



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear JLS members and supporters,

As I reflect on the past few months some memorable highlights have been Touch A Truck (and the festivities afterward), our Blood Drive, getting to know our provisional members, and having very productive meetings. I was honored to present former JLS member Anne Falzett with the Roseann Smith Alperin Award, and had the pleasure of seeing Past President and Sustainer Nada Gilmartin receive the *Margaretta Belin Chamberlin* award. Congratulations, Anne and Nada! I had a great time and received a wonderful hug from a little girl at the Nancy Kay Holmes Library Kids in the Kitchen. I proudly walked with 24 other members and their families in the streets of downtown Scranton at the Santa Parade and I enjoyed my time at our Provisional Tea and watching our 75th Anniversary video again.

I would like to thank everyone for their well wishes as my husband, Joe, recovered from total hip replacement surgery on Dec. 5. I missed many memorable outings in December like our Holiday Party, Christmas Caroling, the Hanukkah KITK, and Food Drive.

We are planning three Community Projects for 2018. Thank you to Rose Coyne and Melissa Kadlubowski for co-chairing our Happy Hour to benefit our Endowment Fund, Maggie Martinelli and Molly Jones for co-chairing The Nutrition and Hunger Forum and Shannon Reed Black for chairing our KITK Crockpot Cooking Series. Our provisionals are in the process of choosing their project. We are excited to have a public exhibit of Junior League history on Friday, March 2 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Catlin House. I'm also happy to announce our 10th Touch A Truck will be chaired by JoAnne Rossi along with co-chair Mackenzie Lucas.

Congratulations to my dear friend, mentor, Past President and Sustaining member Katie Gilmartin on a wonderful campaign and being the top vote getter to become a Scranton School Board Director. Congratulations Katie. I would also like to congratulate Paige Gebhardt Cognetti on her appointment as a Scranton School Board Director, Lindsay Barrasse on winning her SAGE Award, Amy Hnat on being named a Northeast Woman, Rose Coyne, Katie Gilmartin and Amy Hnat on being named Top 20 Under 40 in the Dec. 2017 Northeast Pennsylvania Business Journal and all our members for "building better communities."

2017 was a wonderful year and 2018 will be only better. Thanks again for this wonderful opportunity.

Happy New Year!

Sincerely,

Shannon



2017 - 2018 Board of Directors

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Amie Talarico

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Shannon Roche Cusick

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Amy Betts

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Gretchen Wintermantel

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Scranton Area Foundation held its **Women in Philanthropy (WIP) Annual Event** on Nov. 9, 2017 at the University of Scranton. The evening celebrated the 2017 recipients of the *Roseann Smith Alperin Award* and the *Margaretta Belin Chamberlin Award*.

JLS President Shannon Roche Cusick, presented Roseann Smith Alperin Award in Roseann's memory to her friend, Anne Falzett, someone who embodies Roesann Smith Alperin's qualities and dedication to our community. Anne was a member of Robert Morris PTA and has served on and chaired numerous committees. She has been a member of St. Paul's Home School Association and Booster Club. She has also served on the St. Paul's Parish Block Party

committee. She has been a member of the Scranton Prep Parents Club, and has served on the Galleria and Auction Committees as well as the Auction Co-Chair and Past President. She is a member of Junior League of Scranton, serving as Membership Development Chair, a Board Member, and on numerous other committees including the Decorator Showhouse Committee and Roseann Smith Alperin Award Committee. She has been a lifetime member of Sant' Andrea Society and has served as a past President. She has volunteered with the American Cancer Society Daffodil Days, Green Ridge Sales and Distribution Coordinator, Women's Resource Center, and Great Chefs Committee. In 1998, she joined the Scranton Cultural Center as a member of the Development Committee. Currently, she serves as a board member and Co-chair of the Development Committee. She has most recently Co-chaired the 100 for 100 Raffle and Octoberfest Party. Her greatest blessings are family, friendship, and opportunity.

Kathleen Graff presented Nada Gilmartin with the Margaretta Belin Chamberlin Award. Nada is a Past President of the Junior League of Scranton, where she is currently a sustaining member. She has served as the First President of the Society for the Preservation of the Tripp Family Homestead, where she is currently a board member. She has been a member of Lackawanna County Council on Arts, Education, and Culture. She was previously President of the Board of Directors of the Scranton Cultural Center at the Masonic Temple, where she currently serves as Secretary. She has been a past board member of American Cancer Society, Crusade Chairperson, Daffodil Day Chairperson, past President of the Marywood Seminary Alumnae Association, past Secretary of the State Board of Parents Anonymous, and past board member of Family Services of Lackawanna Country. In 2011, she was named as one of the top 25 Women in Business. She has also previously won the Margaret L. Richards Award from the Junior League of Scranton, Sustainer of the Year from Junior League of Scranton, Volunteer of the Year from Ballet Theatre of Scranton, Sam and Jane Cali Award from the Broadway Theatre League, and the Attorney Robert W. Munley Distinguished Service Award from Lackawanna Pro Bono. She was also a Nominee Volunteer of the Year from Voluntary Action Center.



Pictured: Left to Right: Laurie Cadden, Shelley White, Elizabeth Murray, Pamela Anslinger, Nada Gilmartin, Donna Barbetti, Anne Fazlett, Katie Gilmartin, Deb Peterson, Elaine Shepard. On Step: Maggie Martinelli, Gretchen M. Wintermantel, Terra McAulliffe, Noelle Griffiths, Amy DiChiara, Noelle Griffiths, Shannon Roche Cusick, Tami Nasser

[History Committee News](#)

Lackawanna Historical Society to Mark Women's History Month with Special Exhibit by Junior League of Scranton

The Junior League of Scranton is excited to announce that its History Committee is planning a Junior League History Exhibit at the Catlin House, home of the Lackawanna Historical Society, for the month of March. The exhibit will open on Friday, March 2, with a free opening night reception from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. The League's rich history will be spotlighted in celebration of Women's History Month.

Calling All Sustainers: Our History Committee Needs Your Help!

The History Committee is seeking the assistance of sustaining members and sustainers emeritus in collecting any documents, photographs, and other Junior League items that members may have in their possession. The Committee is in the process of cataloging our history and locating documents, photographs, and other League memorabilia. For example, you may have copies of the Dope Sheet that we do not have. If you would prefer to lend us the items, we can borrow them scan and copy them. We will take great care of the items and return them to you.

We are also seeking the assistance of family members of deceased League members who may have documents and photos (or any Junior League items) they would like to donate or lend to the League to be copied and scanned.

Please contact Gretchen Wintermantel at juniorleagueofscranton@gmail.com if you would like to donate or lend anything to us.

Former JLS President Elected to Scranton School Board



When Katie Gilmartin sets her mind and will to something, positive changes begin to happen. She has now set her considerable talent and skill toward affecting positive change on the Scranton School Board. After countless hours collecting signatures, answering prospective constituent questions face-to-face, and tireless door-to-door campaigning with many members of the Junior League of Scranton by her side, Katie was rewarded as the top vote getter for both parties in the Scranton School Board election. Ms. Gilmartin was sworn in on Dec. 4 in the company of her family and friends as the newest Director of the Scranton School Board.

One of the first challenges in need of attention in her new position was the seat that had become vacant in Katie's first weeks as a Director of the Board. JLS Provisional Member, Paige Gebhart Cognetti, was appointed to fill the seat by Katie and her fellow sitting School Board Directors. Recently, Katie, Paige, and the other School Board Directors, along with Rep. Marty Flynn and Senator John P. Blake were able to obtain from Governor Tom Wolf and the Pennsylvania Department of Education a \$2 million dollar funding boost for the Scranton School District.

The daughter of Nada Gilmartin, a Past Junior League of Scranton President and current Sustaining Member, Katie credits the JLS, where she, herself, has also served as President as well as Chairman of the Board and is currently a Sustaining Member, as a significant foundation for her current role as policy maker and public servant. The training she received through serving on and chairing multiple committees over her 13 Active years in the League has given her the tools she needs to tackle complex problems and offer up fresh, team-oriented solutions. Katie has been a mentor and role model for many of our Members, past and present, and continues to be a source of pride to the League.

Many JLS Sustaining Members are involved in different aspects of politics in our area, including the Commission for Women, according to current JLS Chairman of the Board, Amie Talerico, and these women were frequently present at Katie's campaign events. Both Katie Gilmartin and Paige Gebhart Cognetti join a group of over 100 AJLI members across the United States serving as elected officials currently.

In addition to her time with the Junior League of Scranton, Katie serves as a trustee of the Scranton Area Foundation. She is an Impact Member of Women in Philanthropy, acting as co-chairman of the Entrepreneurship/Micro-Lending Circle. She is the chairman of the Board of Directors of the Scranton Shakespeare Festival and serves as publicity chairman for The Society for the Preservation of the Tripp Family Homestead. She also sits on the Advisory Council for Ballet Theatre of Scranton and is an ambassador to the Broadway Theatre League. Previously, she served on the Board of Directors of the Voluntary Action Center, was a member of the Friendship House Guild, and served as President of the Everhart Associates.

We at the Junior League of Scranton extend our Congratulations to Katie! We know she will take on her new position, as she has conquered all of her previous challenges, with grace, charm, and extremely capable hands.

And the SAGE goes to...Lindsay Barrasse



On Thursday, Nov 2., the Greater Scranton Chamber of Commerce presented the 2017 SAGE Awards, the Scranton Awards for Growth and Excellence, during the Chamber Gala held at The Theater at North in Scranton. The Awards honor outstanding local businesses for their talent, creativity, and innovation.

More than 100 applications were received for this year's awards. A group of more than 40 community leaders and professionals teamed up to review applications and select finalists. Active Junior League member **Lindsay Barrasse** was honored with the 'Woman of Excellence' award. This SAGE specifically is awarded to a woman who is making valuable contributions to the region and contributing to the area's overall quality of life. Congratulations, Lindsay, on this amazing achievement!

[Eighth Annual Blue Ribbon Gala Approaches](#)



Marley's Mission will hold its **Eighth Annual Blue Ribbon Gala** on Saturday, Feb. 17, 2018 at the Hilton Scranton & Conference Center, 100 Adams Ave., from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. This year's theme is **"Hope is the Thread that Binds Us Together."**

Marley's Mission provides Equine-Assisted Psychotherapy at no cost to children and families who have experienced trauma. To date, Marley's Mission, which is based in Newton Township, has treated more than 700 children in a 14-county area. The Gala is Marley's Mission's largest fundraiser. Cocktail hour begins at 6 p.m., followed by dinner, dancing and open bar until 10 p.m. Tickets are \$125 per person.

JLS Provisional Member **Amy Hnat** is co-chairing the Gala this year!! League members **Gretchen Wintermantel, Tami Prall-Nasser, Maggie Martinelli, Mackenzie Lucas, and Denise Puhalla Boyle** are on this year's Gala Planning Committee. **Gretchen, Tami, and Maggie** are former co-chairs. As always, we have a fantastic raffle going on. Raffle tickets are \$20 each and include the following three amazing prizes. The first place prize is a Walt Disney World Vacation Package for four; second place is a \$500 Gift Certificate to The Asbury Hotel; and third is a 5-Day Cruise to Bermuda for two. Please see any League member on the Gala Committee if you would like to purchase a ticket or two! For more information on the Gala, visit www.marleysmission.com.

[League Members Host Successful Blood Drive](#)



The Junior League of Scranton partnered with Rep. Marty Flynn in November for a Community Blood Drive for the American Red Cross at the Tripp House.

During the drive, 19 pints were collected -- which is the possibility of saving 57 lives! (One pint can save up to three lives.) If all the potential donors who wanted to donate could have, we would've collected more than 25 pints!

Gretchen Wintermantel captained the Done in a Day, and **JoAnne Rossi, Noelle Griffiths, Pam Anslinger** and **Shannon Roche-Cusick** volunteered. Noelle even dressed up as Buddy the Blood Drop!

Thank you to our League members who donated blood -- **Gretchen, Gina McAndrew, Rose Coyne, Mary Luchansky, and Tania Stoker**.

The League was proud to carry on the tradition that our founder Margaret L. Richards began when she founded the League. Because of Ms. Richards' volunteer work with the Red Cross, the League held regular blood drives throughout the 1950s and 60s. In 1962, the League established a Blood Committee to formally organize annual blood drives for the Red Cross. In 1964, the most successful "Blood Day" pushed the League to more than 1,000 pints of blood since holding regular drives in 1956.

Stay tuned for details about a Spring Blood Drive!

[Friends of the Poor Thanksgiving Dinner](#)

On Tuesday, Nov. 21, 2017 at the Scranton Cultural Center at the Masonic Temple Junior League members volunteered at the 41st Annual Friends of the Poor Thanksgiving Dinner, which provided a hot turkey meal with all the trimmings to close to 1,500 people.

Members who volunteered were: **Gretchen Wintermantel, Dana Ward, Pam Anslinger** and her son **Nicholas Johnson, Lindsey Courtright, Holly Scacchitti, Nicole Lance, Amy Betts** and her daughter **Nora, Melissa Kadlubowski, Amy Hnat, Mary Luchansky, Megan Boettcher, Mariah Reichle, Tania Stoker, and Nicole Sullivan**.



[Provisonal Tea Held](#)



The Provisional Tea was held on Sunday, Nov. 19 at Sustainer Representative **Terra McAulliffe's** home near Tunkhannock. **Terra, Nada Gilmartin, Michele Musheno, Amy Paciej-Woodruff, and Virginia Paolini** greeted the provisional members with open arms. Ten of our 15 provisional members were in attendance. We enjoyed Michele's famous cranberry tea as well as a variety of other teas, paired with delicious hors d'oeuvres. The Junior League of Scranton 75th Anniversary video was presented as the League history. Many members and sustainers shared their own experiences after viewing the video as well. Active members in attendance were **Shannon Roche Cusick, Noelle Griffiths, and Dawn Talley**.

*Pictured Fron, left to rightt: **Holly Scacchitti, Kendra Menth, Denise Boyle, Marissa Collura, Nyssa Degilio, and Membership Chair Erin McFadden**. Back: **Mary Luchansky, Megan Boettcher, Tania***

Stoker, Paige Gebhardt Cognetti, Membership Vice Chair Amie Talarico, and Amy Hnat

Thanksgiving-themed Kids in The Kitchen



The Nancy Kay Holmes Library in Green Ridge was the site for a charming Thanksgiving-themed Kids in the Kitchen on Nov. 14. The holiday event was chaired by **Shannon Reed Black**. The 14 children in attendance were treated to word puzzles, coloring pages, and two stories read by **Dawn Talley** including the story of the First Thanksgiving. The recipe presented by **Kelly Sweeney, Shannon Roche Cusick, and Noelle Griffiths** was a low-fat, vitamin-rich Fruit Cornucopia! This interactive and healthy evening was a memorable one for all who participated!



Hanukkah Kids in the Kitchen



On Dec. 13 at the Lackawanna County Children's Library in Scranton, a Hanukkah themed KITK was chaired by **Jennifer Frey**. A lucky 13 children and some special parents participated on the very cold, but festive evening. The book, "*Happy Hanukkah, Curious George*" was read and then donated. The story explained the history of the holiday and some of the food and games enjoyed during this special time. Jennifer brought delicious Potato Latkes with apple sauce and sour cream for everyone to partake in. Latkes are a traditional Jewish food and are always served during Hanukkah. Afterward, the children were taught how to play the Dreidel game, and everyone left with their own Dreidel, Gelt (chocolate money used as pieces) and rules to play the game at home. The KITK was well received by the community and a lovely "thank you" was sent to the JLS by the library.

Pictured, left to right, Jennifer Frey event captain, JoAnne Rossi, and Megan Boettcher.



December Food Drive

Caravia Fresh Foods in Clarks Summit was host to a very successful Junior League of Scranton food drive on Dec. 16. Thanks go out to **Noelle Griffiths** for captaining this Done in a Day, and to **Tami Prall-Nasser, Mackenzie Lucas, and Megan Boettcher** for braving the cold helping out. A special thanks to **Paige Gebhardt Cognetti** for hosting. Overall, 11 jars of sauce, 33 jars of peanut butter, 30 cans of soup, 2 cans veggies, 6 jars of salad dressing, 2 lbs pasta, 1 package of risotto, 1 box of cornmeal were collected to be dropped off at St. Francis of Assisi as a result of this successful event!

A-Caroling They Did Go



The evening of Dec. 7 saw Junior League of Scranton Active, Sustaining, and Provisional Members Dana Ward, Gina McAndrew, Amy Betts and her children, Noelle Griffiths, Kelly Sweeney, Nicole Lance, Tami Nasser, Mackenzie Lucas, Yvonne Caudullo, Melissa Kadlubowski and child, Amy Paciej-Woodruff and daughter, Maggie Martinelli, Mariah Reichle, and Jenny



Frey spread the holiday spirit through some festive caroling at Holy Family Residence and the Gino J. Merli Veterans' Center. A warm-hearted and jolly evening of music and laughter was enjoyed by all.

Junior League of Scranton at the Santa Parade



On a chilly Nov. 18 morning in Downtown Scranton, 24 members of the Junior League of Scranton and some of their children, along with two dogs (the largest league turnout so far for this event) marched along the route of Scranton's Annual Santa Parade! These festive members had a fabulous time distributing candy to the spectators along the parade route and really enjoyed kicking off the holiday season wearing their new JL scarves!

Holiday Season Celebrated by JLS Members



The evening of Dec. 5 was made lovely and bright by the Arrangements Committee, led by **Lindsey Courtright**, hosting our annual Holiday Cocktail Party. In attendance at the festive seasonal get together were approximately 42 Provisional, Active, Active Preferred, and Sustaining Members. In addition to fine food and drink, attendees were entertained by a rousing holiday ornament

exchange, a playful photo op, and a fun game or two. As always, the Holiday Cocktail Party was an excellent beginning to a magical holiday season! Thank you, Arrangements Committee, for a fantastic night!




JUNIOR LEAGUE OF
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- NET Credit Union
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- Sandvik
- Stima's Restaurant
- TwentyFiveEight Studios

Congratulations!

Go out to...

Paige Gebhardt Cognetti on her appointment to the Scranton School Board!

Gretchen Wintermantel on winning First Place in the Scranton Reads Adult Spelling Bee!

Former JLS member **Amanda Braun** and her husband Andrew on birth of their first child, Abigail Parker Braun, on Dec. 14, 2017. Amanda is currently an Active Member of the Junior League of Dallas!

Sustaining Member **Ashley Tucky** and her husband Josh on expecting their first child!

Provisional Member **Amy Hnat**, and Active Member **Rose Coyne** and Sustaining Member **Katie Gilmartin** for being named as three of The Pennsylvania Business Journal's Top 20 under 40!

An additional cheer for **Amy Hnat** for being named a Times-Tribune Northeast Woman!

Jenny Frey for landing the challenging and delightful lead role as Mame in Actors Circle's upcoming production of Auntie Mame!

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