

BLUEPRINTS

SUMMER 2016



The Mansion: 50 Years Later

The first meeting of the Lockwood-Mathews Mansion Committee met at Cynthia Clark's on Monday, September 27, 1965. Mary Lou Logan, Chairman presided. The Committee is as follows: Mary Lou Logan, Cynthia Clark, Betsy Phillips, Kay Jex, Jean Colletti, Doris Friend, Sally Case, Connie Nussbaum, Betsy Rich, Mary Dana, Nancy Draper, Sue Rider, Dede Hawes, Pat Doorly.

Built by financier LeGrand Lockwood between 1864 and 1868, the Lockwood-Mathews Mansion, located in Mathews Park near Stepping Stones Museum in

Norwalk, is a magnificent Second Empire style country house composed of 60 rooms. It has been described as a blend of “French Chateau, Scottish Manor house, and Victorian fancy.”

The City of Norwalk purchased the Mansion in 1941 and planned to demolish it in 1959 to make room for a new city hall. It was then that a group of citizens mobilized through a Common Interest Group (CIG) and fought to save the Mansion. They succeeded, but more challenges lay ahead — the building was soon condemned by the Fire Marshall and closed to the public.

“The CIG was formed to save the Mansion, but it had no plans to run it. Once the court case settled, now what? The City wasn't going to restore it, the CIG was disbanded. It was Doris Friend who went to Sally Case [JLSN's President from 1964—1966] and said the League had to adopt this as a project,” Mimi Findlay explained. “When it came to the vote, there were arguments against it — it was too big, too open-ended, we'll bankrupt ourselves.”

The Association of Junior Leagues of America (AJLA) had voted against the project. JLSN voted in

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JUNIOR LEAGUE OF
STAMFORD-NORWALK

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President's Message



Dear JLSN Members and Friends,

Welcome to the 2016-2017 League year! I am honored to have the opportunity to lead JLSN and look forward to working with our entire membership as we enter into an exciting time for our League.

In May, I had the opportunity to attend the 2016 AJLI Annual Conference in Atlanta.

What a delight it was to represent JLSN and connect with so many like-minded women across the globe. One of the many highlights for me was spending time with past AJLI President, Toni Freeman, and hearing her words of wisdom as I stepped into this new leadership role. I briefly met Toni when she came to JLSN back in 2013 and spoke to our membership at the Stamford Yacht Club so it was a real treat for me to spend this time with her.

The 2016-2017 League year has gotten off to a busy start. We've hosted a grant writing training, conducted a leadership training, held two strategic planning exercises, and hosted a special summer literacy night. The heat is definitely not slowing us down!

Everyone has been working so hard and I am energized by the commitment and passion from all of our Members. The excitement and collaboration I have experienced from our incoming leaders has left me so inspired for what this team is going to accomplish this year!

On a personal note, I'd like to thank Lindsay Bohnsack for her service and leadership last year. It's an incredible opportunity to lead JLSN and I want to thank her for her commitment and contributions.

I hope that everyone has a safe summer and I look forward to a successful and FUN year ahead!

Stephanie O'Brien Putnam
JLSN President 2016-2017

Upcoming Events:

July 24	Summer Social: Concert at the Westport Levitt Pavilion
August 3	Summer Social: Concert at Waveny
August 31	Recruitment Social
September 10	September GMM
October 18	October GMM

#ivolunteerbecause



Of the social rewards.
- Nicole DiGiose



I want to pay it forward
(and it makes my heart
happy!) - Kerry Safir



The smallest act of
kindness can change
someone's day...or life.
- Char Zoller

2016-17 JLSN Board

President | Stephanie O'Brien

President-Elect | Char Zoller

Treasurer | Sam Albrecht

Secretary | Nicole DiGiose

Membership | Jessica Knowles

Communications | Caroline
Sadowska

Community | Sarah Donaldson

Fundraising | Kerry Safir

Sustainer Director | Cindy Giglio

Nominating/Placement Director |
Tammy Roberts

The Mansion *continued from cover*

favor of it anyway.

“I think it was emotional. People liked the glamour of it. It was a mess, but it would be a challenge. There was a sense of, “this could be fun to do” Findlay said. “It was fun to do,” Nancy Helle echoed.

JLSN approached the City with a proposal to move the League’s headquarters to the Mansion while gradually restoring it to create a public museum. A lease was signed for \$1 a year, headquarters set up in the old kitchen area, and the real work began.

Findlay was part of the Provisional Class in 1965 tasked with cleaning the Mansion, but travel plans prevented her from attending the clean up. She’s more than made up for it in the decades that followed. “As someone with a background in art, I thought it was really great. I didn’t want to do anything with the League except work at the Mansion!” Findlay said. “I had a very understanding placement advisor.”

When Nancy Helle joined the League she was immediately thrown into planning the first Candlelight Ball — a grand event that raised \$5,400 for the Mansion’s restoration in June 1966.

Helle was given the glamorous task of renting porta potties for the Ball because the Mansion didn’t have suitable facilities at the time. The committee decided if guests had to use them, they would have to find a way to make them beautiful. “We called Bloomingdales and borrowed trellises and painted topiary trees on the doors,” Helle said.

The National Historic Preservation Act was passed in 1966 and the local historic preservation office was brand new when work began on the Mansion.

“A gentleman from the local office was going around giving a rating to every historic building in the state. He ran by the Mansion and gave it a B. I remember Cynthia Clark said “I’ve never gotten a B in my life! I’m getting that raised to an A!” Findlay laughed.

Soon after, Charles Peterman, head of Historic American Buildings Survey, came up from Philadelphia to see the Mansion and announced he would see that it became a historic landmark. They had their A.

In September 1966, the Mansion was incorporated as Lockwood-Mathews Mansion Museum of Norwalk, Inc. with a Board that included both League members and members of the community.

Restoring the Mansion would be a monumental task. Early work included repointing and making repairs to the roof, installing electric heating, repairing plaster, restoring the inlaid floor, and reconstructing the veranda and conservatory. League members received a crash course in historic preservation, hired professionals, hosted fundraisers, and applied for grants to make the restoration possible.

“It was exciting to be able to raise money for a national treasure,” Helle said.

The Mansion opened to the public

for guided tours a few years later and received its designation as a National Historic Landmark in 1971. JLSN’s headquarters remained until moving to its current Darien location in 1984.

By the time Jane Perkins transferred to JLSN, the League had long since moved on to other community projects, but many of the Mansion’s volunteers were still members who had been there from the beginning. “People wanted to join the League just so they could work on the Mansion,” Perkins recalled.

From working tirelessly to track down the pattern of the exact Paul Balin leather embossed wallpaper in Paris to hosting dinner parties before fundraising events to celebrating when the City of Norwalk delivered a grant to fund exterior repairs — League women continued to be the cornerstone of the operation.

“It’s been a labor of love,” Perkins said. “There’s always a sense that this won’t be complete in our lifetime.”

The Lockwood-Mathews Mansion Museum was a defining project for a generation of League women and it is a legacy we are proud to celebrate as we mark its 50th anniversary this year.

Through November 20, an exhibit at the Mansion — “Demolish or Preserve: The 1960s at the Lockwood-Mathews Mansion” — will detail how it was saved against the backdrop of the 1960s.

Learn more at <http://www.lockwoodmathewsmansion.com>.

Christine Harris Receives President's Award

The 2016 President's Award was presented to JLSN's 2015-2016 Membership Director Christine Harris. Harris joined the League in 2002 and has served in a number of leadership positions over the years. Her favorite has been serving as Nominating/Placement Director.

"Being in that role allowed me to get to know just about every member of JLSN and I got to meet all the new recruits as well! It also was my first time on the Board, which I loved," Harris said.

Harris lives in Darien with her husband of ten years and their seven-year-old twins. Before becoming a stay at home mom, she worked in finance, most recently at MetLife. She enjoys spending time with her family and friends, relaxing at the beach, traveling, and volunteering her time at her kids' school and area non-profits.

Additional award recipients include Community Volunteer of the Year: Meredith Wahl-Jones, Finance Award: Samantha Albrecht, Membership Award: Meg Gagnat, First Year Active Award: Meredith Caruso, Fall Provisional Award: Emily Sheu, and Spring Provisional Award: Lisa-Nicole Sarnowski.



Stephanie O'Brien, Tammy Roberts, Christine Harris, and Lindsay Bohnsack



Meg Gagnat



Char Zoller and Stephanie O'Brien



Tammy Roberts and Sam Albrecht

JLSN Launches Lending Library at Childcare Learning Centers

Read 2 Succeed is pleased to announce the launch of our second lending library, created in conjunction with Childcare Learning Centers (CLC).

"We are so excited to have this resource and it has already transformed the lobby at CLC Maple Avenue by making it such an inviting place for children and families," Jennifer Hallissey, Director of Strategic Partnerships at CLC, said.

We would like to thank Read 2 Succeed committee member Angela Won for her hard work organizing this wonderful addition to the CLC community. The library features a bookshelf and sitting area complete with child-sized furniture creating a cozy reading nook for preschoolers. We are excited to begin this new partnership with CLC and look forward to more expansion opportunities to come!



Spring Provisional Class Holds Two Tag Sales

A rainy May Day tag sale left our Spring Provisionals with the inventory to hold a second tag sale on Saturday, May 14th. Thank you to everyone who came out to support these sales and fundraise for the League. We're happy to report that the proceeds from our spring tag sales will fund all our Done in a Day projects planned for the 2016-2017 League year! Thank you and welcome to our new Actives: Elizabeth Clark, Stephanie Freund, Breanna Gabriel, Sundee Gill, Amanda Janusz, Emily Paul, Lisa-Nicole Sarnowski, and Diana Terracciano.



The Past Presidents of JLSN gathered in May to welcome 2016-17 President Stephanie O'Brien Putnam and President-Elect Char Zoller. In addition to joining the #ivolunteerbecause campaign, they commemorated the night with a selfie with leaders from 1976 through the present.



Mapping JLSN's Future

This year, a group of JLSN leaders, including members of the Board of Directors, Sustainer community, and members at large, are engaging in a three-year strategic planning process to help guide the future of our League.

On Saturday, June 4, two consultants, Lynne D. Filderman and Richard Neustedter, joined the group for an interactive training and initial planning session.

The group will continue to meet throughout the summer and fall and present the strategic plan to full membership in Winter 2017.

Malta House Luncheon

JLSN prepared gift baskets for mothers at Norwalk's Malta House and hosted a Mother's Day luncheon with residents.



Spring Spirits! Crosses the Finish Line!

This past May over 90 JLSN members, friends, family, and community partners came together to support the League's mission at Spring Spirits! Off to the Races. Featuring an exciting mix of silent auction and raffle items, the event raised over \$11,000 for our community projects and member development!

The evening began with a VIP cocktail hour and Kentucky Derby viewing party. Colorful dresses, crisp seersucker, and feathered hats filled the room as attendees enjoyed beverages provided by sponsors Spiked Seltzer and Saugatuck Financial.

Guests jockeyed for prizes including a ride to school on a fire truck, tickets to an Adele concert, and a vacation in Maine. The raffle proved to be a high point of the night, with attendees excitedly checking their tickets as \$1,000 worth of Givenchy products, a

collection of necklaces from Chloe & Isabel, and elite sports gear from Rhone were given away throughout the night. In between raffle drawings, guests dined on a Kentucky-inspired menu including shrimp and grit cakes and fried chicken and biscuits.

Board member Laura Barbosa and her date Ed Humen were crowned best dressed couple for their derby swag while Alaina Spaziani's homemade chapeau featuring horse figurines was deemed best hat. Attendees left with special parting gifts and VIPs took home gift bags stuffed with over \$100 worth of items from NYLA Star, the Connecticut Dermatology Group, and other League supporters.

A special thank you to our sponsors, Spiked Seltzer, Saugatuck Financial, Moffly Media, EisnerAmper, NYLA Star, and Austin McGuire Company.



Membership Status

Active	73
Associate Active	5
Active Gold	4
Active Leave of Absence	0
Active Non-Resident	2
Provisional	0
Sustainer	<u>224</u>
TOTAL	308

2015-16 Financials as of May 31, 2016

	BUDGET	ACTUAL	CASH BALANCE
Total Revenue	\$120,300	\$96,670	Operating Fund \$108,183
Total Expense	\$120,300	\$105,619	Endowment Fund \$29,988
NET REVENUES	\$0	(\$8,949)	Capital Fund <u>\$9,664</u>
			TOTAL \$147,835
EXPENSES	BUDGET	ACTUAL	
Total Community	\$19,050 (16%)	\$20,055 (19%)	
Total Education	<u>\$52,420</u> (44%)	<u>\$43,132</u> (41%)	
Total Program	\$71,470 (59%)	\$63,187 (60%)	
Total Support	\$48,830 (41%)	\$42,432 (40%)	
TOTAL	\$120,300	\$105,619	

Sustainer News

Happy Summer!

Welcome to the new digital summer Blueprints. We hope you enjoy this addition to the JLSN newsletter distribution formats, which allows additional issues each year, two digital and two printed, and more space for photos of our activities and outings.

After an incredibly busy and productive year for JLSN Sustainers, a few weeks off to explore the world, catch up with friends and family, and maybe even relax (we know that's a tough one for most of our members, but we must try!) is well deserved. Our JLSN Sustainer board members and town reps are squeezing in plenty of time to plan for the fall, including events for Going Places, Sustainer Lifestyles, How About Lunch, training workshops with the Actives, and of course the ever popular Fall Cocktail party. Check your email for At A Glance updates and evites and look for the Fall Calendar in the mail in early September.

We hope you have an amazing summer and thank you again for all you do for our League,

Angelica Oxford, Sustainer Chair
Brenda Plassche and Lisa Elkins,
Sustainer Vice-Chairs

2016-2017 Sustainer Board

Director	Cindy Giglio
Chairman	Angelica Oxford
Vice Chairs	Brenda Plassche, Lisa Elkins
Co-Secretaries	Jane Handler, Kitty Sample
Treasurer	Betty Anne Dever
Assistant Treasurer	
Communications	Stephanie Fairleigh, Sarah Neumann
Nominating	Noelle Hughes, Betty Boscaino, Linda McKee

PROGRAMS

Book Group	Valerie Monaghan
Going Places	Jane Jordan, Cyndianne Gates
How About Lunch	Jenny Warner, Martha Witte
Sustainer Lifestyles	Sue Spain
New Sustainers/Transfers	

Town Representatives:

Darien: Erinn Denson, Ann Gilmartin, Bernadette Lynch, Phyllis Morin
New Canaan: Jill Brennan, Jane Perkins, Jeannine Phelan
Northern Region: Louise Laragh
Norwalk: Peggy Craighead, Nancy Lione, Anna Warm
Ridgefield: Tamera Galvin, Mary Lee, Gail Twomey
Stamford: JoAnn Benson, Brenda Lydecker
Westport/Weston: Cyndianne Gates
Wilton: Elizabeth Boscaino, Nancy Helmig

Save the date for these upcoming fall events!

Information on these activities and more will be on the JLSN website and in the September At a Glance email and Fall Calendar.

Going Places: September 21: Sagamore Hill, Oyster Bay, NY. This National Historic Site, known as “The Summer White House,” was the home of Theodore Roosevelt, 26th President of the United States, from 1885 until his death in 1919. We will tour this iconic landmark and explore the natural surroundings. Lunch will follow at the legendary Canterbury’s Oyster Bar & Grill. Travel will be provided by our trusty J&R van. Limited to 14 persons. “No cancellations or refunds unless spot is filled by waitlist” See your At A Glance email for RSVP instructions or contact Nancy Gilbert.

Fall Cocktail Party: Invitations to be mailed in early September

Wilton and Ridgefield Sustainers: Your town representatives are planning a morning walk on the Norwalk River Valley Trail in Wilton followed by breakfast at Orem’s Diner. Look for a detailed email with the date in the early fall. All are welcome!

2016 Sustainer Awards

Congratulations to our Award Recipients!



At the Annual Spring Luncheon at Stamford Yacht Club, the Judy Mahony Award was presented to Noelle Hughes and Erinn Denson received the Karen Aylward Spirit Award. Look for a full story on their impressive accomplishments in the Fall edition of Blueprints.

Legacy Spirit Squad! Commitment to JLSN spirit is strong in this family. Louise Laragh was the first winner of the Sustainer Spirit award in 2002 and now her daughter Erinn is the 2016 recipient.



Going Great Places

The Going Places group's last two adventures explored the world of luxury living, featuring architecture and interior design both cutting edge and historic. In May, the group toured the Vanderbilt Mansion in Hyde Park, New York while the June outing to the Kips Bay Decorator Showhouse was an extravagant look at today's design trends.



Read Along With Us!

The JLSN Sustainer Book Group is ready for the coming year. We have been reading since 2000 and would love to have more Sustainers join us, however to encourage good discussion and have a place for everyone to sit in our homes, we are at our current limit of fifteen members.

If you would like to be on the waiting list please email Valerie at emonaghan@snet.net.

Here are the selections for the coming year:

Dead Wake: The Last Crossing of the Lusitania by Erik Larson

Emma: A Modern Retelling by Alexander McCall Smith

Hamilton: The Revolution by Lin-Manuel Miranda

The Little Paris Bookshop by Nina George

Zoli by Colum McCann

Clementine by Sonia Purnell

All the King's Men by Robert Penn Warren

Reading in the Dark by Seamus Deanne

A Man Called Ove by Fredrik Backman

Attend the Summer Socials! Look for more details in the Sustainers At a Glance emails!

#sustainersvolunteerbecause

At this year's annual luncheon, JLSN Sustainers supported the JLSN #ivolunteerbecause campaign by sharing their reasons for making a lifetime commitment to voluntarism. What motivates your Sustainer friends? You might be surprised. See the entire album of images on the JLSN Facebook page.



Giving back is the best gift! -Lynne Marino

I want to give back. -Kristin Gibson

I get back many blessings I otherwise wouldn't have.

-Joan Barksdale

It helps other people.

-Peggy Glover



It makes me feel good to see others happy. I want my community to be the best it can be. -Julie Forrester

It's a wonderful way to be of some help to others who need it and it brings me great satisfaction.

-Kitty Sample

I want to give back to my community. -Jenny Warner

It is nice to help others and hopefully make a difference.

-Brenda Plassche

It is fun to meet new people!

-Gail Twomey



COMMUNITY ADVISORS

Leslie Caney Berni, Women's Mentoring Network
Karen Brennan, United Way of Western Connecticut
Vicky Doyne, Deloitte
Cynthia Gorey, New Canaan Community Foundation
Camilla Herrera, Stamford Magazine
Rhonda Kiest, Stepping Stones Museum for Children
Moirra Lyons, Norwalk Community College
Dr. Madhu Mathur, Stamford Hospital
Valarie Shultz-Wilson, Urban League
Richard Siegal, Fairfield County Bank
Dr. Susan Weinberger, Mentoring Consulting Group
Gina Zangrillo, Darien Sport Shop

COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Done in a Day Healthy Families
Public Affairs Read 2 Succeed

MISSION

The Junior League of Stamford-Norwalk, Inc. 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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