Junior League is among the first organizations to step up to the plate and tackle the community's biggest challenges.

Mission

We are an organization of women committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women and improving communities through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers.

Our purpose is exclusively educational and charitable. We reach out to women of all races, religions and national origins who demonstrate an interest in and commitment to voluntarism.

WOMEN leading
by **EXAMPLE**

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JUNIOR LEAGUE OF PITTSBURGH

Women building better communities

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