



Happy 2017!

I am so pleased by what the Junior League of Scranton has accomplished in the past few months. With just 25 active and 7 provisional members, we completed 123.5 hours of service! Thank you to the numerous opportunities our Community Research committee makes available to us.

We announced our 9th Annual Touch-A-Truck chair and co-chair at our Holiday Party. Thank you to Gina McAndrew and JoAnne Rossi for being so excited to plan the day long interactive event. Details will be coming soon for the Fall 2017 event.

We are also excited to see the League take the Kids in the Kitchen program to another level as new chairs, Kelly Sweeney and Rose Coyne, lead the way putting together curriculum for the programming.

The History committee is working to preserve our 76 years of service and commitment to the Scranton area. The board of directors recently approved partnering with the Lackawanna Historical Society and the Albright Memorial Library. The committee is also looking into available AJLI grants to do so.

I'm anticipating fresh ideas from the Ways and Means committee to propose new programs focused on our issue. It's time to put our two years of community assessment findings into practice. We will be introducing new projects centered around childhood nutrition and hunger by the summer.

I only hope that our 7 provisional members are enjoying their first year as much as I did planning my provisional project. I remember feeling so excited for our project along with learning all about the League's procedures. I loved the interaction with like-minded women, being social and most importantly, working together to give back to my community. Stay tuned for details about the 2016 - 2017 provisional class project and be sure to meet each of them in the pages ahead.

I am so proud of each member and how we excel in our community as trained volunteers. Beyond our JLS service, our members raise thousands of dollars for many non-profits in our city. Please continue reading all the amazing ways our members are improving our community.

Sincerely,

Shannon



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Parliamentarian
Gretchen M. Wintermantel

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2016 - 2017 Public Relations Committee

*Katelyn McManamon, Chair * Erin McFadden, Vice Chair * Shannon Black
Dana Ferrise * Melissa Kadlubowski * Maria Bertha * Amanda Braun * Yvonne Caudullo*



Provisional Tea

On Sunday, November 6, 2016, in honor of our 2016-17 Provisional class, we held our Annual Provisional Tea. Sustainer



Representative, **Michele Musheno**, hosted the event at her Clarks Summit home along with Sustaining members, **Nada Gilmartin, Elizabeth Murray, Michele Neary, Nancy Parlo, Virginia Paoloni, Amy Paciej-Woodruff** and **Katie Sunday**. We had the pleasure of meeting our sustainer transfer, **Melissa Kirtley**, from the **Junior League of Columbus**. Guests enjoyed tea and other refreshments while viewing our 75th Anniversary History video. Potential new members in attendance were **Amanda Braun, Yvonne Caudullo, Lindsey Courtright, Liz Davis, Ashley Johnson, Molly Jones, Katie Nealon, Jacquelyn Nicolais, Nicole Sullivan** and **Dawn Talley**. Active members **Shannon Roche Cusick, Amy DiChiara, Jennifer Frey, Noelle Griffiths, Maggie Nasser, Tami Prall-Nasser**, and **Kelly Sweeney** joined the ladies.



JLS and UNC partner to create a Thanksgiving Tree

On November 7, 2016, Junior League members held a “**KNOWME: Positive Expressions Through Art**” Thanksgiving Done In A Day at United Neighborhood Centers’ Oppenheim Center.

Six children, who ranged from 10 to 16 years old, were asked to write down things for which they were thankful. Some of the words written down were: *family, friends, pets, love, peace* and *education*.

Junior League members cut out a tree trunk and branches to create the base of a “Thankful Tree.” Meanwhile, the kids traced their hands on construction paper to make “leaves”, cut them out and decorated them. They wrote or drew what they had



written down on the leaves and taped them to the tree. Participating Junior League members were **Gretchen Wintermantel**, who captained the project, **Kelly Sweeney, Gina McAndrew**, and **Dawn Talley**.

Wine & Tie Party

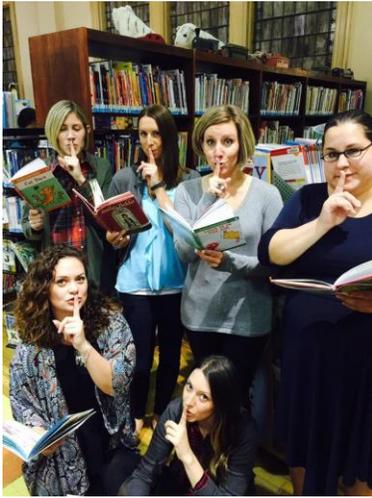
League members **Dana Lawrence, Noelle Griffiths** and **Tami Prall-Nasser** made Fleece Tie Blankets to give the St. Joseph’s Center Mother Infant Program. The fleece for the blankets was purchased with donations from Sustaining members, Active members, as well as the North Scranton Neighborhood Association. A total of 30 blankets were made. Pictured are some the children who received the blankets.



[Friends of the Poor Thanksgiving Dinner:](#) Volunteering at the Annual Friends of the Poor Thanksgiving dinner are **Julia Campbell, Nora Betts, Amy Betts, Dana Lawrence, Tami Prall-Nasser, Maggie Nasser, Shannon Roche Cusick**, and **Gretchen Wintermantel**.



Autumn Kids in the Kitchen



It was an autumn-themed Kids in the Kitchen for children and their parents at the Lackawanna County Children's Library on Wednesday, Nov. 10, 2016. A group of 18 kids colored and cut out various shaped leaves and glued them to pre-cut wreaths made from paper plates. Then, they tied brown ribbon onto them. They also made yummy pizza from pita, hummus and raisins. After they cleaned up their craft and snack, **Jennifer Frey**, DIAD captain, read "Ferdinand The Bull" that she purchased and donated to the library on behalf of the Junior League of Scranton. JLS members **Lindsay Barrassé, Maria Bertha, Lindsey Courtright, Molly Jones, and JoAnne Rossi** along with the children all had a great time. Stay tuned for more KITK events.

Santa Parade



Everybody loves a parade...especially with temperatures near 50 degrees. With JLS board of directors' approval, the Annual Santa Parade participation was a first time Done In A Day to help get more League involvement. Thank you to the 20 plus members, their family and friends, who walked the crowd filled route on Saturday, Nov. 19, 2016. It was one of the warmest Santa Parades anyone can remember, but still got us in the holiday spirit!

Happie Award Ceremony

Happenings Magazine announced the names of local businesses and organizations that won the third-annual "Happie Awards." We were thrilled to accept the award for **Best Children's Event**. JLS members **Amy DiChiara** and **Amy Betts** attended the 2016 Happie Awards on Tuesday, Nov. 22 at the Radisson Lackawanna Station Hotel. Thank you to all who voted for our Annual Touch-A-Truck event.



On November 9, 2016, active member, **Tami Nasser** and active-preferred member, **Terra McAulliffe**, attended a shoe cutting party to cut up old jeans and transform them into shoes! Shoe cutting parties utilize old jeans to create patterns that are used to create shoes for children living in areas of eastern Uganda affected by jiggers. Sole Hope is a non-profit organization that organizes the distribution of the shoes to the children in Uganda. For more information visit solehope.org

Holiday Cocktail Party

Winter weather plagued our annual Holiday Cocktail Party on Tuesday, Dec. 6, 2016. Several members played it safe by staying home for the night. A slick coat of slushy ice and snow covered the ground especially the historic Tripp House steps. For the ladies who braved the storm, it was a beautiful evening to celebrate the season. They enjoyed delicious appetizers and hors d'oeuvres while spilling a specialty cocktail or a nice glass of wine. Members posed for many photos and had a blast with the ornament exchange. Special thanks to the Arrangement Committee for planning a beautiful night.



Roseanne Smith Alperin Award Ceremony

On Thursday, Dec. 8, 2016 Junior League of Scranton Chairman of the Board **Amie Talarico** presented the 18th Annual Roseanne Smith Alperin Award to **Susan Blum Connors**. Mrs. Connors was a teacher for the Scranton School District from 1972-2006, where she wrote and received grants to include History Comes Alive and All Aboard for the Steamtown Math Olympics. She is a member of the American Federation of Teachers, the Northeast Pennsylvania Council of Teachers of Mathematics, the Scranton Women Teachers' Club, the Friends of the Scranton Public Library, Hadassah, the Lackawanna Historical Society, the South Side Neighborhood Crime Watch, the Hill Neighborhood Association and the Human Relations Commission of the City of **Scranton**. She was the first lady of the City of Scranton from 1990-2002. During that time, she organized and chaired the mayor's task force on children and youth, co-chaired President George H. Bush's points of light program in Lackawanna

County and coordinated twelve Nay Aug Park summer music festivals. She is past president of Jewish Family Service, assistant treasurer of Tour de Scranton bike ride, a board member of the Jewish Home of Eastern PA and secretary of the Jewish Home Auxiliary. She is media representative of the Northeast affiliate of the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network and has been appointed by Congressman Matt Cartwright to serve on the United States Military Academy Board. She recently accepted the co-chairmen position of the 2017 United Jewish appeal. It's evident why former Scranton Mayor David Wenzel nominated her. Congratulations, Mrs. Connors!

Christmas Caroling

Junior League of Scranton members and their families were donned in festive reds and greens to Christmas carol at Holy Family Residence on the campus of Marywood University and Gino J. Merli Veterans' Center in Scranton. The group entertained residents with holiday favorites such as "Frosty the Snowman," "Deck the Halls," "Jingle Bells," and more. It was a great way to get into the holiday spirit and bring happiness and cheer to the residents of both facilities in our community.



Gala A Big Success

Congratulations to **Maggie Nasser** and **Tami Prall-Nasser** on co-chairing a successful Seventh Annual Marley's Mission Blue Ribbon Gala with former League member **Valerie Langan**. Maggie and Tami first became involved on Gala Committee with the 2013 event. This year's event, held Feb. 18th at the Hilton Scranton & Conference Center, was a beautiful evening that raised money for the non-profit Marley's Mission, which provides free equine therapy to children who have experienced trauma.

The League was represented very well on the Gala Committee this year. League members **Gretchen Wintermantel**, 2013 Gala co-chair and committee member for seven galas; **Shannon Roche-Cusick**, gala committee member for three galas; and gala newcomers **Nicole Lance**, **Dana Lawrence**, and **Noelle Griffiths** all worked on the Committee this year.

Save the Date

The Junior League of Scranton will be the community organization of the day at the Scranton/Wilkes-Barre RailRiders game Sunday, Aug. 20, 2017 at 1:05 p.m.

Please sure to Friend us on [Facebook](#) to see our new feature Member Monday!

MEET THE PROVISIONALS



Amanda Braun

Family: Andrew Braun, husband; Jackson (German Shorthaired Pointer); Coco (Chihuahua).

Education: Master of Music, Classical Voice (Belmont University); Bachelor of Music, Classical Voice (Baylor University)

Where are you from: Dallas, TX

Currently Reside: Covington Township, PA

Employed: Human Resources Manager - Yorktown Systems Group, Inc.; Professional Vocal Coach

Volunteer Activities: SPCA, Music & Memory, St. Jude Children's Hospital w/ Delta Delta Delta

Hobbies: Hiking with Andrew and our dogs; jogging; songwriting; guitar and piano

Unique Skills: Professionally trained opera singer, and I dabble in pop/jazz vocals

Other Interesting Facts: 2014 Winner of Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions - MidSouth District; Former Young Artist with Nashville Opera.



Yvonne Caudullo.

I am a single working mom with three children, Dylan, age 17, Samson, age 15, and Emaline, age 7. After graduating Abington Heights High School, I attended Keystone College for Fine Art. While I still enjoy making art in my free time, I haven't made a living off it. I am originally from Scranton, PA, but now reside in South Abington Township where I bought a home for my family. I have been working at Backyard Ale House for a couple years now. I usually fill my free time with cooking for friends and family and especially love baking, hoping to make a career out of it very soon. I can make any recipe vegan friendly and I try to make others aware of how easy it is to make more compassionate food choices and understand why it's better for our health and for the planet. My dream is to open up a vegan restaurant that has

occasional informational seminars and cooking classes, as well as a fun place to have an amazing meal.



Lindsey Courtright

Family: Father - William L. Courtright (59) Mayor of the City of Scranton, Owner of Summit Karate Club, Mother - (59) Secretary at the office of the Attorney General, Brother - William M. Courtright (33) Lawyer at Progressive Insurance, Brother - Patrick Courtright (30) Resident at Temple Hospital in anesthesiology

Education: Grade School - St. Ann's Elementary School Class of 2003, High School - Scranton Preparatory School Class of 2007, Undergraduate School - The University of Scranton Class of 2011 Elementary and Special Education, Graduate School - Wilkes University Class of 2016 Educational Development and Strategies

Where are you from, where do you currently reside?: Scranton, Pa.

Employed: 6 years with the Scranton School District as a Special Education Learning Support Teacher

Volunteer Activities: Various activities with Scranton Women Teachers Club and Net Credit Union

Hobbies and Interests: running, traveling, shopping...

Unique Skills: I am very organized.



Elizabeth Davis

Family: Parents - Ken and Fran Davis

Brothers - Chris and Kenny

Education: BS - Ithaca College/ Masters - University of Scranton

Currently Reside Born and raised in Scranton. Currently live in North Scranton

Volunteer Activities: Voluntary Action Center - Director, Big Brothers Big Sisters

Race for the Cure Team Captain, Holiday Christmas Bureau, Kiwanis Club events, Relay for Life, The Center for Family Engagement.

Hobbies: My dogs, hiking, traveling, trying new restaurants.



Molly Jones

Education-I have a Bachelor of Science Degree from West Chester University, and I am currently in graduate school obtaining my M.S in Nutrition.

Residence: I am from Scranton, Pa. I lived in West Chester, Pa for four years and moved back to Scranton, Pa for graduate school.

Employed: I am a full time graduate student, and I work part time for Morrison Healthcare at Commonwealth Health Hospital as a Diet Clerk.

Other volunteer activities: This year I have volunteered for St. Joe’s shop around town, Alex’s lemonade, and at the Dairy Council Seminar for Preceptors held at Marywood University. I am also in a Marywood club called Peers on Wellness (POW). As a POW member I promote events on campus throughout the semesters for students to attend

regarding body size acceptance, stress management, alcohol awareness, sexual assault, and health relationships. I also present to high school students on topics such as eating disorders, media perception on body image, how to love yourself/your body, how to deal with stress, and healthy eating tips

Hobbies and Interests: I love to get involved in my community and educate people on health and wellness/fitness. My hobbies would include working out and participating in group fitness classes.



Katie Nealon

Education: Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Wilkes University, Wilkes-Barre, PA and a Juris Doctorate from Whittier Law School, Costa Mesa, CA.

Where are you from, where do you currently reside: Scranton, PA

Where are you employed: Munley Law

What are your hobbies or interests: Reading and puzzling.



Nicole Sullivan

Family: I live with my boyfriend, Ryan, and our two dogs, Jayda and Koda. I grew up in a family of six with my parents, Greg and Robin Sullivan, two brothers, Greg and Jeff, and a sister, Britney. I have a beautiful niece and two handsome nephews.

Education: Bachelor of Science in Psychology from Keystone College

Resides: I grew up in Honesdale and just bought a house in Old Forge!

Employed: Toyota of Scranton

Other Volunteer Activities: I work in Public Relations for Toyota of Scranton and we are always supporting a large array of community events so I am blessed to work with many different organizations. Two organizations that speak to me on a personal level are Marley’s Mission and the Jude Zayac Foundation. I recently joined the Big Brothers, Big Sisters program and matched with my little! In the next month, I will begin volunteering time through Serving Seniors, Inc. with my coworkers. I recently was voted onto the board of Cinderella’s Closet of NEPA and look forward to donating my time to the organization beginning this year. I am also an alumni of Leadership Lackawanna where I worked on the “Planting a Promise” group, creating a healing garden for children and teens who utilize the services of the Children’s Advocacy Center.

Hobbies and Interests: Volunteering is my passion and I’m so grateful to consider it my career as well. In my free time, I love being with my dogs. We spend most of our weekends at the Abington Dog Park. I also enjoy being around family and friends or just being home doing nothing at all!

Unique Skills: I don’t know if I would say that I have any “unique or surprising” traits, but I am a United States Army veteran with a specialization in military weaponry systems, which I guess is surprising to most people!

Of Note: I was awarded two Army Achievement Medals, one for organizational skills after organizing a key control and securing our military base while stationed at Camp LSA in Kuwait, and one for optimism and always bringing my team to success regardless of a lack of mission essential supplies. In 2016, I was awarded the Toyota of Scranton President’s Award for exemplifying the organizational core value of Continuous Improvement.



Dawn Talley

Family: Husband – John, Son – Brian, Son – Kevin

Education: A. A. S. Johnson and Wales University - 1986
B. A. Marywood University – May 2017

Resides: I was born in New York City and raised on Long Island. I have been living in Lake Ariel for the past fourteen years.

Employed: I work part-time as a Job Coach for St. Joseph’s Center, Lifeguard for Wallenpaupack Lake Estates, and as a private tutor for students with learning disabilities.

Other Volunteer Activities: Wallenpaupack Band Parents Association, Learning Disabilities Association, Women of the ELCA, EOTC Mentor, Bear Creek Camp

Hobbies: Reading, Walking, Swimming, Gardening, arts, history, and culture events

Unique Skills: I took the Lifeguard certification course at 45 years old to prove to myself that I could do it.

Of Note: I have two rescued loving Pitbulls!

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