

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

It seems like my first term as President was in fast forward! My goals for the year were to center our projects on nutrition and hunger, and to find a perfect balance between training, direct service, and fun. I also wanted to begin AJLI's New Membership Rollout. How did I do? Well, I'm happy I have another year to work on these goals, but, I think we had a very fun and successful year, overall!

I've compiled a few highlights of this past year. We totaled 184.5 volunteer hours through 15 Done In A Day projects. Our History Committee met with area archivists and will be purchasing items to preserve our historical memorabilia. Our Sponsorship Committee attained more than 95% of their budget in Mission Sponsorships to help achieve our mission. We were fortunate to be able to send two Members to AJLI's Organizational Development Institute in Raleigh, NC. I, along with President-Elect Nicole Lance, attended AJLI's 95th Annual Conference in Minneapolis, MN. We committed to Touch A Truck as our main fundraiser. We then ranked our four Community MBOs. In first place was the Crockpot KITK series, in second a Nutrition and Hunger Forum, coming in third was a Happy Hour to benefit our endowment fund, and in fourth place was the possible return of our Scranton Girl Tea. All new projects focus on childhood nutrition and hunger.

This year, Susan Blum Connors was awarded with the Roseann Smith Alperin Award. We awarded Maternal and Family Health Services WIC program in Lackawanna County with a grant from our Endowment Fund. United Neighborhood Center Food Basket Program was awarded a monetary gift from our Discretionary Fund. And, this year, Nori Zaccheo of West Scranton High School received \$500 from our scholarship fund.

After attending Annual Conference, it was refreshing to hear AJLI staff state that the Junior League President or President-Elect should not lead the Membership Rollout. Since I fell short on that goal, we will start over with this venture. We hope an ambitious member volunteers to lead this ad hoc committee! Our goal is to take our membership commitments and obligations to new heights.

I'm excited to be working with our new and continuing board members and board training is planned for August. I can't wait for our 9th Annual Touch A Truck on Sept. 30 and am eager to execute our new programs centered around childhood nutrition and hunger in the coming year.

I hope everyone has a very happy, healthy and safe summer.

Again, I'm truly blessed for this opportunity. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Shannon



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Yogurt Parfait Kids in the Kitchen



On Saturday, May 13, League Members visited the Friends of the Poor room at Valley View Terrace Apartment Complex in South Scranton. The Kids in the Kitchen was captained by **Amie Talarico**, who knows most of the children in attendance from working with them at Summer Camp. Provisional Member, **Dawn Talley**, read the book "How My Parents Learned To Eat" to the children. The nine children in attendance enjoyed making yogurt parfaits with the aid of **Rose Coyne, Mackenzie Lucas, and Shannon Black**. It was a delicious layered snack with crunchy breakfast cereal, vanilla yogurt, bananas, and strawberries. The children enjoyed working with the food almost as much as our JLS Members enjoyed working with the children! This yummy event brought sunshine to a rainy day!

Crunchy Banana Pops Kids in the Kitchen



The Nancy Kay Holmes Library on Green Ridge Street was host to a buzzworthy Kids in the Kitchen on Monday, May 15. The event was captained by **Amie Talarico**. This gathering centered on honey! **Noelle Fabbri** read "The Bee Man" to an enthusiastic audience while ingredients were being set up for the main event, Crunchy Honey Banana Pops! The children got a kick out of rolling their bananas in honey and coating them with crushed graham crackers and whole grain cereal products with the aid of **Rose Coyne, Melissa Kadlubowski, Erin McFadden, Shannon Black, and Mackenzie Lewis**.



Junior League of Scranton Endowment Fund



The Scranton Area Foundation approved the JLS Board of Directors recommendation and a grant from our Endowment Fund was awarded to Maternal and Family Health Services for \$756. The funds will be used for the WIC Nutrition program in Lackawanna County.

Junior League of Scranton Scholarship

The Scranton Area Foundation Scholarship Committee selected Nori Dominique Zaccheo from West Scranton High School to receive the 2017 Junior League of Scranton Scholarship Fund award. On Wednesday, May 31, **Shannon Roche Cusick**, JLS President; presented a \$500 scholarship to Ms. Zaccheo at West Scranton High School's Awards Night. *Pictured: Nori Zaccheo, Shannon Roche Cusick, and the principals of West Scranton High School.*



Crockpot Cookery Provisional Project in Action



The provisional members of the Junior League of Scranton hosted "The Crockpot Cookery" class for women at the Catherine McAuley Center on May 16. Coinciding with the Junior League's focus of childhood hunger and nutrition, the intent of the free class was to raise awareness of nutrition by providing healthy recipes and a list of resources that included local food banks and affordably priced grocery stores. The provisional class provided a cooking demonstration and sit-down dinner for the women who attended the class. Each woman

received a crockpot, along with a booklet of recipes and resources that help make weekly meal planning affordable, efficient, and easy. They were very receptive to our presentation and were super grateful for the basket of goodies.

A total of \$401.68 was spent in cooking supplies and gift baskets. We wanted to say thank you for all of the support we were given to make this event possible. *Pictured above are Membership Development Chairperson, **Tami Nasser** and the provisional class: **Amanda Braun, Yvonne Caudullo, Nicole Sullivan, Dawn Talley, Lindsey Courtright, and Molly Jones.***



Keystone Mission



League members prepared and served food to guests at the Keystone Mission in Scranton. The Keystone Mission's goal is "to be a catalyst for the community to provide help and hope to the homeless, hungry, and hurting people in Northeast PA." Therefore, the Done in a Day (DIAD) related directly to the League's impact area of childhood nutrition and hunger. **Noelle Griffiths, Erin McFadden, Melissa Kadlubowski, Amy DiChiara, Shannon Roche Cusick, Kelly Sweeney, and Mackenzie Lucas** prepared and served food to the guests. **Nicole Lance** prepared pasta and **Nicole Sullivan** supplied the dinnerware. The guests enjoyed a lovely dinner that included salad, pasta, Sloppy Joe's, and dessert. This DIAD educated members on portion sizing, food preparation, and the complex needs of the community. The League looks forward to serving guests again in the fall.

Attention all Members, Active, Active Preferred, and Sustaining! Your knowledge, skills, and expertise are needed as the Junior League of Scranton embarks on the Membership Transformation Rollout. The goal of the Rollout is to help the League adopt and implement a new approach to its membership. This new approach incorporates greater flexibility for members in deciding their level of League and community involvement. It also takes into consideration members' voices in deciding the direction of the League, as well as taking greater advantage of members' professional, personal, and civic talents to facilitate opportunities and meaningful connections within and outside of the League.

Over the summer, an ad-hoc committee will be formed to lead the Membership Transformation Rollout. In order for this to be successful we will need a committee with members of all statuses with a variety of League knowledge and experience. We will also need someone to lead this charge. This Rollout will be done in several phases over 1-3 years and will likely include a complete re-write of our By-Laws and Policies and Procedures. Does this sound like a good idea? Do you have some concerns about what this will look like and how it will change the League? If you answered "yes" to either of these questions, reach out to **Nicole Lance** at 570-575-6752 or nicolelance412@gmail.com and express your interest in this committee.

The Community Research Committee is proud to announce that League members have contributed 184.5 Done in a Day hours during the 2016-17 League year. The DIADs included six Kids in the Kitchen events. These events focused on healthy eating and children enjoyed sessions such as "Where Do We Get Honey?" and "Eat Your Colors!" Other DIADs included a KNOWME event, a dress drive for Cinderella's Closet of NEPA, cooking for guests at the Keystone Mission, cooking for families at the Ronald McDonald House, and Christmas caroling. League members met in the winter to make blankets for local organizations. Furthermore, members participated in a game room set up at the EOTC, the Greater Scranton Jaycee's Trunk or Treat Halloween event, and the Santa Parade in downtown Scranton. League members certainly had a busy year out in the community!

The committee also invited area nonprofits to apply for its annual discretionary grant. The League has chosen childhood nutrition and hunger as its area of focus coinciding with its mission of building better communities. Therefore, the JLS awarded this year's discretionary grant to a nonprofit organization that will utilize it for a program focused on childhood nutrition and hunger. The United Neighborhood Centers of Northeastern Pennsylvania received the \$300 grant to support of its Thanksgiving food program.

Annual Conference



It was an honor to attend the 95th AJLI Annual Conference in the Twin Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul from May 18 to May 20 with President-Elect **Nicole Lance**. This year's conference theme was *Disrupt Convention* at the Hyatt Regency in downtown Minneapolis. *Disrupt Convention* means that change begins with an instinct, and we should "let go" if we want to make real change. It suggests that we speak louder to forge new paths and take a fresh look at doing things.

Participating in opening ceremonies was one of my proudest Junior League moments. I represented our League from 1940 in the procession of Presidents. Each League President lined up by the year her League was formed and entered the grand ballroom, starting with the city of New York in 1901 and ending with Greenville, NC which entered the association this year. We were accompanied by a marching band.

Each day, we listened to amazing speakers and learned from their diverse perspectives. We gained new skills and tools and had meaningful conversations with members of other Leagues. We shared our League's significant contributions to our communities. Just some of the sessions we attended were

Transformation Rollout, 12 Slides in 12 Minutes, The Top Ten Mistakes Leaders Make, Bold Leadership to Drive Change, and Human Trafficking.

The Annual Business meeting and service dialogue discussed the AJLI Annual Budget, diversity and inclusion, the Johnson amendment and more. I was excited to be the voting delegate.

We enjoyed hearing from Keynote speaker Cheryl Strayed, author of the #1 New York Times bestselling memoir *WILD*. The Mary Harriman luncheon awarded Suzanne Plihcik from the Junior League of Greensboro for her work with The Civil Rights Movement. We also had a lot of fun visiting the Science Museum of Minnesota near the Mississippi River in St. Paul.

We had a great meal Friday night at a restaurant in downtown Minneapolis. That night we walked through the downtown, enjoyed a drink at an Irish pub, and watched the Twins fans cheer wildly after a big win.



We heard from Laurel Lee-Alexander, AJLI President-Elect, at our Saturday morning Presidents breakfast. We wrote letters to ourselves to be returned at next year's conference. I liked getting last year's letter back. We took a trip to the famous Mall of America, where we walked about 14,000 steps to see it all.

We celebrated the end of conference at the Prince-themed Closing Ceremonies with a Prince impersonator, DJ Dudley D, and the award presentations. AJLI President, Carol Scott, was the master of ceremonies. Please visit AJLI.org for a complete list of awards including the Rising Stars and Gwynnie Bee grants. Respectfully submitted by **Shannon Roche Cusick**.



Annual Dinner

Our Annual Dinner on June 13 at The Colonnade in Scranton awarded the Margaret L. Richards Award, the Mary Harriman Award, Sustainer of the Year Award, and recognized new Sustaining and Active Members.



The Margaret L. Richards Award this year was presented to President-Elect, **Nicole Lance**. Nicole has just completed her fifth active year with the League, having joined in 2011. She has, in that time, devoted more than 1,000 hours in outside community service. She has been a part of Making Strides Against Breast Cancer, Cinderella's Closet of NEPA, Marley's Mission Blue Ribbon Gala, and Drink to Pink. She also sits on the board of the Voluntary Action Center. Even outside Scranton, she is active. She is employed by the University of Pittsburgh, Child Welfare Resource Center in Mechanicsburg where she co-chairs their Community Outreach Group. So far,

under her leadership this year, the group coordinated fundraisers collecting over \$4,800 for the United Way, organizing over 180 volunteer hours and collecting about 170 toys for the Toys for Tots program.

The Mary Harriman Award for exemplary service to the League was presented to **Kelly Sweeney** by President **Shannon Roche Cusick**. Kelly served as the League's Corresponding Secretary for the last two years. She was an instrumental part of the League's 75th Anniversary Committee, Membership Development Committee, and Nominating Committee. She is the co-chairman of the Kids in the Kitchen Curriculum, and was Volunteer Coordinator for the League's annual fundraiser, Touch A Truck. The Sustainer of the Year Award was awarded to **Michele Musheno**. Michele served as the League's Board of Director Sustainer Representative to the Board of Directors from 2015 to 2017.

League President **Shannon Roche Cusick** announced three new Sustaining members; **Jessica Falk Chmil**, **Terra McAuliffe** and **Ashley Tucky**. Membership Development Chairperson, **Tami Prall-Nasser** introduced six provisional members who were granted Active status in League: **Amanda Braun**, **Yvonne Caudullo**, **Lindsey Courtright**, **Molly Jones**, **Nicole Sullivan**, and **Dawn Talley**.

The new Board of Directors will be featured in our September edition of *The Source*.



Midsummer Night's Dream Fundraiser

The Society for the Preservation of the Tripp Family Homestead (SPTFH) will hold its annual fundraiser – A Midsummer Night's Dream – from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Friday, Aug. 18 at the Tripp House in Scranton.

The evening will feature a variety of culinary delights from approved Tripp House caterers.

The cost per person is \$35 and \$30 for members of SPTFH. Membership forms are available on the Society's Web site, tripphouse.com. Memberships start at \$25 for individuals.

Congratulations



Congratulations to **Leandra Nasser** and her husband **Jerry**.
Ella Rose Coolbaugh was born on June 8
Ella was 8lbs. 10oz. and 19.5 inches long.



Northeast Pennsylvania Business Journal honored the Top 25 Women in Business at its luncheon on June 2. Congratulations to JLS members **Amy Betts** and **Jessica Falk Chmil**. Pictured: **Amy Paciej-Woodruff**, **Jennifer Frey**, **Jessica Falk Chmil**, **Amy Betts**, **Nicole Sullivan**, and **Maggie Nasser**. Members also in attendance: **Shannon Roche Cusick** and **Megan Alpert**.



Congratulations to **Dana Lawrence** and **Shawn Ward** on their June 24 wedding!

Congratulations to **Lindsay Barrasse** and **Dave Corigliano** on their May 8 wedding!

Best wishes to **Mary Kate Johnston** and **Jared McTague** on their July 1 wedding!





Save the Date! The Junior League of

Scranton's 9th Annual Touch A Truck will be held on Saturday, September 30 from 11 a.m. to

3 p.m. at Nay Aug Park. Please join us for this rain or shine event!

History Fun Fact:

Curator of the **Lackawanna Historical Society Robert Mattes** said in a July 19, 1966 article that appeared in ***The Scrantonian***: "...if you want anything done, get the help of the Junior League, for they are second to none. In fact, they are First!"

Mr. Mattes had worked with the Junior League on the Gravity Railroad Project at Nay Aug Park.



Put me in, Coach! Join the **Junior League of Scranton** at the **Scranton/Wilkes-Barre RailRiders** game on Sunday, August 20 at 1:05 p.m.!! For tickets, please contact Gina McAndrew via e-mail: ginamcandrew@hotmail.com. Every Sunday is Kids' Day, so we encourage all JLS members and their families to attend.

We would like to thank our Mission Sponsors:



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Junior League Prayer

We pray that we will never
be so blind that our small
world is all we see, or so
supremely satisfied that
what we are is all we ever
hope to be. Grant us the joy
of *filling someone's needs*.
Make us gracious followers.
Make gracious those who
lead. And more than all, we
pray that down the years,
we will remember there
are always
new frontiers.

2016 - 2017 Public Relations Committee

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