

BLUEPRINTS

Spring 2018



*JLSN members
from 1923*

The Junior League of Stamford-Norwalk Turns 95 Years Old

Since 1923, JLSN has been committed to improving the community through volunteer service and by training local women leaders.

Over the years, JLSN has founded or participated in the founding of 88 community agencies including Domestic Violence Services, Lockwood-Matthews Mansion Museum, The Maritime Aquarium, Shelter for the Homeless (Pacific House), The Volunteer Center of Southwestern Fairfield County, The Women's Crisis Center and the Fairfield County Women's Center at Norwalk Community College.

To commemorate the milestone, JLSN has been using the tag #JLSNcheerstothetwentyfifthyears on social media!



*JLSN members
from 2018*



1923-2018

JUNIOR LEAGUE OF
STAMFORD-NORWALK

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President's Message



Greetings JLSN members & friends!

Last May, I shared my vision of what success looked like at this point, May 2018. In particular I noted four items, which as a testament to the strength of our entire organization, are well underway:

1. Diversified funding that makes us less reliant on members: We have made strides to diversify our giving options for Annual Appeal and establish the Sustainer-led Treasure Box fundraiser, to name a few.
2. Continued growth of our community initiatives and collective agreement about the future of our community program: 2018-2019 will be our last year of Read 2 Succeed as we select our next community focus. I'm so proud of the incredible growth we've seen from Family Literacy Nights and other initiatives like Little Free Libraries (coming to Cove Island Park this summer) and it will be exciting to see where we go next.
3. Members busting down the door to be in positions of leadership: 2018-2019 will mark our first year of a new leadership structure with a governance-focused Board of Directors and a new Management Group. Our AJLI Transformation Rollout leaders and Nominating/Placement have done a great job embracing this new structure and there is more interest than ever in leadership.
4. A more vibrant, capable organization, and gratifying member experience: As I have witnessed this year, our members' growth is incredible and the new membership model will be the next piece to catapult members to being their best selves.

It has been an honor & pleasure to serve as President this year and I look forward to seeing our continued evolution!

Onward & Upward,



Read 2 Succeed Receives \$15,000 Grant

We are so proud to announce that the Junior League of Stamford Norwalk's signature Read 2 Succeed program will continue to grow with help from a \$15,000 grant from Entergy Corporation and its Indian Point Entergy Center facility in northern Westchester.

"Entergy has a long history of giving back to the community and investing in organizations that promote literacy. We are proud to continue to support the Junior League of Stamford-Norwalk and Read 2 Succeed," said Mike Twomey, Vice President of External Affairs at Entergy.

"We're so happy to receive the continued support of Entergy and reach a greater number of families in Stamford," JLSN President Char Zoller said. "As our Read 2 Succeed program enters its final year in the Stamford community, we are excited to amplify our impact to make a real difference in our own backyard," JLSN President Char Zoller said.

2017-2018 JLSN Board

President | Char Zoller
President-Elect | Caroline Sadowska
Treasurer | Amy Muslim
Secretary | Nicole DiGiose
Membership | Erin Golas
Communications | Stefanie Horn
Community | Meredith Wahl-Jones
Fundraising | Emily Bonenfant
Sustainer Director | Nancy Lione
Nominating/Placement | Elizabeth Apy

JLSN's 95 Year History

As we celebrate the 95th anniversary of the Junior League of Stamford-Norwalk, we reflect on some of our accomplishments through the years.

February 9, 1923: The first officers of the Stamford Junior League were elected. There were 40 members serving six charitable organizations including the Visiting Nurse Association, the Associated Charities, the Children's Home, Neighborhood House, the Red Cross, and Stamford Hospital. The organization grew quickly and by 1925, 100 members had performed 4,660 hours of community service.

1928: The League increased to 129 members serving 11 organizations

1930: Volunteer work began for the Stamford Girls' Club and the Stamford Community Chest

1932: Cooperative efforts started with the Big Sister Organization and with the Girl Scouts

1934: Book Wagon was presented to the Stamford Hospital

1940: The League organized marches that demanded polio vaccines be made available to children

1942: In April, the Corridor Shop at the Stamford Hospital started under the joint auspices of the Hospital Aid Society and the Junior League. Later, we established the Hostess Desk and the Book Wagon, which was continuously restocked and run by the League for 30 years

1943: The Central Information and Advisory Services was established by the League. They worked as a liaison between employment offices, manufacturing plants and day care centers to ensure all mothers going to work were aware of the many services that were available to assist in the care of their children. We also staffed these facilities

1946: AJLA Citation for Outstanding Achievement in Community Service was awarded to the League

1957: Greenwich Unit collected 10,000 books for Fairfield Memorial Hospital

1965: JLSN leased the Lockwood-Mathews Mansion to prevent demolition and restore the Mansion into a public museum.

1968: Thrift Shop opened as a permanent fundraiser

1972: The JLSN was involved in the formation of the Junior Leagues of Connecticut and they formed a Public Affairs Council to speak with a single voice to increase their impact and effectiveness on state legislation

1976: Career Development courses were taught to JLSN members and in less than 1 year, reached over 200 members

1979: First JLSN President, Miss Gertrude Ingersoll, dies after 56 years of League membership

1980: Provisional Class researched, wrote, published and distributed a 16-page booklet entitled, You Are Not Alone, detailing services available to battered women in lower Fairfield County

1982: The first community newsletter, JLSN Newslines, was published

1983: In honor of the JLSN's 60th anniversary, over 200 community leaders attended a two-day community forum entitled, Forging Community Partnerships: Responsibilities, Resources, Results

1984: JLSN headquarters are moved to 748 Post Road in Darien

1992: Off the Hook, a JLSN cookbook, was featured on "Cooking USA", a nationally based TV show

1993: Blueprints produced 9 issues internally, including 2 community magazines

1995: American Girls Fashion Show held at Saxe Middle School in New Canaan netted \$19,000 in one weekend

JLSN's 95 Year History - cont.

2003: JLSN's website, JLSN.org, launched

2004: Legacy Bus Tour of JLSN's many community projects was planned by the spring provisional class and sponsored by the Sustainers

2006: The first Kids in the Kitchen program, focusing on children's health and nutrition, in conjunction with the AJLI initiative, was presented at Westover Elementary in Stamford by the spring provisional class

2012: Done in a Day Committee prepared and served 165 meals at the Manna House of Hospitality in South Norwalk

2013: Family Literacy Nights kicked off in partnership with Stamford Public Education Foundation and the Lathan Wilder Community Center in Stamford

2015: JLSN launches a Twitter and Instagram account to add to its social media presence on Facebook

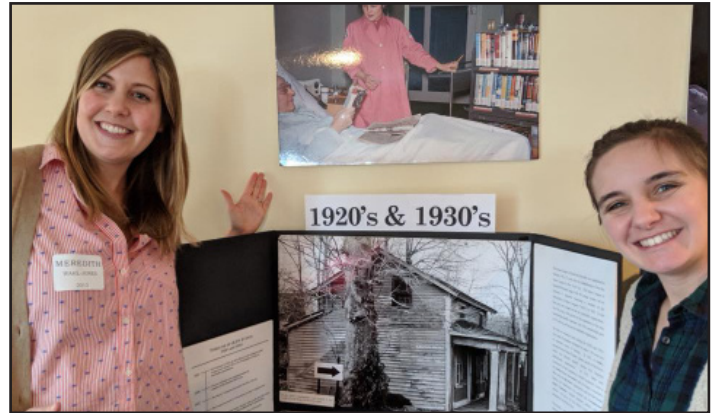
2017: JLSN's annual Coat Drive was revamped yielding great results with 175 coats collected

New This Year... #FirstThursday

Our Membership Activities Committee put together an initiative on the first Thursday of each month this year, dubbing it #FirstThursday! Members have had the opportunity to get together to wrap holiday gifts, enjoy drinks and delicious foods across a variety of locations, and get their meditation and stretch on at yoga! Aside from getting members together, the goal is to choose a social location in each of the towns that the JLSN serves. While these socials are still relatively new to JLSN, they have had solid member turnouts thus far, averaging around 20 women per event! With a variety of events to choose from, members with different interests are able to find a choice that best fits what they are interested in, while still maintaining the opportunity to socialize with other members.

2018: JLSN turns 95!

As we look to our centennial celebration in 2023, we will continue to build a strong, sustainable and growing membership organization and position JLSN as a predominant volunteer and training organization in lower Fairfield County.



Members looked at photos of JLSN through the years at the 95th anniversary brunch.

Spring Events



JLSN volunteers at our 4th Family Literacy Night of the year. 64 kids and 38 adults attended.



#FirstThursday Yoga at Athleta

Spring Spirits

Members, spouses and friends of JLSN had a wonderful time at Spring Spirits 95th Anniversary Masquerade on April 14. From exciting items up for grabs in the silent auction to delicious food from Garelick and Herbs and great masks, it was certainly a night to remember!



Spring Spirits fun!



Sustainers enjoying the evening at Spring Spirits

Annual Brunch

This year's Annual Meeting & Brunch was at the Country Club of Darien. Annual awards were presented and we celebrated the 2017-2018 League year as we welcomed the 2018-2019 League year



*2017-2018 JLSN President, Char Zoller
passes the gavel to
2018-2019 JLSN President, Caroline Sadowska*

Annual Awards

President's Award: *Amy Muslim*

Community Volunteer of the Year:
The Fall 2017 Provisional Class

Finance Award: *Nancy Lione*

Membership Award: *Ann Lipschutz*

First Year Active Award: *Amy Smith*

Fall Provisional Award: *Jessica Byrnes*

Spring Provisional Award: *Sydney Eppinger*

Sustainer Awards

The Karen Aylward Sustainer Spirit Award:
Betty Anne Dever

The Judy Mahony Award: *Andrea Cross*

Membership Status

Active	110
Provisional	14
Sustainer	224
TOTAL	338

2017-18 Financials as of April 30, 2018

	BUDGET	ACTUAL	CASH BALANCE
Total Revenue	\$105,375	\$90,832	Operating Fund \$133,861
Total Expense	\$105,375	\$69,902	Endowment Fund \$ 30,033
NET REVENUES	\$0	\$20,931	Capital Fund \$ 9,670
			TOTAL \$173,564
EXPENSES	BUDGET	ACTUAL	
Total Community	\$ 14,490 (14%)	\$ 5,446 (8%)	
Total Education	\$ 48,051 (46%)	\$31,332 (45%)	
Total Program	\$ 62,541 (59%)	\$36,778 (53%)	
Total Support	\$ 42,834 (41%)	\$33,124 (47%)	
TOTAL	\$105,375	\$69,902	

Sustainer News

Dear Sustainers,

Happy Anniversary! Our 95th Year kicked off with a celebratory brunch at our headquarters that united JLSN's membership – Provisionals, Actives, Leadership and Sustainers. Updated Story Boards highlighting our League's accomplishments in the Community came alive with current Sustainers reflecting on initiatives through the years up to the present.

As Sustainer Chair, I was thrilled to recognize members in attendance by decades of service from the 1960s to the 2000s – our Legacy is a source of pride and cherished by all. Linda McKee, Cindy Giglio, and Anne Liebergall rallied all of us to provide a festive brunch – we are all grateful for their efforts to plan and execute such a lovely, meaningful occasion!

I enjoyed seeing many of you as we celebrated this League year with the entire membership at the Annual Meeting at the Country Club of Darien. We presented our annual Judy Mahony and Karen Aylward Spirit Awards to this year's honorees, Andrea Cross and Betty Anne Dever.

Don't forget to mark your calendars for the Provisional, Transfer, and Sustainer Potluck on June 6th at Angelica Oxford's in Darien.

Let's keep celebrating our shared mission of women leading our communities through voluntarism!

Mary Lee
Sustainer Chair

2017-2018 Sustainer Leadership

Director	Nancy Lione
Chairman	Mary Lee
Vice Chairs	Tamera Galvin, Gail Twomey
Co-Secretaries	Jane Handler, Kitty Sample
Treasurer	Betty Anne Dever
Communications	Stephanie Fairleigh, Sarah Neumann
Nominating	Noelle Hughes

PROGRAMS

Book Group	Betty Anne Dever
Going Places	Cyndianne Gates

Sustainer Awards

Judy Mahony Award

The Judy Mahony Award recognizes a current Sustainer who has used her JLSN training and skills to positively impact our community through commitment, enthusiasm, leadership and outstanding community service and Andrea Cross epitomizes those traits.

Among her many community leadership roles are Chairing the capital campaign for the Saugatuck Congregational Church; the Barn Survey Committee for the Westport Historical Society; the Advisory Board for the Fund for Women and Girls; and as Chair of the Grant-making Committee for the Fairfield County Community Foundation. As a Sustainer, Andrea served as Director from 2010-2012, helped coordinate the Watts Wacker leadership event as part of the 90th Anniversary and chaired the inaugural Sustainer Accessories Auction in 2010. While an Active member, Andrea was League President in 2000-2001; President Elect; and chaired the Ad Hoc committee that led to founding the Fairfield County Women's Center.



Karen Aylward Spirit Award

The Karen Aylward Spirit Award is given to a Sustainer who has demonstrated exceptional initiative in fostering team building and energetically inspiring others to participate in JLSN activities that further the League's Mission. This year's recipient, Betty Anne Dever, has supported the League's many efforts over the years-big and small. She joined JLSN in 1978 and has served on both Active and Sustainer Committees. This year Betty Anne raised over \$6,700 for JLSN with her "Treasure Box" fundraiser. Betty Anne has always been a reliable leader who always puts the League first.



Memorial: Betsy Rich

Betsy Rich, JLSN President, 1968-1970, was the perfect person to lead JLSN during a turbulent period in our country. She was a change-agent extraordinaire and skillfully led JLSN in responding to the challenges of "The Urban Crisis." Her ability to rally the troops, while challenging Leagues throughout the country to do the same, put JLSN in the spotlight. She said "to be effective in the urban crisis, we must be more open-minded, receptive to change or run the risk of being a more well-trained, capable, experienced—and outdated—group of volunteers... We believe we can, simply, because we believe we must." And so we did change.



During her term as President she invited the Presidents of area women's organizations to join a coalition to discuss how they could make a difference. Later she was instrumental in establishing the Voluntary Action Center in Stamford, serving as its first Executive Director. Betsy and her husband Jack were named "Stamford Citizens of the Year" in 1990 and the Stamford Advocate called them the "power couple of the volunteer world."

Betsy played an instrumental role in merging five local foundations into what is now Fairfield County's Community Foundation. She served as Executive Director of the predecessor to today's FCCF. She was also instrumental in establishing the Fund for Women and Girls under the FCCF umbrella and helped acquire an initial gift of \$30,000. "She wanted her philanthropy to be hyper-local and thus she was perfect for a community foundation," said Karen Brown, VP of Innovation & Strategic Learning for FCCF.

Betsy passed away in November 2017. She was pre-deceased by her husband, Jack. A memorial service is scheduled for Saturday, June 9, 2018 at 10 AM at St. Francis Episcopal Church, 2810 Long Ridge Road in North Stamford.

Going Great Places

With so many incredible sites and events, it's no wonder the Going Places gang loves adventures in New York City!

December Delights

Enjoying holiday highlights was the itinerary for the Going Places December outing. The day began with a tour of the Metropolitan Museum of Art's world famous collections of Impressionist and Post- Impressionist Paintings and viewing the festive annual Christmas tree display. Afterward, the group lunched in the Petri Court Café overlooking Central Park, then strolled down Fifth Avenue to see the famous Rockefeller Center holiday tree.



The Going Places group enjoyed lunch at the Petri Court Cafe after a special docent-led tour of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in December



Going Great Places

Springtime in the Gardens

In May, the Going Places group enjoyed a tour of the Wave Hill garden and cultural center overlooking the Hudson River. After a break for lunch at The New Leaf Café in a fieldstone cottage built by John D. Rockefeller in the 1930's, the group toured The Met Cloisters, a branch of The Metropolitan Museum of Art dedicated to the arts, architecture and gardens of Medieval Europe.

Save the Date: July 29

Join Going Places for a Musical Evening at the Levitt Pavilion

Meet us for a free Sunday night of music at the Levitt Pavilion in downtown Westport.

BYO lawn chair or blanket, beverages and dinner/snack.

6:00 p.m. to picnic

7:00 p.m. concert

Information: Watch for more details in the July "Sustainer At A Glance"

Treasure Box Fundraiser... The Sequel

The return of "Bob the Gold Man" this spring was truly golden for JLSN. Members brought in a variety of 'treasures', taking home checks for themselves and resulting in \$4000 that will be donated to JLSN. The funds raised will go toward rejuvenating the League headquarters.



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Making Connections

The Sustainer Connections Committee kicked off the New Year with a tour of the Prospector Theater in Ridgefield. The non-profit movie theater trains and provides meaningful employment for adults with disabilities. Following the tour and an interesting Q & A session with some of the Prospects, the group viewed the movie The Post in the comfort of lounge seating.

Join the Fun!

Want to get involved with the committee? Join us at the Sustainer/Provisional/Transfer Potluck on June 6. Look for the invitation.

