

# LIGHTS

A Publication of the Junior League of Pittsburgh, Inc.

## SAVE THE DATE

### November 9 General Membership Meeting

Social 6:30 PM  
Meeting 7 PM  
Location details: [www.jlpggh.org](http://www.jlpggh.org)

### November 19 A Day at Clay Café

4 PM, Sewickley  
Details on page 6

### December 11 Steelers Tailgate JLP Style

10 AM, Heinz Field  
Details on page 6

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## JLP Grant At Work for Womansplace

The JLP's focus area for small grants in the 2004-2005 League year was nonprofit organizations that assist victims of domestic violence and child abuse. One grant recipient was Womansplace, an organization that strives to end domestic violence through crisis intervention, prevention education, and direct services such as providing shelter, legal and medical assistance, and counseling.

Womansplace also conducts awareness training programs for various community organizations and groups, including police departments.

A JLP grant of \$3,000 was awarded to Womansplace to enhance training materials used

for these programs because updated information is critical to properly educate the public.

**W**omansplace recently published the following statistics for its organization for 2004-2005:

- 3,938 women who were victims of domestic violence received services
- 246 children received services
- 430 residents stayed in the Womansplace shelter
- 6,766.75 hours of counseling and advocacy services were provided to adults

- 1,235.50 hours of counseling and advocacy services were provided to children
- 57 programs were presented to community groups, with 4,316 people in attendance
- 33 programs were presented to schools, with 3,299 children in attendance

Womansplace provides valuable services to the Pittsburgh community and it is good to see that the JLP grant has been used to assist and educate such a large number of people.

—Michelle Smith, CADC Director

## JLP Participates in New Pittsburgh Collaborative Social Security Forum

As a member of the New Pittsburgh Collaborative, the JLP recently sent two delegates to participate in a September 27, 2005 Social Security forum sponsored by the collaborative and the American Association of Retired Persons.

Following brief opening remarks, JLP members Lynne Chadwick and Susan Wagner participated in a workgroup discussion regarding ten potential solvency models for Social Security. Prepared summaries were provided to forum attendees to encourage discussion

of the advantages and disadvantages of each solvency model. With a mix of young professionals and retirees present, debate was often spirited.

Some ideas for attaining Social Security solvency in the future included:

- raising the Social Security payroll tax by one-half percentage point (The tax currently is 12.4 percent of wages up to \$87,900, with workers and their employers each paying 6.2 percent.);

- raising minimum wages subject to the payroll tax from \$87,900 to \$140,000;
- including all newly hired state and local government workers in the Social Security system (Government employees currently participate in their own retirement plans.);
- gradually raising the age for collecting full retirement benefits to 70 (Current law sets this age at 66 or 67, depending

(Continued on page 4)

## Office of the President

### “Never Underestimate the Junior League”



**Lynne N. Chadwick**  
President  
2005-2006

*That morning at Schenley Park was not the first time a community member has marveled at the tenacity, organization, professionalism, and just plain hard work of JLP volunteers. Our Done in a Day Project Committee consistently receives glowing reports.*

On Saturday, September 24, a group of ten Junior League members volunteered for a Done In A Day project in Schenley Park to remove non-native invasive plants—or so we thought. When we arrived, Phil Gruszka of the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy told us that he had an exciting job for us.

A larger group of JLP volunteers, family, and friends worked with Phil in June to landscape the area surrounding the park’s Westinghouse Pond. That very muggy day, we planted and replanted some lovely trees and perennials, but more importantly, we spread fifteen yards of mulch—an entire dump truck! Based on this work, Phil wanted to find a sufficiently large job to keep us busy all morning. He took us to a ravine behind the park visitors’ center and pointed out the two hillsides on either side. One was covered in dirt, the other with boulders stacked to form a wall.

Phil explained that during recent work planting trees on the dirt-covered side, some volunteers realized that under the dirt, there was a matching wall of large rocks that he believed was constructed one-hundred years ago. Soon, JLP volunteers were uncovering rocks and removing dirt using shovels, trowels, and push brooms. Just when we thought we had reached the highest rock on the hillside, a volunteer would start moving dirt to find one higher. (Maris Bondi wins the award for Most Persistent Rock Finder.)

Excitement grew as we uncovered more and more of the century-old wall, finding artifacts such as marking chalk and copper piping along the way. By 12:30, we had uncovered the match to the wall on the other side of the ravine and moved an enormous amount of dirt. Phil looked up at the hillside, shook his head, smiled, and

said, “I should never underestimate the Junior League.”

That morning at Schenley Park was not the first time a community member has marveled at the tenacity, organization, professionalism, and just plain hard work of JLP volunteers. Our Done in a Day Project Committee consistently receives glowing reports about DIAD volunteers and many of you may remember the heartfelt thank you from Tom Sturgill for last spring’s provisional class project at Vintage Senior Center.

I would like to think that exceptional volunteers are a direct result of the training the JLP provides, but training alone cannot account for the praise that new members garner for the League. Maybe it’s a combination of things. Our Membership Development Committee does a fantastic job during recruiting events of conveying the level of commitment required from members. The committee’s efforts help bring some of the most committed female volunteers in Pittsburgh into the League.

Once in committee placements, members are encouraged to work as a team, but also to find roles that fit their talents and interests. A few years ago, I attended a DIAD at the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank. There were other community volunteers working that day, including a group from a local company. As we sorted, weighed, and boxed canned goods and cleaning sup-

plies, I realized that we were packing boxes at nearly twice the rate of the corporate group. After a little observation, I realized that it wasn’t that the other volunteers were lazy, it was that they were all doing every job, each person sorting, packing, weighing, and stacking. JLP volunteers, on the other hand, had quickly broken the task into specific roles, one volunteer sorting food products from non-food items, one packing, one weighing, and so on. When a volunteer became weary of her job, another would immediately offer to switch with her. We didn’t have a planning session to create this process, it just happened naturally.

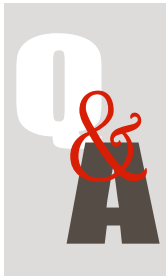
Although there is some mystery in what exactly makes JLP volunteers so special, it’s no secret in the Pittsburgh community that they are. So the next time you face a challenge in the League that seems insurmountable, remember, if JLP volunteers can clear a hillside, just maybe together we can move mountains.

— Lynne N. Chadwick  
President, 2005-2006

Editor’s Note: The September 24 DIAD recounted in this column was recognized in the Fall/Winter 2005 issue of “The Voice,” the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy’s newsletter. For more information about the League’s work at Westinghouse Pond, see the September 2005 issue of Lights and the “Photo Album” feature of the JLP website. For more information about the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy, visit [www.pittsburghparks.org](http://www.pittsburghparks.org). See page 4 for an upcoming DIAD.



**Liza Goldberg**  
(foreground) and  
**Maris Bondi** begin  
planting annuals near  
the pond.



**with Christine H. Farrell, Community Placement: Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix, Black Tie and Tailpipes Gala Chair**

**Q: Tell us a bit about your community placement.**

A: For the past three years I have served on the Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix Executive Committee and as gala chair for the Black Tie and Tailpipes. The Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix is a ten-day event occurring in July each year. We hold car shows, vintage car races, and of course, the black tie. The PVGP is in its twenty-fourth year benefiting Allegheny Valley School and The Autism Society of Pittsburgh. Please see [www.pittsburghvintagegrandprix.com](http://www.pittsburghvintagegrandprix.com) for more information.

**Q: What has been your biggest challenge as chair of the Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix gala?**



A: Our committee is such a fabulous group of hard-working women that our planning has gone remarkably well. Probably our biggest challenge is throwing a fantastic party under our budget, all while trying to raise top dollar for the PVGP charities.

**Q: How much time do you devote to the Vintage Grand Prix each year?**

A: I don't even want to count how many hours I devote each year to the PVGP.

**Q: How far in advance does Vintage Grand Prix gala planning occur?**

A: We take about two weeks off after the event and then start rolling again for the upcoming year. The PVGP Executive Committee meets monthly throughout the year.

**Q: What have you learned from your experiences with the Vintage Grand Prix that you'd offer as advice to fundraising event chairs in the League?**

A: Don't be afraid to ask—you might be surprised by the answer!

**Q: What is the most satisfying aspect of your involvement with the Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix?**

A: Spending time doing something worthwhile with good friends and in the end, presenting a big check to our charities is so rewarding.

**Q: What would you tell members who are thinking about a community placement?**

A: I have found it to be quite rewarding although you are somewhat removed from the current projects of the JLP.

**Q: Where did you grow up and attend school?**

A: I grew up in Fox Chapel and then graduated from Grove City College. I also spent a semester studying abroad through Semester at Sea and the University of Pittsburgh.

**Q: Tell us about your family and interests.**

A: My husband Greg and I just celebrated our 6<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We have a wonderful 19 month-old son, Daniel and are looking forward to welcoming our second child on or around January 20, 2006.

**Q: Who or what influenced you to dedicate time to volunteer efforts?**

A: Growing up my parents had me involved volunteer efforts, whether through our church or hospital. That has certainly carried through my life and continues on as Greg and I hope to pass those values on to our children.

**Q: What do you do professionally?**

A: Greg and I work together at Hefren-Tillotson. Greg is a Certified Financial Planner and I am a Certified Estate Advisor. We specialize in working to help married couples build, enjoy, and preserve financial independence.

**Q: How have your professional experiences shaped your volunteer work in the community?**

A: As a company, Hefren-Tillotson is very charitably inclined and many of our colleagues feel as strongly about volunteerism as Greg and I do.

**Q: Why did you join the Junior League?**

A: Six years ago, I had just moved back to Pittsburgh from Indianapolis, gotten married, and joined the Junior League to meet other like-minded women in Pittsburgh.

**Q: What makes you happy?**

A: Spending time with family and contributing in areas where I feel I am making a difference in the community.

**Q: What is your philosophy of life?**

A: "Don't just live the length of your life, live the width of it as well."—Diane Ackerman

— Editor's Note: Q&A is a regular feature of Lights during the 2005-2006 League year. To propose a subject for a future Q & A, e-mail [lisa.campoli@gmail.com](mailto:lisa.campoli@gmail.com).

## PE's Point of View



November is when we set aside time to give

thanks for what we have and for the people around us. Each JLP member takes time out of work, family, home and other parts of her life to carry out the JLP's mission.

I want to say a very special thanks to all of you. Thank you, provisionals, for confirming our work and having the desire to continue it. Thank you, actives, for the meetings, shifts, and all you do to keep the organization running. Thank you, sustainers, for giving the JLP its rich history and being such wonderful role models.

The JLP gives "THANKS."

- Trained women to lead the community
- Hope for improving the community
- Active members of the community
- Never-ending energy for the community
- Knowledge about the community
- Selfless commitment to the community

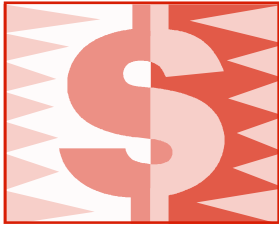
Thanks to each of you for acting on the League's mission.

— Linda Hartman  
President-Elect, 2005-2006

# Committee News

## Public Affairs: Pittsburgh Collaborative Social Security Forum

(Continued from page 1)



Under current law, Social Security funds may be invested only in securities backed by the federal government.

- on the year of one's birth.); and
- diversifying trust fund investments. (Under current law, Social Security funds may be invested only in securities backed by the federal government. Moving to a diversification model would permit the government to hire professional fund managers to invest fifteen percent of Social Security assets in the stock market.)

—Susan J. Wagner, Public Affairs Committee Chair

### LIGHTS POLL

Lights asked JLP members: "Do you expect Social Security benefits to be available to you when you retire?"

Marie Coleman, Placement Committee, responds:

Yes, I do believe some amount of social security will be available when I retire—how much is the question. If we privatize under President Bush's plan, I believe most people will be worse off. This issue is critically important—especially for women. We live longer and earn less over a lifetime so having a guaranteed safety net is important to me—and for many women it is their only means to live an independent life when they retire.

## Done In A Day Project: Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy in Schenley Park—Westinghouse Pond

Saturday, November 5, 2005, 9 AM to 12:30 PM

As a continuation of our relationship with the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy, we'll be spending the day doing a fall clean-up of the Westinghouse Pond area and planting cherry trees around the pond. The Junior League has "adopted" the pond for the 2005-2006 League year.



The Junior League "adopted" the Westinghouse Pond for the 2005-2006 League year. For more information about the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy, visit [www.pittsburghparks.org](http://www.pittsburghparks.org)

**Ideally, we need 20-25 volunteers to accomplish both of these tasks, so we encourage everyone to bring friends, family, and significant others!**

To volunteer, contact Denise Gove (Denise.Gove@pirates.com, 412-325-4765) or register via the JLP website calendar after logging in to the site as a member.

The deadline to volunteer is Thursday, November 3, 2005.



Jen Daurora sweeps the path surrounding Westinghouse Pond on June 11, 2005.

**Suggest Done In A Day projects for the 2005-2006 League year —e-mail [jlpgh.doneinaday@gmail.com](mailto:jlpgh.doneinaday@gmail.com).**

## Training: Member Volunteer Training Program Kicks Off

Trained volunteers are key to carrying out the JLP's mission. Accordingly, the Training Committee plans to continue to educate and expand members' knowledge of community needs, JLP internal structures, and personal/professional topics of interest to our community focus for the League year.

The 2005-2006 goals for the Training Committee:

- To develop and administer short training programs (**mini-trainings**) at general membership meetings on topics relating

to policies, procedures, and organizational and reporting structures within the League; and

- To develop and administer training programs (**requirement trainings**) that will offer the membership the opportunity to develop or acquire skills to become better volunteers and community leaders.

Active members are required to attend one **requirement training** per League year. There are

three requirement trainings scheduled this League year and each session will be 45 minutes.

Requirement trainings will be held after general membership meetings, as requested by members responding to last year's survey. The Training Committee asks members to review the training schedule and plan to attend a topic that would be of interest or on a date that will work best for your schedule.

—Danielle Boston, Training Committee Chair



*Trained volunteers are key to carrying out the JLP's mission. Accordingly, the Training Committee plans to continue to educate and expand members' knowledge of community needs.*

## November's Requirement Training—**Nonprofit 101**

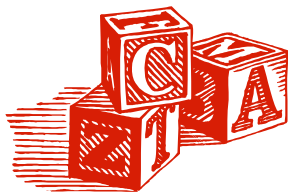
**T**he JLP fulfills its mission by partnering with nonprofit organizations. But what exactly does it mean to be a nonprofit? How can the JLP assess if a nonprofit will be a good place to donate time and money? How do nonprofits raise funds when JLP grants are over? To help you in your JLP work and beyond, learn more about nonprofit organizations and the foundations that fund them!

Please join Abby Sandel and Danielle Boston for Nonprofit 101 training on November 9, 2005.

General Membership Meeting Dates	Training Program Selected
November 9, 2005 (approx. 45 minutes)	Requirement Training #1 Nonprofit 101 Training
February 8, 2006 (approx. 45 min.)	Requirement Training #2 Health Topic or Self Defense
March 15, 2006 (approx. 15 min.)	Mini-Training Highlight JLP Committees
April 11, 2006 (approx. 45 min.)	Requirement Training #3 Sustainer Panel



## Committee News



"I am so impressed with the work these women are putting into this project. Please support them and the community by taking part in the project."

—Christie Smith, Provisional Training Chair

### Provisional Class "Secret Santa" Project Reaches Out to Pittsburgh

#### JLP Member Donations Critical To Project's Success

The Provisional Class is excited to launch its fall service project, Secret Santa. A committee of provisional members is hard at work but needs help from active and provisional members.

Last year's Secret Santa Project provided holiday gifts for sixty-five children from Woolslair Elementary School in Bloomfield. This year, the Secret Santa Committee is challenging active and sustaining League members to provide gifts for one hundred children in the Pittsburgh community.

In addition to children at Woolslair Elementary, girls and teens who participate in two nonprofits' programming will receive holiday gifts through Secret Santa. Teens attending the Providence Teen Program, currently funded by the JLP, at Providence Family Support Center in the Northside Marshall-Shadeland neighborhood will receive gifts through this provisional class project, as will girls who take part in Gwen's Girls programming. Gwen's Girls empowers girls ages eight to eighteen through gen-

der-specific programs and experiences. These children and teens will complete "wish lists" of their gift requests and information will then be posted to the members' section of the JLP website.

The Membership Development and Secret Santa Committees ask each JLP member to **support the provisional class project by purchasing a new unwrapped gift from the project wish list or making a monetary donation by cash or check. A \$25 donation will purchase one gift for a child or teen.**

To donate, look for the Secret Santa table at November's general membership meeting. Donations also are being accepted by mail. Contact Kathleen Madonna, chair of the project's donations subcommittee, at [madonnak@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:madonnak@andrew.cmu.edu) for more information.

Thank you for your help in making the holiday season a bit brighter for Pittsburgh area children and teens.

—Heidi Ziegler, Secret Santa Committee

### Special Events

#### JLP Happy Hours

Thursday, November 3 from 6-8 p.m. at Walnut Grill (5500 Walnut Street, Shadyside)

Thursday, December 15 from 6-8 p.m. at the Firehouse Lounge (2216 Penn Avenue, Strip District)

Take a break from your work week and join the JLP for a drink! Enjoy discounts on appetizers and drinks in the company of friends. No RSVP necessary.

#### JLP Day at the Clay Café

Saturday, November 19 at 4 p.m. at 431 Beaver Street, Sewickley

Paint-your-own pottery is much more than handprint plates. The Clay Café has fantastic ideas for coordinated coasters, sushi sets, wine carafes, and other gifts for grown-ups, too! If you don't feel like painting, bring your kids, and enjoy a glass of wine while they let their imaginations run wild. Enjoy a special JLP discount and a jumpstart on your holiday shopping.

Please RSVP with the number of adults and children by November 11.

#### JLP Steelers Tailgate Party

Sunday, December 11 at 10 a.m. in Heinz Field Parking Lot 1

Bring out your black & gold to cheer on the Steelers as they take on the Chicago Bears! Kickoff is at 1 p.m. and we'll do our own Super Bowl Shuffle before the game at the best tailgate in town! Bring a snack to share, paint your face, and get ready to scream for the Steelers! Please RSVP by December 7.

#### Winter Cocktail Party

Mark your calendars for the Junior League Winter Holiday Party on Saturday, January 28, 2006. Details to follow.



#### To RSVP to any JLP Special Event

Phone: 412.361.5698

E-mail:

[jlpsepcialevents@yahoo.com](mailto:jlpsepcialevents@yahoo.com).

## SUSTAINERS...And All That Jazz Delicious Presentation

JLP sustainers are cordially invited to a lecture given by Roland Mesnier, former White House Executive Pastry Chef, on Monday, November 21, 2005, at the Twentieth Century Club. Mr. Mesnier will share his experiences serving as dessert sorcerer to presidents, their families, and White House guests over the past twenty-five years. He will be selling and signing copies of his book "Dessert University" and sharing his recipes, as well.

Don't miss this "inside the beltway" scoop. The presentation promises to be entertaining, educational, and quietly delicious—without the calories! Following the 10 a.m. coffee and the lec-

ture, which begins promptly at 11 a.m., attendees will indulge themselves in a noontime repast.

The reservation deadline is Wednesday, November 16. Please send a \$26 check, payable to JLP, to Millie Ryan, 1380 Terrace Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15228, 412.344.4624. The fee covers the cost of the lecture and lunch. JLP sustainers who are Twentieth Century Club members are urged to request seating at the sustainer tables, if they wish, when calling the club to reserve places.

## Lights remaining submission deadlines

Don't miss your opportunity to provide insight and generate awareness about your committees' progress and successes.

ISSUE	DEADLINE
February 2006	January 13, 2006
March 2006	February 17
April 2006	March 17
June 2006	May 12

Please e-mail submissions to Lights Editor Chere Tiller, [ctiller@forus.com](mailto:ctiller@forus.com). Photos must be accompanied by caption information.

**The Lights and Communications Committees are particularly interested in receiving "perspective" and "opinion" pieces.**

### Paris for Rent

Stunning 1BR Left Bank Flat Available For Weekly Rental.  
Near Musee d'Orsay.

☞ Elegantly Appointed. Quiet. Elevator. Sleeps 4 ☜

For photos and information contact Wendy Crowley  
626.395.7877 or e-mail [davenportdad@earthlink.net](mailto:davenportdad@earthlink.net)

## 2005-2006 Leadership

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Linda Hartman

#### Secretary

Lorraine Marks

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Jane Terlion

#### Treasurer-Elect

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Cecile Usner

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Provisional Training: Christie Smith

Recruiting: Traci Nelson

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#### Placement

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Transfers: Christine Emanuelson

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Done In A Day: Kelly Nottingham

Providence Teen Program: Lisa Chilcote

Safety Kids Camp: Melissa Stewart

#### Strategic Development

Martha Wiegand

#### Sustainer

Millie Ryan

#### Reporting to President-Elect

Facilities: Adrienne English

## About the Junior League of Pittsburgh

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### **JUNIOR LEAGUE OF PITTSBURGH**

*Women building better communities*

#### **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.

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The Junior League of Pittsburgh  
1620 Murray Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15217  
412.422.8580

[info@jlpgh.org](mailto:info@jlpgh.org)  
[www.jlpgh.org](http://www.jlpgh.org)

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**W O M E N** leading  
by **E X A M P L E**