

THE LANTERN

Spring 2017

Volume 30, Issue 4

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President's Message



As the 2016-17 League year starts to wrap up, I can't help but be proud of the way our membership continues to grow, and with the amazing women that have joined the Junior League of Wilmington this League year. I am in awe, not only our newest members, but of our entire membership, and the diversity and experience that the women in this organization bring. I have had many opportunities over the last few months to connect with members in a way

that I haven't experienced in previous years, and I hope that all of you will seize some opportunities to connect with your fellow League members.

As a member of the Member Interview team the last two years, I have had the chance to sit down and have a conversation with members that I have not previously had the chance to connect with. In addition, being a mentor for two Provisionals this year has afforded me the opportunity to create multiple meaningful relationships, as well as help my mentees build relationships within the League. By simply attending a General Membership Meeting, a Community Impact Event, or a social event sponsored by the Provisional Committee, Membership Activities or Recruiting, you have the opportunity to meet new people and make social connections with like-minded and unique individuals. I cannot express how lucky we are to be in the company of so many diverse women all working towards the same cause.

As you wrap up your own League year, I suggest to all of you to reach out to someone new, sit next to an unfamiliar face at the next meeting, or simply attend a social event, even if you don't recognize anyone on the RSVP list. You never know what you may have in common with someone or what you might learn from them. Our members have some amazing stories, much like the Sustainer Profile in this edition of the Lantern. It embodies the spirit of a tenacious Junior Leaguer. Hopefully we were all inspired by the Women's Leadership Summit to pursue our passions like she did. Whether those be passions you can pursue within the League or outside, you will always have the support of your fellow Junior League sisters and friends.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Draw

Stephanie Graev



JUNIOR LEAGUE OF WILMINGTON, DE

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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.

Lantern Editors: Melissa Marlin & Heather Rafail

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Community Impact In Action!

By Dionna J. Sargent, Chair of the Community Impact Committee

Community Impact has been busy making a difference in the Wilmington area! The most recent events include:

School Supply Replenishment Kits

During the week of February 20, 2017, 184 school supply replenishment kits were distributed to 6 of our partner and developing partner organizations. Special thanks to committee members Lindsay Lancaster, Rachel Marsilli, and Kristen Messina for helping to package and distribute the school supplies! These supplies aid in supporting the organization's youth on their path to success in school.



Wilmington Senior Center Inspirational Paint Event

On February 18, 2017, Provisional Spring Class member Jill Confer facilitated a painting class at the Wilmington Senior Center for a group of young women. Jill created a model inspirational picture (pictured below) and provided instruction to help the young ladies create their own creative version. Special thanks to JLW members LaTonya Hubbard, Tiffany Hooper, Emily Spang, Jill Confer, Cat DeFelice, Jen Binkley, and Joanne Towers who volunteered and assisted during the event. Everyone had a great time painting and showing their creative side







Wilmington Senior Center African Dance Workshop

On March 18, 2017, Salimata Linguer from the Christina Cultural Arts Center facilitated a dance workshop at the Wilmington Senior Center. Sharing the history and importance of drums, dance, kente cloth, and most importantly, how significant of a role women play in not only African culture but all cultures. Special thanks to JLW members Lindsay Lancaster, Cat DeFelice, Anna Silton, Hilary Sechler, and Nicole McConville who volunteered and assisted during the event!





Women's Leadership Summit

The Takeaway

On March 11, more than 100 women were inspired to higher levels of personal development and leadership at the League's Second Annual Women's Leadership Summit. Here, some pearls of wisdom from the speakers.

"When you find that you are being challenged...dig into being the best employee you can be until you can start raising your voice."

 Robin Whitaker, "Making Your Voice Heard, Defining Your Path"

"Leadership doesn't mean you are standing alone...partner and leverage the skills of people around you."

> Shawnté Cox-Holland,
> "Trends in Leadership Development"

Goal Setting: How to Make it Work for You

- Review your goals at least daily.
- Read your list of goals daily when you wake up.
- 3. Visualize the completed goal,
- Repeat the first three steps before you go to bed.
- 5. Each time you make a decision during the day, ask yourself this question: "Does it take me closer to, or further from, my goal?"
- Vicki Clark, "Establishing Effective Outcomes"

Women's Leadership Summit

The Takeaway

"At the end of the day, if it is done at 87% rather than 93%, does it really matter?...you have to give people the chance."

 Helen Fischel, on the importance of delegation, "Maximizing Productivity"

"We need to stop looking for people to empower us. We need to empower ourselves."

- Vicki Clark, in her Keynote Address

Carol Arnott-Robbins, Jeanine
Fusco-Lano, Robin Meixner, AnnThomas Moffett, and Kimberley
Schroederalso spoke at the
Summit.



The 2017 Women's Leadership Summit Committee with JLW President Steph Graev

"Never take yourself out of the game before you are up to bat...just say

'yes'."

Tamara Ganc, "Trends in Leadership
 Development"

10 Ways to Build Resilience

- 1. Make connections.
- Avoid seeing crises as insurmountable problems.
- 3. Accept that change is a part of living.
- Move towards your goals.
- 5. Take decisive action.
- Look for opportunities for self-discovery.
- 7. Nurture a positive view of yourself.
- 8. Keep things in perspective.
- 9. Maintain a hopeful outlook.
- 10.Take care of yourself.

- Donna May, citing the American Psychological Association, "Resilience in Today's Environment"

Stewards of Children® Training Event May 10

By Noreena Lewis

League members will once again have the opportunity to take part in a Darkness to Light's Stewards of Children® training offered by the Beau Biden Foundation on Wednesday, May 10, from 6-8 p.m. at Widener University School of Law.

In 2010, as he and the Delaware Department of Justice prosecuted one of the worst pedophiles in the history of the United States, Beau Biden brought Darkness to Light's Stewards of Children® program to Delaware. Stewards of Children® is a two hour training which teaches adults to prevent, recognize, and react responsibility to child sexual abuse. Alongside partners like Prevent Child Abuse Delaware and the Bovs and Girls Club of Delaware, the Beau Biden Foundation has worked to fulfill Beau's pledge to train 5% of Delaware's population (35,000 adults). To date, 22,000 adults in Delaware have been trained to be Stewards of Children, including 2,000 since the Foundation's programming began in April 2016.

Stewards of Children® is based on Darkness to Light's 5 Steps to Protecting Our Children™ and is brought locally into communities by a network of over 9,000 volunteer facilitators.

Darkness to Light, like the Beau Biden Foundation, believes that every child has the right to grow up healthy, happy, and safe. It is guided by its vision to create a world where child sexual abuse does not exist. Darkness to Light believes that protecting children is an adult responsibility, and education is critical for prevention of child sexual abuse.

This partnership ensures effective execution of what Beau believed to be critical in eradicating child sexual abuse – education, raising awareness, sharing resources, and fostering a network of committed prevention advocates. Such a network of advocates allows communities to be better prepared to help children thrive, free from the trauma of sexual abuse.

We will be gathering for this training at the Law School, 4601 Concord Pike in the Polishook Building, Room TBD. The League is paying for the cost of the training for members that would like to attend. Please RSVP on the League calendar.

Questions about the training can be directed to Patty Lewis at patty@beaubidenfoundation.org.







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 activi-

ties 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.

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GUEST BARTENDING NIGHT

Tuesday | April 25, 2017 | 6:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. Tyler's Neighborhood Kitchen and Craft Beer, Wilmington, DE



Sustainer News

Sustainer Coffees – Wednesday, April 26! Watch your mailbox for locations, times and RSVP information.

May Sustainer Trip to SHOFUSO Japanese House and Garden in Philadelphia's West Fairmount Park

Enjoy a private tour of a traditional-style, Japanese house and nationally-ranked garden, reflecting the history of Japanese culture in Philadelphia. Lunch will follow at the Asian restaurant Pei Wei on City Avenue, featuring wok dishes, Asian salads and sushi. *Date*: Wednesday, May 10 *Cost*: \$26/ person includes tour and lunch. *Time*: Meet to carpool at the Independence Mall on Concord Pike at 8:45 a.m. Tour begins at 10 a.m. Lunch at 11:30 a.m.

Special Notes: The building is not handicapped accessible. Wear socks or stockings. Shoes must be removed in the house. Spouses and guests are welcome!

Please RSVP: By Wednesday, May 3. Checks should be written to JLW and mailed to Allison Brokaw 1021 Kent Road, Wilmington, DE 19807 For Questions and Directions: abrokaw@comcast.net; 302-777-4514

Save the Date! Sustainer Hosted Cocktail Party at Granogue - Saturday, May 13th, 5-7 p.m. Watch your mailbox for your invitation & RSVP information.

Welcome Back: Audrey Bruce!

In Memoriam:

We are saddened to learn about the loss of these special women who have given so much to the Junior League of Wilmington:

Nancy Lee Nancy Henderer Joan Di Sabatino Pat Walbert

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www.jlwilmington.org





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