

THE LANTERN

May 2017

Volume 30, Issue 5

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Teen Summit Empowers Young Women





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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



As the 2016-17 League year wraps up, I can honestly say that I have never been more proud to be a member of the Junior League of Wilmington. Over the weekend of May 18-20, President-Elect Angela Gustavsen and I had the pleasure of attending the Association of Junior Leagues International (AJLI) 95th Annual Conference in Minneapolis. At Annual Conference, 517 delegates from 221 leagues came together for learning and celebrating the accomplishments of Leagues around the world. There are 292 Junior Leagues in the United States,

Canada, Mexico and the United Kingdom. Just this year, the 292nd Junior League, the Junior League of Greenville, NC, was welcomed to the Association. There are more than 150,000 women who call themselves members of The Junior League, which shows what an amazing organization we are all a part of.

At the opening ceremony, Leagues enter the ballroom in order by when they joined the association. A member since 1918, we were one of the first Leagues to enter the room, and I proudly carried our Delaware state flag! We are also the only League in the state of Delaware, which makes the work we do in our community even more important. During the opening ceremony, attendance is taken through roll call, which goes through each of the 292 Leagues and chronologically from they joined the Association. Leagues with special anniversaries are also celebrated, which got me even more pumped to celebrate our Centennial Anniversary in 2018. Hearing the work that Leagues across the world have done since the League's founding in 1901 by social activist Mary Harriman - and continue to do today - is inspiring, which is why membership in an organization such as the Junior League has more benefits than you can even imagine.

Throughout the conference, attendees had the opportunity to attend training sessions to help prepare them for the year ahead. Continuing as President of the Junior League of Wilmington for the next six months is an exciting endeavor, and the training I received at Annual Conference will help me make this the best League year for all of you. From sessions on two-year terms, building great mentoring programs, getting great publicity for a League, and better retention through better recruitment, to Keynote Speakers Cheryl Strayed (Author of *Wild: From Lost to Found on the Pacific Crest Trail*) and Marc H. Morial (President and CEO of the National Urban League), an AJLI conference offers only the best in training and brings out accomplished speakers to motivate League leaders.

The crowning moment of a great weekend happened on Saturday night, at the Awards Banquet and Celebration. In front of 600 people from Junior Leagues across the world, AJLI Board of Directors and staff, and even a Prince impersonator, the Junior League of Wilmington was awarded the Public Policy and Advocacy Award

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The Junior League of Wilmington is an organization of women committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women, and improving the community through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. Its purpose is exclusively educational and charitable.

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Teen Empowerment Summit Teaches Self-Confidence, Self-Love

"Self-confidence is a big one. Selfawareness, how to be a friend," said Susan Thomas-Holder, a long-time volunteer with the Choir School of Delaware, on what she hoped young women who attend the afterschool program would learn at the Junior League of Wilmington's Teen Empowerment Summit on April 29. Thomas-Holder did not stop there: getting along with children of other age groups, stepping up and being a mentor, how to seek out trusting adults were all on her list.

The girls were on the same page. One eighth-grader said she would learn more about how to handle difficult relationships, and another wanted to work on expressing her emotions.

On that very warm Saturday morning, 15 young women - ranging from 2nd through 10th grade, with most of the bunch in either 5th or 8th – filled two upstairs rooms at the The Episcopal Church of Sts. Andrew and Matthew in downtown Wilmington, where the Choir School of Delaware, an afterschool program offering musical instruction and mentorship, has its headquarters. First on the agenda was a late breakfast, which the girls enjoyed alongside several Choir School Volunteers, and its Director of Mentoring and Student Services, Chantal Whitehead, as well as several of the young women's guardians, mostly mothers and grandmothers.

Self-confidence coach and educator Taria Pritchett kicked off the Summit program with a Self-Love Quiz, which the girls filled out quietly. Pritchett noted that an important part of being a confident woman is being reflective about who you are. Following the quiz, Pritchett asked the girls how it made them feel.

"I feel really good about myself after I took this quiz," said one.

But another pointed out, "I realize that I act a lot more confident than I am."

Pritchett continued the session asking girls about celebrities they admire, touched upon the many pitfalls of social media, and asked the girls to circulate in the room, brainstorming their thoughts on several important aspects of tween and teen culture: Music, television, relationships, social media. "Confidence comes from within," Pritchett reminded the young women. "Not the media, not material things, not boys."

Pritchett gave each of the girls "Beyonce Bucks," a large pink bill with Beyonce's face on it, asking the girls to remember that, like money, they will always have value, and that no matter what, they will not lose that value. She challenged the girls to write positive affirmations on the bills, and review the affirmations each morning.

Next on the agenda, Junior League member Jessica Wescott shared a personal story of her own struggles, and of a teacher who had served as an important mentor to her. She advised the girls to find a mentor to guide them, and to hold them accountable, and wrapped up her talk by asking the young women to do a "power pose."

The final session of the afternoon was with Dr. Kesha Clarke, a licensed clinical psychologist and also a Junior League member. Clarke opened the session with an animated video that introduced several concepts in healthy relationships. She passed out posters with various relationship types written on them - friend, teacher, sibling, and more - and asked the girls to write the healthy qualities each relationship should include inside a figure drawn on the poster, as well as potential unhealthy qualities on the outside. The girls worked in groups, and soon the posters were full. Key takeways included that what is healthy in one type of relationship may not be in another, and that some things are unhealthy in any relationship, such as violence, bullying, abuse, self-absorption, and jealousy. Clarke finished her session telling the girls that ultimately, when it comes to bullying, "You need not to give the bully any power."

As the young women enjoyed lunch together after the Summit's formal program, they talked about their favorite parts of the presentations.

"Discussing friendships," said one. Another said she liked that Wescott had shared her own story and discussed seeking out people to help boost your confidence when you are feeling low.

One of the older girls said the most valuable part of the Summit, for her, had been stepping outside of her comfort zone and thinking about how to express herself in a way she normally would not.

"I want our choristers to feel empowered and special. I want them to feel like they can conquer any challenge that comes their way. One way to do that is to have programs like this one that invite the girls, their parents, and our volunteers and staff to celebrate how great it is to be a girl," said Whitehead, prior to the Summit, not-ing that it is crucial to create a climate that fosters open and comfortable communication to address the concerns that young women face.

Congratulations to the Community Impact Committee on an excellent inaugural Teen Empowerment Summit!

Taria Pritchett is a confidence coach who realized her passion for empowering women after graduating college. Shortly thereafter, she started a women's empowerment blog and in April 2017, Taria published her first book *Born Fierce: How to Unleash the Confident Woman Within.*

Q: Tell us about your book Born Fierce and what it means to Unleash Your Fierce.

R: You can't Unleash Your fierce until you remember you were Born Fierce which is really you fully stepping into your power. The book focuses on 3 components: 1. Honoring your calling (Who am I, Whose am I, Why am I here, Who am I here to share my life with), 2. Forgiving your past (yourself and others), and 3. Falling in love with yourself which includes the 12 tenets of self-love and a self-assessment to identify areas of self-improvement that will lead to self-empowerment.



Q: Why is empowerment among young and older women important to our growth and development both professionally and personally?

R: We tend to carry our baggage and sometimes people allow their issues to become their identity. It is important as a little girl to get that support from a mentor, a role model, or a workshop to provide guidance and direction to help prevent patterns of negative behavior. It is important to learn these skills as a little girl so that you learn to handle issues as a young and adult woman. When you have an understanding of empowerment you become a vessel of love and light and a success that people can look up to and emulate. Therefore, by empowering yourself, you are empowering others around you.

Q: What are your top tips for a woman to empower herself?

R: Every woman should have a confidence routine that she engages in at least once a day as a source of positivity and encouragement. A confidence routine can include journaling, prayer, daily devotional, reviewing your vision board and reflecting on your goals. Taria's short confidence routine is a morning prayer.

How to Contact Taria Pritchett:

Facebook and Instagram: @unleashfierce Youtube: Unleash Your Fierce Book Available at: Amazon.com, BarnesandNoble.com, or <u>http://www.unleashyourfierce.com/</u>

TEEN SUMMIT



Sustaining Emeritus Members Recognized at Granogue Cocktail Party on May 13

Rain, fog, and mist did not deter from enjoying once again the Sustainer Cocktail Party at Granogue. We are so thankful for the gracious hospitality of Barbara and Brip duPont as they opened their lovely home to 208 Members and Guests.

This year, we honored our Sustainer Emeritus members (80+ years young) and those who have been faithful members of the Junior League for more than 50 years. We were so delighted that 18 of these women were able to be at the party.

We have 87 members (nearly a third of all Sustainers) who are in the category of Sustainer Emeritus or have been a member for more than 50 years. It is a testament to our organization to have such a loyal and faithful group!



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DAPI Family Portraits!

Just in time for Mothers Day, the JLW coordinated portrait events for the moms and children served by DAPI and Bayard House. The young women had professional photos taken and made keepsake inspirational frames for them.







SUSTAINER PROFILE Nancy Wells

by Lisa Magnuson



A lovely afternoon was spent getting to know Nancy Wells at her apartment at Crosslands. Nancy, a former President of the Junior League of Wilmington from 1959-60 (then Mrs. W. Coleman Edgar) was born in Wilmington, Delaware and attended elementary school at Tower Hill and high school at Friends. Nancy's early life was an active one – she loved tennis and horses. She also had a strong interest in flying and airplanes. At age 18, Nancy was invited to join the Junior League of Wilmington and has been a member ever since – 75 years! She described her Provisional training as interesting and worthwhile and upon completion she was asked to serve on several community boards.

After graduating from Friends in 1941, Nancy spent her freshman year at Mills College in Oakland, CA. When the United States entered World War II, she left Mills and enrolled at the Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Miami, FL. After completing her flight training, she was set to travel to Texas to qualify to become a WASP (Women Auxiliary Service Pilot), the first group of women trained to fly American military aircraft. However, before she left, the US Government decided to discontinue the program. Still determined to be in the air and contribute to the war effort, Nancy joined the Navy and served as a flight orderly. She served for two years until 1946 on military flights traveling from Miami to Newfoundland and from the West Coast to Hawaii.

Following her service in the Navy, Nancy attended the University of Delaware and the College of William and Mary majoring in English Literature. When Nancy returned to Wilmington, she married Coleman Edgar, General Manager of the International Department at Hercules. The couple had two children, as well as a son from Nancy's first marriage.

Nancy served as Treasurer of the Junior League of Wilmington before serving as Vice President/ President Elect. Nancy says that being Vice President/President Elect is a very important experience as you are training for the "top job." She appreciated how well these placements prepared her for the role of President. As President Elect, she flew to Victoria, British Columbia to attend training offered by the Association of Jr. Leagues of America. For women of her generation who did not have today's career options, the League provided an opportunity to develop skills and assume leadership roles in the community.

Halfway through Nancy's term as President (1959-1960), her husband was transferred to California which meant that she had to step down as President. Several years later, her husband's job took them to Brussels. Living in Belgium for two years proved to be a wonderful experience for the family. After they returned to the US, Nancy became even more involved in the community. She chaired the Wilmington Flower Market when it marked its fiftieth anniversary in 1970; served as Chairman of the Delaware Arthritis Foundation; became a member on the Board of the Grand Opera House, chairing the Inaugural Concerts of the Philadelphia Orchestra under Eugene Ormandy; and in 1987, she cochaired the presidential campaign in Delaware for George H. W. Bush.

The following year was not an easy one for Nancy. She and her husband were preparing to move to Cartmel in Kennett Square when Coleman suddenly passed away. She went ahead with the move to Pennsylvania on her own. Not long after that, a friend called and asked if she would serve on the board of the National Defense University at Fort McNair in Washington, DC. Despite some reservations, she said yes and soon found herself the sole woman on a board composed mostly of military brass and corporate leaders. She ended up serving ten years and worked alongside many accomplished people including, Colin Powell. At nearly the same time, she was asked to serve on the board of the Kennedy Center – another opportunity that she was reluctant to accept but proved to be a fascinating experience. With both boards meeting in Washington, Nancy drove to DC on a regular basis and thoroughly enjoyed serving on these prestigious boards.

In 1994, she married longtime friend and fellow Cartmel resident, Judson Wells. Jud shared her interest in community service and together the couple led a very full life. Jud has since passed away and Nancy continues to enjoy a close relationship with his six children. Nancy moved to Crosslands two years ago and has been very happy living there. Now 93, she recently gave up driving but still stays active and enjoys getting together with close friends in Wilmington.

Nancy has led a fascinating life and this author feels as though she only has provided a small fraction about Nancy and her experiences. We thank her for her time, dedication and service to the Junior League, and to our country!

A special thank you to Carla Westerman, who suggested Nancy for the Sustainer Spotlight.

A Look Into Our Past

From the Junior League of Wilmington archives now stored at the University of Delaware Special Collections the following information was obtained about the era that Nancy Wells (Mrs. W. Coleman Edgar) served as President.

During the years that Nancy was serving as President Elect (while Barbara duPont was President) and as President, the League was involved in many community activities. Members performed a puppet show for school children, "Nestor & the Alligator" while the newly named, "Night Placement" organized ice skating with the Girl's Club, sewing & movies at the Florence Crittendon Home, group activities at the Ferris School and tutoring at the Children's Home.

Thirty League members were regular weekly volunteers at the Wilmington Senior Center, with many othcontributing ers time. At that time, the Senior Center had on average 60 daily attendees with 275 active members. During the 1958-1959 term, some of the social events included a Boat Ride. Tea Dance. and a Ball. The Tea Dance at Vicmead Hunt Club



on February 2, 1959 was \$3.00 per couple!

Transfers to the League were welcome to events that included coffees, luncheons and cocktails. As well, efforts were made to ensure new transfers were picked up and driven to the first meeting (or two) by other members. What a lovely & welcoming touch!

Around this time, a Past Presidents' Luncheon was established; after much success it was decided that this would be a tradition to continue every few years. "Who can be more interested and of greater help to our League than our past Presidents?" (Quote from the Board Minutes)

When Nancy (Mrs. W. Coleman Edgar) gave her notice to resign as President because of her husband's job relocation, Mrs. Willard E. Henderer II, as President Elect stepped up to become President and complete Nancy's term before serving her full term as President. Minutes from the December 16, 1959 Board Meeting thanked Mrs. Edgar for her service and presented her with a gold disc in recognition of her work.

Interviewing Nancy Henderer (Mrs. Willard E. Henderer II) would have been a wonderful segue for the next Lantern. We were saddened to learn that Nancy Henderer passed away on February 13, 2017 at Cokesbury Village in Hockessin at the age of 96. The Junior League of Wilmington was just one of many local organizations that Nancy Henderer devoted her time.

Please contact Lisa Magnuson at 18magli@gmail.com or 302.494.7013 for Sustainer Spotlight suggestions!

A Mother—Daughter Profile Sustainer Emeritus Faith Greeley & Sustainer Susan Greeley Abelson

By Lisa Magnuson

What better time to profile these two Sustainers than springtime? As a Sustainer, and I am sure I am not alone in this thought of associating spring with the excited anticipation of the elegant cocktail party at Granogue.

By the time you read this, we will have enjoyed another cocktail party at the beautiful home of Barbara and Brip du Pont. They have very graciously opened their home to the Junior League of Wilmington Sustainers and friends for this annual event for so many continuous years.

What you may not know is that Faith, and then Faith and Susan, flawlessly planned for more than 20 years so many of these Granogue cocktail parties that we have all enjoyed!

Faith is a native of Greenville, Delaware and when it came time to go to college she first attended Lasell Junior College in Newton, MA (near Boston) and then decided to continue her education away from the northeast in warm and sunny Arizona. (She said that it was time for a change!)

Faith met her husband Peter of 59 years at Buckley's Tavern. Many locals will be familiar with Greeley Real Estate which they started in 1977. All three of their daughters (Susan, Laura & Karen) at one time or another were involved with Greeley Real Estate. Today, daughter Laura, remains in the real estate business. Susan says she tried it for two years and it just wasn't for her! More about Susan later.

On joining the Junior League of Wilmington, Faith says her good friend and neighbor, Trish Stapleton proposed Faith to become a member. Faith held off joining for a couple of years as she was raising three young daughters and already involved with volunteer work in the local community, including the Memorial Hospital Junior Board. As so many of her friends were already members, she decided to become a member in 1967.

Faith fondly remembers "Scarlet Ribbon Days" (sponsored by the Junior League of Wilmington) held at the John Wanamaker store (now the location of the corporate headquarters of Incyte). Junior League of Wilmington members organized this day-

long event at Wanamaker's that included puppet shows, games, food and *The Scarlet Ribbons* singers. Faith recalls picking up Sally Starr & Lorenzo at the Wilmington Train Station and bringing



them to her home before their performance at the Scarlet Ribbon Day. Those of you who didn't grow up locally or in the 1950's and 1960's may not be familiar with "Our Gal Sal" – a local television star who had a morning children's program for many years. Faith says that this type of event was for the all of the community to enjoy and really was wonderful exposure for the Junior League of Wilmington!

Faith was also a guide at Winterthur as were many of the members of the Junior League of Wilmington. She was assigned to guide and speak about the infamous "Montmorenci Staircase," the largest free standing spiral staircase!

She recalls the wonderful Junior League Pot Luck suppers held at the home of members where as many as 40 would arrive with delicious food to share. She wishes that this tradition would be started again.

New transfers to the League were treated to dinner parties and cocktail parties often hosted by Faith, and included not only League members but other friends as well to give the new transfers a true introduction to their new community. What a wonderful tradition!

In Faith's spare time she gave talks on the art of outlet shopping – where, what and how! In addition, she was a mystery shopper, a food and restaurant critic for over 40 years! In addition to all of this she published a cookbook, *A Collection of Favorite Recipes* in 2005 with a collection of family favorite recipes. These cookbooks were sold locally, and specifically at daughter Laura's shop Rags to Riches.

Faith served on the Sustainer Committee until very recently and last year served on the Showhouse Committee.

Susan says that growing up she remembers a lot of mailings and often helped her mother with these mailings. She was exposed to the Junior League from an early age so it was only natural that when she was around 23 that her mother suggested that she consider joining the League! Susan said that at the time she became a member she was working part time and that it was "pre-kids" and a perfect time to join.

Growing up in Greenville, Susan attended A.I. duPont High School and is the middle sister. Summers were spent in Maine while other family vacations included the Pacific, Europe, Nova Scotia, Fiji and the Caribbean islands.

Susan met her husband Jeremy in Wilmington and they will be married for 24 years in October and is busy raising their children, Cullen age 17 and Charlotte 14. As youngsters they often attended Sustainer Committee Meetings with Susan! She works at Winterthur as a Garden Guide, Driving the Tram!

Susan worked on the Ronald McDonald House Committee and enjoyed that experience very much. She recalls traveling to Baltimore to visit the Ronald McDonald House to observe how it operated so she could report back to our League. Both Susan and Faith sold raffle tickets at the LPGA Tournaments at the DuPont Country Club – in the days that the Junior League raffled off a car to support the Ronald McDonald House.

As a Sustainer, Susan has been a member of the Sustainer Committee since 2002 and has organized many events in addition to the parties at Granogue including bus trips, conservation tours at Longwood and Winterthur.

Additionally, Susan represented the Junior League of Wilmington Sustainers at the Annual Conference in New Orleans in 2005.

Faith and Susan represent a segment of Sustainers that just keep on giving, doing, participating and advising. Together they have such wonderful history to share of their experiences in and out of the League. Thank you!



Shofuso – by Allison Brokaw

On a beautiful, sunny day in May, Sustainers and their guests traveled to West Fairmont Park in Philadelphia to tour The Japanese House and Garden known as "Shofuso," meaning "Pine Breeze Villa." The house was built using 17th century construction techniques in Nagoya, Japan in 1953, and was first on display at the Museum of Modern Art in New York in 1954. In 1958, the house was relocated to its current site in Philadelphia.

The tour began with a request to remove shoes at the front door. The group was guided in stocking feet through different structures showing life in Japan. Highlights included contemporary mural paintings, hanging on sliding paper doors, titled *Waterfall* by artist Hiroshi Senju. The roof was also most impressive with its amazing detail and craftsmanship made of rare, hinoki cypress bark, and in a tiny room with low ceilings, the group learned about a Japanese formal tea ceremony while sitting cross-legged on tatami mats.

From the house veranda, the group viewed three magnificent 17th century-style Japanese gardens, all with azaleas in full bloom. The gardens included a traditional tea garden, winding paths, waterfalls, statues and a stone pagoda. The group enjoyed watching the large, brightly colored koi (carp) swimming in the ponds and were fascinated to learn about "rain chains," used on urban-style Japanese homes, which function similarly to our traditional down spouts.

Following the one-hour tour, the group gathered at the new B2 Bluefin Restaurant in Bala Cynwyd and enjoyed a sampling of Japanese sushi, miso soup, salads and hot meals in a private dining room.

Sustainers enjoyed a delightful spring day sharing this new experience while meeting new friends.

for its work to advocate for Erin's Law in Delaware. Erin's Law mandates age-appropriate sexual abuse education in publicly funded schools. Delaware was the 28th state to pass the law last summer following the advocacy efforts of our League. The presenter of our award noted that Senator Margaret Rose Henry, Governor Jack Markell, and Erin Merryn all gave full credit to our League for getting the law passed! Accepting the award on behalf of the League and the task force members who advocated for introduction and passage of the bill was one of my proudest moments as a Junior League of Wilmington member.

I can only hope to lead the Junior League of Wilmington to the same level of success and accomplishment as we enter our Centennial Anniversary in 2018!!

Sincerely, Stephanie Anaw

Stephanie Graev

SLATE OF LEADERSHIP 2017-2018

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