



JUNIOR LEAGUE OF  
**WILMINGTON, DE**

# THE LANTERN

Winter 2017

Volume 30, Issue 3

*Sustainer Profile: Nancy Berl,  
Plus Sustainer News & Events*

*Community Impact Committee  
Explores New Relationship*

*Sustainer Coffees Offer  
Opportunity to Connect*

*Annual Fund Update*

## Ready to Climb? Women's Leadership Summit Returns March 11

*Preview Inside!*





THE JUNIOR LEAGUE  
OF WILMINGTON PRESENTS

## Featured Speakers

Keynote: Vicki Clark  
Stefanie Roselle  
Kimberly Schroeder  
Ann-Thomas Moffett  
Carol Arnott-Robbins  
Jeanine Fusco-Lano  
Shawn Holland  
Helen Fischel  
Robin Meixner  
Donna May

# Women's Leadership Summit

## MARCH 11, 2017

8A.M. - 4P.M.

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DELAWARE  
BUSINESS TIMES



Vanguard



Sparano, Vincelette  
& Joiner, CPA's

## President's Message



### ***My Advice to my Fellow Leaguers***

As my eighth active year in the Junior League of Wilmington begins to wrap up, I am left with a feeling of nostalgia for all that I have experienced over those years, and a sense of longing for all that I still wish to accomplish.

As a former sorority girl, I joined the League in 2008, hoping to make new friends and get involved in community service. I have always been a worker bee, someone who can get the job

done, however I never thought about myself as a leader. In my first active years, I served on the Whale of a Sale and Community Impact Committees. Growing up, I had always been involved with community service and working with kids, so the Community Programs Council was where I focused my attention in the League. Over the years, I was a Community Impact Committee Member, Community Impact Committee Chair twice, Vice Chair of the CAP/Visioning, and Community Programs Vice President. My first five years in the League revolved around Community Impact. It was my passion, but also a place I felt safe. It was right in my comfort zone.

It wasn't until I was asked to be President Elect that I truly stepped out of my comfort zone. When I was first asked to chair the Community Impact Committee, it opened my eyes to the fact that I had leadership skills that could be put to use in the JLW. If it wasn't for someone else recognizing that in me, I wouldn't have recognized it in myself. So my first bit of advice to you is, if someone else sees something in you that you don't see in yourself, believe them! Junior League leaders have a good sense about these things! Looking back on my years in the League, my biggest regret is that I didn't step out of my comfort zone sooner and join committees in different areas of the League. To be a well rounded leader, it helps to have experience in different areas of the League. I got my education in those areas during my President Elect year, but wish I had gained it much sooner.

The League is a safe place to learn new skills and receive training in areas that are of professional and personal interest. Since I joined the League, the training I have received has given me the confidence and leadership skills to become an Advisory Board Chairman for my college sorority, as well as pursue a Master's Degree in Administration. I have learned from myself and others in the League along the way. My hope for you all is that you learn from my advice and pursue areas of both apprehension and interest. It will only make your League experience more well rounded and fulfilling, and lead you down paths you may have never expected for yourself. I can't wait to see what is in store for all of you in the future!

Sincerely,

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.*

Junior League of Wilmington, Inc.

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# 2nd Annual Women's Leadership Summit to Celebrate "Year of the Woman"

*By Dr. Kesha Clarke, Chair of the Women's Leadership Summit Committee*

Women have made continuous advancements in the last century and the last year was no exception. We are still celebrating "firsts," breaking glass ceilings everywhere, and the Junior League of Wilmington has contributed to this, giving women in the Delaware community the platform to lead the way. Indeed, we can declare the upcoming year the Year of the Woman. We not only want to celebrate this, but also keep it going. Our League prides itself on training and preparing women to serve in our communities to make it better. In the process, we realized we are essentially developing women into effective leaders to not only lead our chapter and all its projects and programs, but also to lead in the community, on the job, and in our personal lives. The overarching goal of the Women's Leadership Summit is to extend training to all League members and women in the community at-large to ensure we have a dedicated opportunity to develop the skills and knowledge necessary to lead. A byproduct of this goal is that women also find a space to grow professionally and personally, bolster their confidence levels, and network with others who understand the challenges that women face in their leadership roles. We invite every JLW member to take advantage of this opportunity by joining us at the Women's Leadership Summit on March 11, 2017 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Workshops and seminars are based on three general tracks; corporate; non-profit, and entrepreneurial. We are especially excited about Vicki Clark, a world-renowned speaker well-known in most sectors—including as a dynamic presenter at AJLI conferences and meetings, presenting our keynote address! We are excited to continue and build on our tradition of preparing the next generation of powerful women who lead. Join us!



*Keynote Speaker Vicki Clark, above, will present on Establishing Effective Outcomes.*

## *Community Impact Explores New Relationship with Serviam Academy*

The Community Impact Committee is exploring a collaboration with Serviam Girls Academy (a tuition-free middle school for young women from low-income families) by implementing an Arts Program. The school offers both college-focused courses with small class sizes and summer programs, but currently does not include arts in its curriculum.

Dating back to 1971, the school provides quality education to low-income students to prepare them for high school and ultimately college. Serviam is proudly educating 54 girls in grades 5 through 8, and supporting another 54 alumnae in both high school and college.

Co-chair of Community Impact, Dionna Sargent and Community Impact member, Lindsay Lancaster attended a town hall meeting with Serviam Girls Academy parents to discuss a partnership to provide an opportunity for their daughters to engage in the arts. The meeting was a chance to discuss what type of arts programming families would like to see implemented. A survey was distributed for parents to select and comment on a variety of art interests, including dance, visual art, performing arts, photography, and video making. Through this variety, the young women will get a chance to be exposed to an assortment of activities, including hip-hop, ballet, painting, pottery, theatre, and photography techniques, just to name a few. The Community Impact Committee is very excited to see the results from the surveys.

With an arts program, the young women at Serviam Girls Academy would learn a new set



From left to right: Dionna Sargent, Jalisa Anderson (Enrichment Director at Serviam Academy), Peggy Prevoznik Heins (President of Serviam Academy), and Lindsay Lancaster.

of skills while developing confidence and becoming part of a community of artists. Serviam does not currently have arts as part of their curriculum, however education in visual and performing arts has been shown to increase creativity, problem solving skills and focus in youth.

The collaboration with Serviam Girls Academy has been implemented by the New Program Initiatives subcommittee, a new addition to the Community Impact Committee. This subcommittee was created with the idea of finding new organizations to reach out to in order to make an even bigger impact on the community and to expand our network with others. Since the committee's target is girls ages 12-18 in the Greater Wilmington area, Serviam Girls Academy is a perfect fit as a partner for the Junior League.

## *Leave A Legacy For The League*



“It was really easy,” Sustainer Stephanie Cory Gorris says. “All I had to do to add the League as a beneficiary for my IRA was fill out a form and send it to my broker. Half of my IRA will go to the League.”

Did you know it was that easy to provide for the Junior League of Wilmington in your estate plans? All you typically need to add a nonprofit organization as a beneficiary for your individual retirement account (IRA), 401(k), or 403(b) is the name of the organization and its employer identification number. For the League, that EIN is 51-6015503.

Another simple way to give is by remembering the League in your will. This can be in the will itself or through a codicil. We have provided sample language for you.

Including a nonprofit organization in your estate plans is a win-win for many donors. Gifts to qualified nonprofits reduce your potential estate tax liability while providing an organization near and dear to you with a larger gift than you may feel comfortable just writing a check for. Gift such as those described above are also revocable. This means that if your circumstances change, you can change your gift.

Beneficiary designations and bequests of all sizes make a difference to the League. Once you have provided for your family, please consider including a provision for the League. It is a great way to give back to an organization that has been such a large part of your life and to ensure the League’s future.

For more information about leaving a legacy to the Junior League of Wilmington or to notify us of your intentions to include us in your estate please contact Vice President Ways & Means Nikki Hudak at [msnikkilight@gmail.com](mailto:msnikkilight@gmail.com) or (302) 228-3217.

### ***Sample Bequest Language:***

***“I give and bequeath to Junior League of Wilmington, Wilmington, DE, (the sum of \$\_\_\_\_) or (\_\_\_\_% of the residue and remainder of my estate) or (property described herein) to be used for general purposes, as determined by the board of directors.”***

# The 2016-17 Annual Fund is More Than Half-Way to its Goal!

Donations thru 2/28/17

## Benefactor's Circle—\$1,000+

Kristy Ambrogi in memory of Ruth Glisch  
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Laura van der Post  
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Mary Hirschbiel  
Tara Hurlebaus  
Suzy Johnson  
Natalie Kozlowski  
Cynthia Kuespert in memory of  
Pat Walbert  
Kevin Lamb  
Elizabeth Lankert  
Kate Lester

### Did you know?

2017-18 League dues are due April 1.  
You can make your Annual Fund dona-  
tion at the same time you pay your dues!  
Pay online, or send a check to HQ.



# SUSTAINER PROFILE

## *Nancy Berl*

by Lisa Magnuson

Nancy Berl has been a member of the Junior League of Wilmington since 1954. She now resides happily at Stonegates in a lovely cottage. Born in Wilmington, Nancy spent her early years in Wawaset Park. Nancy's mother volunteered at the Red Cross and her father worked for the DuPont Company. Her family eventually moved to Sharpley Road, which was a very rural area at the time.

Nancy first attended public school, then transferred to Friends School, where she graduated high school. Nancy attended Lasell Junior College near Boston. She says "it was run like a nunnery!" When asked why she left the area to attend

college, she said it was because it was her father's belief that the academics were better in New England. Following graduation, Nancy and her best friend Dusty spent a very memorable winter working at a high end dress shop on Worth Avenue in Palm Beach, FL. The job allowed Nancy and her friend to spend four days a week on the beach!

Later, Nancy moved back and began working for the DuPont Company at the Experimental Station as a Stenographer. She recalls the use of the new electric typewriters during her time there and enjoying Canasta games at the lunch break.

On joining the Junior League, Nancy says two members of the League, Harriott Kimmel and Ann Allen, were instrumental in her membership. One day in May of 1954, while working at the Red Cross, Harriott and Ann arrived unexpectedly to see Nancy in action and "check her out" – and obviously were pleased as they proposed Nancy join the Junior League of Wilmington.

Nancy recalls her first project with the Junior League as working with the Wilmington Senior Center serving refreshments to seniors while members spent time playing the piano and and visiting.

Other memories include the League sponsoring puppet show performances of Peter and the Wolf at city schools. Some of the puppets were even handmade by members of the League. Rex Kaiser (husband of JLW member Claire Kaiser) and Jack Harty (a friend) provided the music for these performances. Nancy describes these shows "as fun and satisfying." Imagine the delight of these young students!

Nancy and her husband started their family around this time and were blessed with five children: three boys and two girls!

Another of Nancy's fond memories is a favorite Sustainer event in the form of an annual picnic that took place at the home of Lou and Bob Currin. The home was named "Southern Comfort" and located off of Old Kennett Road. Nancy recalls the enjoyment of the pool, two tennis courts and an excellent buffet (Sustainers brought dishes to share, of course!). Instead of wine, good old fashioned iced tea and sodas were served.

Another memorable project was scheduling members as docents for six weeks at Winterthur – part of the income from ticket sales went to the League. Nancy worked with Didi Grant on this project. Members were asked to return postcards with days and times available to volunteer at Winterthur. Without the use of computers and spreadsheets as we have today, Nancy and Didi spread out all the cards on the living room floor to



Sustainer Nancy Berl



organize the schedule and had charts hanging on the walls to hand complete the schedule. Nancy says that there were 110 rooms at Winterthur, with morning and afternoon shifts to fill along with "Captains." This took a lot of time, organization and patience to complete the schedule and notify everyone of their dates and times to volunteer. In the second year (yes, they did this again!), they had help from member Jane Cover's husband Bill, who took all the reply cards and ran them through a computer at work. Nancy says this made their job so much easier – and is still very thankful for what Bill did for them!

Nancy also volunteered one day a week for 17 years at Kentmere Nursing and Rehabilitation Center and served on their Board of Directors. Nancy enjoyed doing crafts with the residents and worked at many bazaar fundraisers for Kentmere. During her time at Kentmere, when the second floor roof was in disrepair, Nancy suggested that this roof area be turned into a patio – and so it was – and it was called "Nancy's Deck." Nancy said that the residents were able to enjoy this area, and even those in wheelchairs were able to be rolled out to this garden area. Kentmere has since expanded, so "Nancy's Deck" has been closed in. Nancy says that she really enjoyed volunteering there.

Another memorable Junior League activity that Nancy organized was two bus trips to New York City during the Christmas holidays. These were well attended and lots of fun.

Nancy has been a widow for many years as her husband passed at age 53. She met Bill in November of 1949 on a blind date at a University of Delaware fraternity party! They married in January 1951. Bill served as a combat infantryman in World War II, and his division joined up near the end of the war with General Patton's Army near Berchtesgaden, Germany. Nancy has a wonderful framed map from the war that was issued by the Army that shows all the places where Bill's division fought during the war. Nancy told us about a memorable trip to Europe. She met her son Jim, who at the time was stationed in Europe as a JAG (Judge Advocate General Corps) attorney. Together, they traced her husband's tour of duty in Europe.

Nancy is very proud of her five children, their spouses, and six grandchildren!

Nancy most recently served as a member of the Sustainer Committee. She has since retired from the Committee. Her valuable insights and history of the Junior League of Wilmington are missed.

Thank you, Nancy, for sharing your story with us!

I want to give a special thank you to Diane Dunham, who suggested Nancy for the Sustainer Spotlight. Quote from Diane: "Nancy and I become fast friends when, several years ago, we both served on the Sustainer Committee. Nancy has a sparkle that shines from the inside out. She continues to be an important part of my life."

Please contact Lisa Magnuson at [18magli@gmail.com](mailto:18magli@gmail.com) or 302.494.7013 for Sustainer Spotlight suggestions!

## Calling All Gardeners!

The Sustainers' Gardening Committee invite any Active Junior League member or Sustainer to join them in taking care of the grounds and garden containers at the historic headquarters building at 18th and Market Street. Green thumbs are not required – simply a love of fresh air and camaraderie! We receive expert advice from Master Gardeners and help is hired for the heavy lifting.



All work and no play? Not a chance. We often stop for a bite after a gardening session and even cook up evening events as well. Current gardening members are Jeanie Hayes, Mary Kay Haden, Mary Warburton, Diane Lawson, Lisa Simon, Susan Stafford, and Anne Waldburger.

A date in early March will be scheduled to perform some Spring Cleanup tasks (i.e. weeding, trash pick-up, clearing both front and side patios). Please let us know if you would like to join this fun group. Contact Mary Kay Haden at [mkhaden@msn.com](mailto:mkhaden@msn.com); or phone her at 610-459-0270.

## ***Sustainer-Hosted Coffees Offer Opportunity to Connect***

Our February General Membership Meeting took the form of “Coffees” hosted by Sustainers in their homes. Members were able to connect and share feedback and ideas in the small group setting. Board members guided the discussions with questions centering on Community Impact and our Membership Model.

Thanks to the following Sustainers for opening their homes, contributing to the discussions, and offering delicious refreshments: Cheryl Heiks, Betts Jackson, Diane Keighley, Kathy Linarducci, Stephanie Moran, Mary Ball Morton, and Lisa Pomraning.



### ***2017-18 Dues!***

Dues for the 2017-18 League year are due April 1. Payments can be made by check or online on the Member website at [www.jlwilmington.org](http://www.jlwilmington.org). If you need assistance logging in please contact headquarters or email [jlw@jlwilmington.org](mailto:jlw@jlwilmington.org).

Provisionals/Actives—\$128; Sustainers—\$93



# Sustainer News & Events

The Sustainers have been enjoying some wonderful events! Here are some highlights:

## December 7th - Annual Holiday Cocktail Party

We had a wonderful evening at Greenville Country Club with about 80 in attendance. This was our second year at Greenville Country Club and in response to the positive feedback on location, the food and ambience we have already reserved the first Wednesday in December for 2017 and 2018!

## January 24, 2017 – Winter Cocktail Party

About 30 Sustainers and guests gathered for a cozy evening at RedFire for our annual Winter Cocktail party. We were able to have use of a private room that lent the perfect space for conversation. The food was delicious too! We want to thank Diane Dunham for planning such a wonderful event!



## *Coming up:*

March 22 – Sustainer dinner at Antica (contact Cindy Dunn)

April 18 – New York City/Visit to Junior League Headquarters (contact Diane Dunham)

April 26 – Sustainer Coffees

May 10 – Shofuso Japanese House & Garden Tour + Lunch (contact Allison Brokaw)

May 13 – Spring Cocktail Party at Granogue





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