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## Winter Sparkle

A big THANK YOU goes out to the the FUNdevelopment Committee Chairs and members (Carolyn Killian, Katie Nardolillo, Lisa Gurecki & Chappell Kettleman) who put on a wonderful 6th Annual Winter Sparkle. It was at a new larger location, with more attendees and lots of dancing to the tunes of Joseph Anthony's Wedding and Events DJ.



Our vendors included: Anytime Cookies & Sweets, Bake Eat Love, Becky's BBQ, Blount Seafood, Chapel Grille, Crepeli-cious, IM Sushi, Knead Donuts, Legal Seafood of Warwick, Newport Vineyards, Rasoi Restaurant, Two Ten Oyster Bar & Grille & Whalers Brewery. What a wonderful night! The event raised over \$17,000. These funds will help support the mission of the JLRI. Thank you to all who attended, donated and supported this event!



## Member Dues are Due

**Active/Gold Active: \$135.00**  
**Sustainer: \$110.00**



Dues for the 2018-2019 League year are now due. We hope you will continue your membership in The Junior League of Rhode Island, Inc., and ask that you please send your dues payment by May 15, 2018.

## 2017-2018 Placement Junior League of Rhode Island, Inc.

### **Governance Board**

President	Tracy Baran
President Elect	Dana Bernsten
Executive Vice President	Phillippa Rackliffe
Secretary	Sarah Brenneman
Treasurer	Amy Gerhard
Sustainer Council Director	Cynthia Affronti
Nominating Chair	Polly Talbott

### **Management Team**

Executive Vice President	Phillippa Rackliffe
Communications Council Director	Lisa Museler
Community Service Council Director	Erin Herzog
Fund Development Council Director	Carolyn Killian
Director-Elect	Kate Nardolillo
Membership Council Director	Mallory Kuno

### **Councils**

#### *Communications Council Members*

Gwen Tarbox	Whitney Anderson
Krystal Carnes	Nicole Lovette
Virginia Doppke	Lisa McCurdy
Lida Cooper	Christine Pellegrino-Celio
Kathy Chapski	

#### *Community Outreach Members*

Kate Murphy	Liz Cirella
Sarah Klump	Florine LeCompte
Sara Martin	Debra Parziale
Tiffany Scheffler	Taylor Gillette
Janessa LeCompte-Daquay	

#### *Fun Development Council Members*

Felicia Pandola	Jenn Peters
Ali Novak	Laura Nicholson
Chappell Kettleman	

#### *Membership Council*

Mentor Coordinator	Catherine Catucci
Transfer Liaison	Kristine Higgins
New Member Chair	Allison Rubin
Members	
Brittany McHale	Heidi Tripp
Mallory Kuno	Ashley Kuzmanko
Amanda McCafferty	

#### *Nominating Committee Members*

Nancy Serpa	Sabrina Paradis
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### *Mission*

*The Junior League of Rhode Island, Inc. is an organization of women committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women, and improving communities through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. Its purpose is exclusively educational and charitable.*

### *Reaching Out*

*The Junior League of Rhode Island, Inc. reaches out to women of all races, religions, and national origins, who demonstrate an interest in and commitment to voluntarism.*

### *Vision*

*The Junior League: Women Around the World as Catalysts for Lasting Community Change.*

*The Junior League of Rhode Island  
21 Meeting Street-Garden Level  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903*

*Phone (401) 331-9302*

*Email: [jlri.jlrimail@verizon.net](mailto:jlri.jlrimail@verizon.net)*

*Website: [www.jlri.org](http://www.jlri.org)*

*Office Administrator:*

*Christine Pellegrino-Celio*

**OFFICE HOURS:**

*Monday: 8am to 11am*

## **Community Advisory Board**

### **2016-2017**

Valerie A. Endress  
Associate Professor of Communication  
Director, American Democracy Project  
Rhode Island College

Lisa Guillette  
Executive Director  
Foster Forward

# President's Message

Oprah Winfrey once said that "Lots of people want to ride with you in the limo—what you want is someone who will take the bus with you when the limo breaks down." This year has been evidence to me of all those people, particularly Junior League-ers, who are prepared to take the bus with me.

This year has thus far been a challenging year for many of us. This year, I lost both my mother and a beloved nephew in the course of two months. Another board member lost her father a month ago. Other board members have lost friends close to them, or have friends suffering from serious illness or suffer from illness themselves. Several other league members have lost parents, husbands, friends or in-laws. The year has been a challenging and exhausting extreme departure from an existence I can only retrospectively acknowledge was a somewhat charmed one.

However, as said in *Lord of the Rings, The Two Towers*, by Samwise Gangee, Frodo's loyal companion: "But in the end, it's only a passing thing, this shadow. Even darkness must pass." Even among the darkness, I was amazed and humbled by the outpouring of concern, of empathy, of kindness and generosity from all of you. I could barely keep up with the text messages, the sympathy cards, the phone calls, the food, and the flowers that my family and I received. It is a testament to our strength as a League, of our concern, love and support for each other, of our call to action in crisis. It is the paradigm of why each of us joined the League and remain members year after year.

At the end of my mother's eulogy, I quoted a passage from the book *Middlemarch*, by George Elliot, who incidentally, was a woman who used a male pen name so her work would be taken more seriously. In my opinion, the passage epitomized the life of my mother, but also embodies the work of The Junior League of Rhode Island, Inc. and what each of us do for each other, and for the community, on a daily basis.

The final passage of the book states that: "Her finely touched spirit, had still its fine issues, though they were not widely visible. Her full nature. . . spent itself in channels that had no great name on the earth. But the effect of her being on those around her was incalculably diffusive: for the growing good of the world is partly dependent on unhistoric acts; and that things are not so ill with you and me as they might have been, is half owing to the number who lived faithfully a hidden life, and rest in unvisited tombs."

Our actions, as Junior League-ers, may, at times, seem to be "unhistoric". The impact of our actions cannot, at times, be measured, with any certainty. However, what we do does ensure that the lives of others, both our members and within our community, are improved in small, but significant, ways.

As we wrap up yet another League year, I thank you for allowing me to serve once again as your President. All of your "unhistoric acts" were and are deeply meaningful to me, and I know they are to our community as well.



*Tracy Baran, President  
2017-2018 League Years*

## Sustainer Spotlight: Elaine Colarusso

*Submitted by Cynthia Affronti*

It's hard to believe the 2017-2018 league year will be coming to a close at the end of May. It has truly been a pleasure serving as the JLRI Sustainer Director this past year. It has brought me many opportunities over the course of the year, one of them being how many Sustainers I have been fortunate to meet! Our featured Sustainer Spotlight, Elaine Colarusso, is one of them.

I had the pleasure of talking with Elaine at our Sustainer Holiday Party back in December. Anyone who knows Elaine is aware of her terrific sense of style and how well she always presents herself. Elaine has been a member of the Junior League of Rhode Island since 1989 (originally Junior League of Providence when she joined) and has been a Sustainer for the past 15 years. She's a member we could all benefit from knowing more about her history with the league and some of the doors it has opened in her life personally and professionally.

Elaine has served in a variety of capacities over her nearly 30 years of service with the JLRI. Some of these roles include Treasurer (also Assistant Treasurer), Finance Council Director, Public Relations Committee Chair, Provisional Committee Chair, Sustainer Council Director and she has also served on the Placement/Nominating Committee and Marketing Chair for the Windows Cookbook. She believes the JLRI has allowed her to practice skills that were out of her comfort zone including marketing and PR. The league has also helped her grow professionally because of the terrific training opportunities the JLRI has offered over the years. As far as the impact the Junior League has had on her personal life, Elaine has been able to contribute to her community and she has made some wonderful lifelong friendships. She feels the women she has met over the years in the are truly a blessing in her life.

Elaine is the Deputy Finance Director for Middletown and previously worked for the State of Rhode Island in Municipal Finance. She is only two classes away from getting her Master's Degree in Public Administration with honors (go Elaine!). In addition to volunteering with the Junior League, she is currently helping on a project with the Public Sector Consortium. Some of her past community work has included board membership at an independent high school in Providence, serving as a member of various fundraising committees like Hasbro Children's Hospital Ball, and Zoobilee: Feast with the Beasts, and Treasurer of a local community group. Elaine has also volunteered in her children's schools, running various programs and serving on the Parent Teacher Association.

Elaine and her husband, John, live in North Kingstown and have two grown sons. They recently became first time grandparents and Elaine will now be affectionately called 'Lola' which means grandma in Tagalog, the native language of the Philippines. As you can imagine, Elaine is quite busy between her family and professional life. She's excited to complete her master's degree which will allow more time to spend with her growing family and enjoy some of her favorite activities such as knitting, scrapbooking, skiing, hiking, cooking and baking.

Given Elaine's extensive years of Junior League service and volunteerism, she is certainly someone who sets a strong model for less tenured Junior League members to aspire towards. Thank you Elaine



## Sustainer Visit to Peabody Museum, Boston, MA

Several Sustainers attended our guided tour of the Georgia O'Keeffe exhibit at the Peabody Essex Museum in Salem, MA on Sunday, 3/25. In attendance were: Joan McMaster, Nancy Dorsey (and guest), Nancy Serpa (and 2 guests), Amy Gerhard (and guest), and Cynthia Affronti. The exhibit consisted of Georgia's paintings paired with her carefully designed garments and photographs taken of her. It was truly a lovely and informative afternoon, thank you all who attended!



## 4th Annual Women Authors Luncheon

*Submitted by Joan H. McMaster*

Our fourth Annual Women Authors Luncheon was held on Saturday, April 7th at the 1149 Restaurant in Warwick. Our capacity crowd of JLRI members and their guests enjoyed a delightful and delicious gourmet luncheon of Roasted Carved Turkey with Gravy, Pasta Primavera, Caesar Salad, Swedish Meatballs, Chicken Salad and Egg Salad Rolls, Gourmet Pastries and Coffee/Tea. Wonderful!

Our theme for the day was "Women Making a Difference." Guest Author, Marcia A. Cone, Ph.d. served as the Founding Executive Director of the Women's Fund of RI for more than ten years. She also served as a past member of our JLRI Community Advisory Board. Marcia spoke about her book 'Permission Granted: Changing the Paradigm for Women in Leadership'. She said that "light bulb moments" help women engage mentors who can aid them in setting goals, clarifying directions and discussing career options thereby advancing in their chosen fields.



Sylvia Brown is a member of the 11th generation of the RI Brown family and a graduate of University of Pennsylvania, BS and MA degrees. She worked on Wall Street and at the United Nations in international development for several years before taking a course in strategic philanthropy. Redirected, she researched her own family's history of charitable giving beginning w/the gift of land and a building which were the origins of Brown University. Sylvia accessed family archives focusing on Nicholas Brown II who worked to provide a moral compass for early students: a university as a force for good. Her book, "Grappling with Legacy", details the Brown family's journey towards multi-generational giving. "Uplifting Journeys" is her donor education program now in several international locations; women making a difference through philanthropy.



Following their presentations and a Q & A, our Guest Authors conducted a book-signing. Everyone had a great time! I am very grateful for our JLRI support for this event and I look forward to seeing you at our 5th Annual Women Authors Luncheon next April. Emily Arnold McCully, award-winning children's book author, hopes to attend as one of our Guest Authors! Suggestions are always welcome: [jcaryl1@hotmail.com](mailto:jcaryl1@hotmail.com); thanks so much!

## Governance & Management Implementation Update

*Submitted by Nancy Serpa*

The Governance and Management ad hoc committee issued a survey to our JLRI leadership to obtain a pulse check on how the Governance and Management rollout is progressing. The ad hoc will be meeting with the leadership to discuss the survey results and recommendations on how to best move our implementation forward. In addition, proposed changes to our JLRI governance documents have been resubmitted to help accommodate the new split model. These changes will be reviewed by the Governance Board in the spring and then presented to the membership for vote.

*Continued from page 2*

### **Ad Hoc Committees**

#### *100th Anniversary*

Co-Chairs	Petra Jenkins & MC Miller
Archival Collection	Liz Noren Colleen Sullivan
AJLI	Tracy Baran Carolyn Killian Kim Bigonette Jackie Tracy Nancy Serpa

# New Members Get in on the JLRI Action

*Submitted by Allison Rubin & Nancy Serpa*

Our New Members have been quite busy this past winter! New member Kathleen Cannon, ND presented to the New Member class in January about Naturopathic Medicine and Your Health. New members learned about the whole-person medicine view and approach of naturopathic doctors. Kathleen provided some samples and reminded the group how your "gut" is a key player in your overall health. Visit Kathleen's practice at [www.thecannonclinic.com](http://www.thecannonclinic.com).

The New Members also played a big role in our Winter Sparkle fundraiser by securing vendors, raffle items and providing hands on support the day of the event. They served as wonderful ambassadors to the league and brought many new guests to the event. Thank you ladies for all of your efforts!

During a recent new member meeting, the new member class received an in-depth presentation of Foster Forward's programs and the need behind their work from special guests Christina Jagonlinzer and Caitlin Divver of Foster Forward. Foster Forward's mission to empower lives impacted by foster care was evident through the breath and depth of programs and initiatives they are able to offer for children, teens, and parents. New members had participated in the Foster Forward toy distribution and provide holiday gifts to kids from St. Mary's Home for Children, so it was interesting to see all the data that supports the need for programs like these. Thank you again to Christina and Caitlin for joining us.

On April 4th, the New Members will be receiving a training from Sue Ogle on Presentation Tips & Tricks. As part of their community service project, they will be providing a financial literacy training to Boystown youth on April 12th and 26th. Stay tuned for a full report in the next Anchor.

Lastly, we would like to wish the following New Members well as they transfer out of Rhode Island to other cities:

Amanda Browning - transferring to Memphis TN area  
Katherine LeDuc - transferring to the Chicago IL area  
Laura Woods - transferring to Nashville TN area



# Community Service Update

## Movie Night at Foster Forward

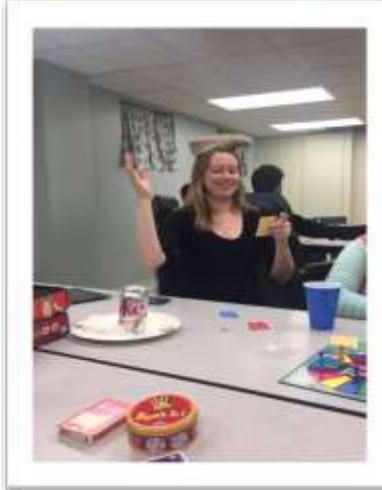


Big Boss Baby was a big hit! The Community Outreach Committee spent Monday night with foster families at Foster Forward. We ate lots of popcorn, snuggled under fleece blankets that were made/donated through previous Done in a Day (DIAD) projects and giggled along while watching the movie with families at the Foster Forward headquarters in East Providence.

Thank you to Kate Murphy for organizing this and future Foster Forward Family Night activities, Taylor Gillette for mastering the art of microwaving popcorn and Deb Parziale for your popcorn donation. events now through April.

Game Night in March included the Real Connections mentors/mentee participants. Members of the JLRI shared dinner and had some friendly competition. Here's JLRI Member Katherine playing Quelf.

Our next event is another Movie Night on Friday, April 27th. Come out and join the fun!



## Winter Conference

*Submitted by Dana Berntsen*

The AJLI Winter Conference took place in Long Beach, CA January 25 – 28, 2018. Not only did I have the privilege of attending this meeting but I was able to participate in several sessions that taught me a great deal and got me very excited about stepping into the President's shoes in June. A couple of my favorite sessions were:

- President as Chief Communicator
- The 3 R's of League Leadership – Rights, Roles, and Responsibilities
- President's Toolkit for League Governance and Leadership
- Small Leagues Big Impact round table discussion

Although the conference was wonderful, and it is always great to leave the Northeast and go to sunny California in January, my favorite part was definitely meeting so many wonderful women who give so much of themselves to the Junior League. Hearing their stories and learning about the amazing work they do in their communities is humbling. It is a great reminder of the amazing network of women that we are a part of. I'm honored to be a part of that network and I'm excited (and a little nervous!) to take the skills I've learned at Winter Conference and lead the JLRI next year.

## Midyear Board Retreat

*Submitted by Dana Berntsen*

The governance board and the management team came together on Saturday, January 13, 2018 at the Providence Preservation Society School House for our annual mid-year retreat. We took the time to review the strategic plan and the annual plan to make sure the league is progressing and on track with the goals that were set at the board retreat in June 2017. The team took the time to look at each committee and discussed our progress to date, what's working well and what, if any, minor changes need to be made to make the second half of the 2017-18 year as exciting and productive as the first half. Despite a minor challenge trying to figure out how to turn off the alarm in the school house, it was a great day!

# Hats Off to ...



Katie Nardolillo, Carolyn Killian and their teams for an amazing Winter Sparkle!

Beth Newberry for another great Knit-A-Thon.

Kudos to the Communications Council members for making sure all JLRI members know about the happenings within our league via e-Anchors, eBlasts, Social Media, www.JLRI.org website, Press Releases and the ANCHOR. Thank you for all your hard work 'behind the scenes'!

## Member Updates



Sarah Lang had a girl on November 18th named Hannah Lea.

### Our Condolences

Phillippa Rackliffe's father passed on March 21st. He resided in Florida with Phillippa's mother.

Patty Deal on the death of her husband, John R. Deal, Jr. "Pete".

Stephanie Van Patten's mother-in-law, Jane Shuster, passed away January 1st.

Chappell Ford Kettleman had a boy on January 4th named Bennett Alexander.

### New Transfers

Lisa McCurdy bought and moved into her first home in Bristol, RI with her husband Charlie McCurdy.

Alexandra Ellsworth is a California native who graduated from San Diego State University with a degree in Biology and Masters in STEM Education.



Krystal Carnes ran the Disney Marathon in January.



She has worked in education throughout her professional career as a high school science teacher and as a content manager for a mixed reality edtech startup.

She just moved to Pawtucket, RI in January and transferred to our league. Please make sure to welcome her to the JLRI.

# Upcoming Events

## April GMM: Voting Meeting

**Date:** Tuesday, April 10, 2018

**Time:** 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm

**Location:** PPS Schoolhouse, 21 Meeting St, Providence

Let your voice be heard. Come to this GMM and cast your vote for the 2018-19 Board of Directors. **Your attendance is very important!**

At the April GMM we will be collecting donations and putting together "hygiene bags" for foster youth who are survivors of human trafficking. We need donations for both men and women of: bar soap, disposable razors, deodorant, feminine hygiene products, and scented body lotion.

Please bring donations to the JLRI Office or the April GMM and sign up to help put together the hygiene bags.

## May Book Club

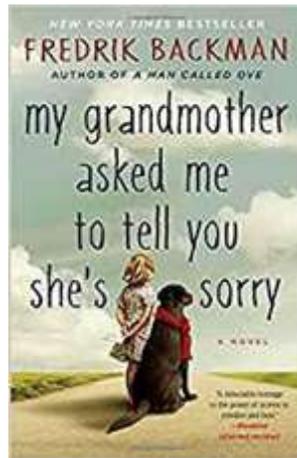
**Date:** Thursday, May 17, 2018

**Time:** 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

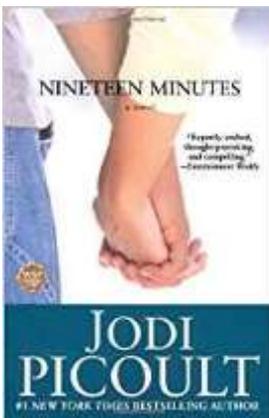
**Location:** Kate Houston's house, 45 Powel Ave, Newport, RI

**Book:** "My Grandmother asked me to tell you she's sorry" by Fredrik Backman

Please RSVP to Kate Houston at [kathrynhouston@yahoo.com](mailto:kathrynhouston@yahoo.com).



## June Book Club



**Date:** Thursday, June 28, 2018

**Time:** 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

**Location:** Chelo's Waterfront Bar & Grille

**Book:** "Nineteen Minutes" by Jodi Picoult

Please RSVP to Nancy Serpa at [nancytserpa@gmail.com](mailto:nancytserpa@gmail.com)

## JLRI CALENDAR MAY 2018 - AUGUST 2018

### MAY

- 1 Governance/Management Meeting
- 7 Fund Development Council Meeting
- 10 Communications Council Meeting
- 15 Membership Council Meeting
- 15 Community Outreach Council Meeting
- 16 New Member Meeting
- 17 JLRI Book Club
- 22 May GMM
- 30 Management Team Meeting

### JUNE

- 12 June Social at Rooftop at GPub, Providence
- 28 JLRI Book Club

### JULY

- 17 July Social at Agave, Bristol
- 18 JLRI Book Club

### AUGUST

- 8 JLRI Book Club

## JLRI Placement Fair

**Date:** Wednesday, April 18, 2018

**Time:** 7pm

**Location:** PPS Schoolhouse, 21 Meeting St, Providence

Communications – Membership – Fund Development – Community: what's calling your name?

Join us on Wednesday, April 18, to participate in the annual Placement Fair and figure out what committee you want to join for the 2018-19 year. Directors from each committee will be onsite to share info about their work – and answer questions – while you circulate, wine and snacks in hand.

We'll be holding the Fair during the April New Member meeting, but Junior Leaguers of all levels are encouraged to attend – to share your own experiences on a committee, or to figure out yourself where you want to be next year.