

# BLUEPRINTS

Winter 2017



## Winter Coat Drive

JLSN revamped its Coat Drive this year, and yielded great results! Under the leadership of DIAD member Suzanne Marsalisi, JLSN branded collection bins were left on display at Michael's Cleaners in Norwalk, Wolfe's Cleaners in Stamford, and Darien Ice Rink in Darien. We more than doubled our results from last year, collecting 175 coats, fleeces and hoodies. The clothing items were delivered to Malta House, Open Door Shelter and Person to Person.



From left to right: Amanda Janusz, Amy Muslim, Sundeep Gill, with coat drive organizer Suzanne Marsalisi. Front: Samir Muslim

## JLSN Spreads Holiday Cheer

Done in a Day has had a busy winter! In addition to our annual coat drive, we also collected winter accessories and canned goods at our winter GMMs.

Angel Tree is a Done in a Day favorite and our 2016 Angel Tree was no exception! This year, JLSN holiday helpers provided gifts for 35 children.

Read 2 Succeed hosted over 40 children and their families for December's Family Literacy Night, which included winter crafts and live music. At Open Door Shelter, volunteers decorated stockings in the family resource center and members shopped for stocking stuffers to fill their new stockings.

Thank you to everyone who helped make the season merry for families in our communities!



JUNIOR LEAGUE OF  
**STAMFORD-NORWALK**  
748 Post Road, Darien, CT 06820 |  
(203) 655-4662 | [www.jlsn.org](http://www.jlsn.org)

### In this issue:

President's Letter.....	2
Announcements .....	2
New Actives.....	3
Strategic Plan .....	4/5

Membership/Financials .....	5
Sustainer News.....	6-7
Membership/Financials .....	7
Spring Spirits.....	8
Raffle .....	8



## President's Message



Greetings JLSN Members and Friends and happy 2017!

It's hard to believe we're well into 2017! We've had a great first half to our League year, with much more to come the next few months!

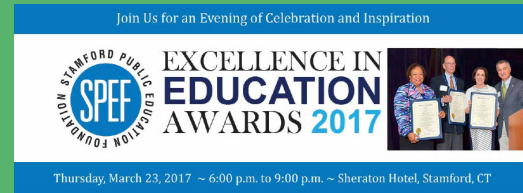
Our fall and spring provisional classes this year have been incredibly enthusiastic and we're so happy to have had 25 new members join us in the fall and what's shaping up to be a class of close to 20 for the spring! Three of our recent fall Provisionals put together a Trivia fundraiser at World of Beer that raised over \$800 and our spring class is already busy planning their tag sale for Sunday, April 30.

I'm also happy to announce that we are the winners of the 2017 Community Service Award from the Stamford Public Education Foundation! In addition to our work with SPEF, we are working on some exciting new initiatives in the community that I look forward to sharing with you soon.

In December, we ratified the latest version of our strategic plan, thanks to a dedicated and diverse group of JLSN members that have been working since last June. A huge thank you to all of our members who participated in the process by giving candid and specific feedback. In January, we had a fantastic nonprofit governance training and mid-year retreat where we began work on the 2017-18 annual plan.

I am so excited about all of the momentum we are continuing to build this year and look forward to the accomplishments still on the horizon for the next few months! Hope to see many of you at this year's Spring Spirits on May 13 at the Carriage House in New Canaan for a night of Cocktails in Cuba!

Stephanie O'Brien Putnam  
JLSN President 2016-2017



### JLSN To Receive SPEF's Community Service Award

JLSN will receive the Community Service Award at Stamford Public Education Foundation's (SPEF) Excellence in Education Awards next month. Each year SPEF recognizes organizations and community leaders for their commitment and service to education in Stamford and we are thrilled to be this year's honoree. If you would like to attend the awards ceremony on Thursday, March 23, please visit [www.spefct.org](http://www.spefct.org) to purchase tickets.

**Read 2 Succeed  
Receives  
\$10,000 Grant**



We are so proud to announce that we have been granted \$10,000 from Entergy Corporation and its Indian Point facility in neighboring White Plains! Entergy has a history in Stamford and was pleased to support our Read 2 Succeed program with its community dollars. This grant will enable JLSN to continue expansion of our Read 2 Succeed program with Springdale Elementary School students and other literacy-based work in Stamford.

### 2016-17 JLSN Board

President | Stephanie O'Brien Putnam  
President-Elect | Char Zoller  
Treasurer | Sam Albrecht  
Secretary | Nicole DiGiuse  
Membership | Jessica Knowles  
Communications | Caroline Sadowska  
Community | Sarah Donaldson  
Fundraising | Kerry Safir  
Sustainer Director | Cindy Giglio  
Nominating/Placement Director | Tammy Roberts

## How Will You Change the World?



"By staying positive and helping others!"  
-Stacey Rice, Stamford, Done in a Day



"I want to encourage, help, and be a resource to people in multi-ethnic, multi-cultural, multi-religious relationships. This is becoming more and more the norm, but does not come without its challenges. Diversity and bringing people together is crucial, especially in the current times."  
- Kendra Sevilimedu, Stamford, Read 2 Succeed



"I will continue to spread kindness (and baked goods) with the world."  
-Julia McDonnell, Darien, MAC



"I like to pay for the people waiting behind me in drive-thrus. It's something that can really turn a bad day around or start it off on a positive note. Either way, I like to remind people that small acts have big impacts and hopefully, they pay that forward."  
-Dana Fontanella, Norwalk, MAC



"Designing the world to be a better place."  
-Joy Vandermark, Stamford, MAC



"Bring optimism to every situation I can."  
-Bethany Dawkins, Stamford, MAC



"I teach fourth grade, and hope to instill a love of learning upon all my children."  
-Amelia Smith, Norwalk, MAC



"I am working on my masters in public health and policy. I aspire to reach populations that are in need and use policy to gain them access to health care and services they need. My focus is women's health access and education."  
-Stephanie McGuire, Stamford, Recruitment/Provisional Education



We asked our new Actives! Get inspired by some of their answers.

"With ambition, creativity, teamwork, and a positive attitude!"  
-Bridgitte Mott, Stamford, Spring Spirits



"On a personal level, I would love to change the world through art and music. On a professional level, I help change the world by helping people find the right job to make them thrive and ultimately be happy."  
Kerry Haring, Stamford, Communications



"Always remember to fall asleep with a dream and wake up with a purpose."  
-Megan Vigliotti, Stamford, Communications



"I am going to change the world by smiling. That tiny bit of optimism can be exactly what someone else needs!"  
-Victoria Walsh, Darien, Funds Development



"Through raising self sufficient children who care about the world and people around them."  
-Danielle Westling, Wilton, Spring Spirits



"Promoting positivity, kindness, laughter, and health."  
-Danielle Goldberg, Stamford, Spring Spirits



"I would want people to be more understanding of one another, to unite and work together in a peaceful and positive way."  
-Megan Znaniecki, Stamford, Trivia Night (Spring Spirits)



"We can change someone's life (or world) with acts of kindness every day!"  
-Stephanie Tristine, Stamford, Trivia Night (Spring Spirits)



## JLSN's Strategic Plan Ratified

When we last left off in the fall, we were knee-deep in the Strategic Planning process with our JLSN Strategic Planning Task Force and preparing for ratification of the plan in December. As we worked through the final stages of piecing together the strategic plan, we narrowed down our strategic priorities to three categories:

- 1) Membership
- 2) Positioning JLSN in the Community & Inspiring Support
- 3) Nonprofit Governance & Operational Management Excellence

Within these three umbrellas, we developed more specific tactical items with a projected who, when, and outcome for each. For example, as we thought about membership, we wanted to complete an audit of the current ways members can earn credits and fulfill membership requirements, ultimately putting together a simple one-sheeter to be given to members. As of early February, this item has already been completed!

Below you'll find the ratified strategic plan. This will be a living, breathing document that we will continually refer back to and modify on a monthly basis. It will always be available on the members-side of the JLSN website.

On January 28, we held a mid-year leadership retreat that included a nonprofit governance training, a conversation about succession planning, and the beginning of our annual planning for the 2017-18 League year. Richard Neustedter joined us once again and provided a framework for putting together group annual goals and identifying necessary resources to complete them - be it womanpower, specific skills or financial resources.

From this framework, we'll be working over the next few months with current and incoming leadership to develop our annual plan, and consequently our annual budget. Membership as a whole will continue to be involved in the process and we look forward to engaging each and every one of our members in helping put this plan into action!

Strategic Plan  
Ratified December 6, 2016

1. Create a strong, sustainable, and growing membership organization.

**CREDITS:**  
Perform an audit of current ways to earn credits and fulfill membership requirements, identify problem areas and areas where more information is needed. Create a communication plan based on simplicity to make sure members are informed (i.e. community opportunity calendar, infographic).

MEMBERSHIP SURVEY: Design useful and effective membership survey. Conduct survey at least once every two years.

PROVISIONAL: Revise onboarding and provisional process to encompass all aspects of the Junior League membership experience.

**MEMBERSHIP MODEL:** Modify existing membership model to attract and retain members by including flexible criteria that reflect AJLI accountability standards and support the diverse life situations of women in our community. Consider the new AJLI membership transformation model and other League best practices.

**TRAINING & LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT:** Establish a formal leadership succession plan incorporating best practices, AJLI requirements, and access to training for all members, including specialized training for leadership.

EXPERIENCE ADVISORS: Review nominating and placement structure and review possibility of splitting two functions to focus on semi-customized League career mapping and creating “experience advisors” for members.



2. Position JLSN as a predominant volunteer and training organization addressing social needs in our communities, inspiring the support of individuals, companies, and other funding organizations.

COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD (CAB):  
Develop a team of community collaborators to help us assess and identify the areas of greatest need in our communities.

COMMUNITY PROJECT DEVELOPMENT: Assess/evaluate current community projects [Read 2 Succeed, Done in a Day, etc.] and begin process to identify, evaluate, and incubate new community initiatives.

**FUNDING:** Establish individual and corporate partnerships to increase funding sources.

BRAND: Create a PR & Marketing plan that enables JLSN to report impact with regularity and purpose.

**METRICS:** Determine a clear and consistent process to track impact.

3. Adhere to current best practices and standards of accountability, transparency, and operational effectiveness for non-profits.



MISSION: Reaffirm Vision, Mission, and Core Values statements at least every two years and publish on all internal and external communications.

**BY-LAWS REVIEW:** Review existing By-laws and Policy Manual and update with operational changes needed to reflect current and future requirements.

**ASSESSMENTS:** Conduct both internal and external assessments to determine operational effectiveness and improvement opportunities at least once every two years.

PAID STAFF: Review volunteer and paid staff roles & needs.

STRATEGIC PLAN: Annual review of strategic plan.

Membership Status		2016-17 Financials <small>as of February 28, 2017</small>						
			BUDGET		ACTUAL		CASH BALANCE	
Active	95	Total Revenue	\$102,593		\$69,123		Operating Fund	\$93,228
Associate Active	9	Total Expense	\$108,964		\$70,078		Endowment Fund	\$30,004
Active Gold	5	NET REVENUES	\$(6,371)		(\$946)		Capital Fund	<u>\$9,666</u>
Active Leave of Absence	3						TOTAL	\$132,899
Active Non-Resident	2	EXPENSES	BUDGET		ACTUAL			
Provisional	16	Total Community	\$17,480	(16%)	\$6,595	(9%)		
Sustainer	<u>220</u>	Total Education	\$49,058	(45%)	\$35,244	(50%)		
TOTAL	350	Total Program	\$66,538	(61%)	\$41,839	(60%)		
		Total Support	\$42,426	(39%)	\$28,239	(40%)		
		TOTAL	\$108,964		\$70,078			



## Sustainer News

Dear Sustainers,

While the weather may be unpredictable this winter, the dedication and enthusiasm of the JLSN Sustainers remains unwavering and for that we are so grateful. As we work with the Actives to implement the new Strategic Plan, the experience and wisdom of our members will be essential to mapping out a successful path for our League.

Though 2017 already seems to be flying by, I want to take time to thank all the committee members who planned so many great events for our members last fall. From the annual cocktail party to the delicious How About Lunch outings to the Sustainer Lifestyles committee's fabulous fashion night at Lord & Taylor and the creative and wide-ranging Going Places adventures, the variety of activities available was impressive.

Special thanks to Mary Lee and the goody bag gang for assembling such welcome gifts of healthy food, snacks and crafts for the children attending the Family Literacy Nights as well as to all the Sustainers who supported the fall raffle fundraiser by buying and selling tickets.

But there's no time to rest on our laurels, not with so many great activities coming up. I hope to see many of you at both the Sustainer Spring Luncheon and Awards on May 11th and Spring Spirits! on May 13th. Look for your At a Glance monthly email updates and check your Winter/Spring calendar or the Sustainer pages on [jlsn.org](http://jlsn.org) for details on all upcoming events.

Sustainers have always been vital in supporting JLSN fundraisers and the Annual Appeal and we hope you will continue your commitment to sustaining the League both financially and by staying connected through your membership. We cannot thank you enough for all you do for JLSN!

Happy New Year!

Angelica Oxford, Lisa Elkins and  
Brenda Plassche

Sustainer Chair and 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, Martha Witte

### PROGRAMS

Book Group	Valerie Monaghan
Going Places	Jane Jordan, Cyndianne Gates
How About Lunch	Jenny Warner, Martha Witte, Carol Howe

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, Kitty Sample
Westport/Weston:	Cyndianne Gates
Wilton:	Elizabeth Boscaino, Nancy Helmig, Sally Pinkham

## Save the Date:

We are happy to announce that this year's 2017 Sustainer Spring Luncheon and Awards Ceremony will be held at the elegant Bernard's restaurant in Ridgefield.

This well known idyllic restaurant is a gracious and charming destination offering distinctive contemporary French cuisine.

We hope you can all join us for this special luncheon as we honor this year's recipients of the Judy Mahony Award and the Karen Aylward Sustainer Spirit Award!

Thursday, May 11th 2017  
11:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Bernard's, 20 West Lane, Ridgefield, CT

## Going Great Places

From New Haven to New York, the Going Places fall outings featured masterpieces of art and architecture. Spring highlights will include a road trip to the Philadelphia Flower Show and the not-to-be-missed Chihuly Experience at the New York Botanical Garden. See your calendar or At a Glance for details and rsvp info.



Braving a chilly January day was worth the trip for the fascinating backstage tour of the Metropolitan Opera House.



Sustainers and their guests enjoyed brunch at Fiorello's Restaurant before the opera backstage tour.



October found JLSN Sustainers touring the newly renovated Yale Center for British Art and the Yale Art Gallery.

## Bag 'n Book Group



Sally Pinkham, Jeanne Holleman, Judy Mabley, Diana Reische, and Heather Hopkins were among the attendees at the Bag 'n Book group's annual holiday luncheon.



As adorable as it was delicious, hostess Anne Snyder's ice cream gingerbread cottage was a sweet finish to the celebration.



## Sustainer Lifestyles

The fall fashion night at Lord & Taylor was so much fun, thank you to everyone who attended and especially our Sustainer models. We're planning another exciting event in April, look for details in At a Glance and on [jlsn.org](http://jlsn.org).

## 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  
Moiria 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.



### JUNIOR LEAGUE OF STAMFORD-NORWALK

748 Post Road, Darien, CT 06820 |  
(203) 655-4662 | [www.jlsn.org](http://www.jlsn.org)

PRSRT STD  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
STAMFORD CT  
PERMIT NO 446

BLUEPRINTS is published by the Junior League of Stamford-Norwalk. 748 Post Road, Darien, CT 06820. Tel. (203) 655-4692 Email: [info@jlsn.org](mailto:info@jlsn.org). Blueprints provides JLSN membership and other organizations in the eight communities that JLSN serves with current information and updates on its activities and other information of interest to the volunteer and not-for-profit sectors. The editor reserves the right to edit, delete, etc. as space requires. Advertising, camera ready artwork, or business cards must be submitted with payment to Blueprints c/o the JLSN office. Business cards: \$30.00; 1/4 page: \$50.00; 1/2 page: \$100.00; Full page: \$175.00.

## Get Ready for Cocktails in Cuba! Spring Spirits is Saturday, May 13

Mark your calendars, tell your friends, and get ready for a fun and festive evening to support the Junior League at the Carriage Barn Arts Center in New Canaan. The evening will begin on Saturday, May 13 at 6 PM with a VIP cocktail hour, followed by the main event from 7-10 PM. The menu will consist of Latin-inspired cocktails and food, such as shrimp ceviche, pulled pork areas with jalapeño-cilantro cream, three-herb cheese quesadillas with chipotle drizzle, and mini fish tacos with ranchero sauce.

In addition to the amazing food and drink and festive music to make your hips move, be on the look out for teasers hinting at some of the awesome items that will be featured in our annual silent auction. We have items from lots of local business and a few great getaways, too! If you have any great ideas or auction contributions, contact the Spring Spirits committee at [springspirits@jlsn.org](mailto:springspirits@jlsn.org).

## Another Successful Year for Fall Raffle!

Our third Fall Raffle was another great success this year thanks to all of the support and dedication of our Junior League members. We raised over \$7,000 for Read 2 Succeed and our other community projects.

This year we raffled off \$2,000 worth of gift cards that excited ticket buyers, including American Airlines, Amazon.com, American Express, Target, Williams-Sonoma, Whole Foods, Dunkin' Donuts, and Mobil Gas Station. In addition to League members selling tickets, we sold tickets during our community ticket sales shifts in Darien and Stamford.

The raffle drawing was held on December 13th at the Darien Historical Society with the MAC committee organizing the party. A great time was had by all, and was a great way to enjoy the holiday season with our fellow Junior Leaguers.

Thank you to all of our members who sold tickets to their family, friends, and colleagues. A big thank you to Stephanie O'Brien, Char Zoller, and Sam Murphy who were the top three ticket sellers, and were the recipients of free raffle tickets to enter into the drawing! And a warm thank you to our bookkeeper, Linda McKee, whose assistance in securing the permits and tickets are key to the continued success of Fall Raffle.