



**JUNIOR LEAGUE
OF LOS ANGELES, INC.**
Women building better communities®

Fall
2016

Harvest Boutique 2016: Where Giving Is Always In Style



Fall is upon us, and among many other things for the Junior League of Los Angeles (JLLA), we're ramping up for one of our biggest and most anticipated fundraisers of the year -- the 17th annual Harvest Boutique: *Where Giving is Always in Style*. This event is especially important to JLLA because it raises more than \$80,000 to fund our programs and projects. Maire Camille Evans, Chair of the Harvest Boutique Committee, notes "it's also a chance for JLLA to honor local women in the Los Angeles and JLLA community who have made an impact on our community." The fundraiser will be hosted at the JW Marriott Los Angeles LA Live on Sunday, November 20, 2016.

We're looking forward to a jam-packed Sunday full of shopping and tastings from over 40 amazing vendors including Joie, Rebecca Taylor, Blushington, Kendra

Scott, and Sugarfina. Ranging from yummy treats to decorative candles to the hottest fashion, the boutique will offer something for every taste. Guests will also have the opportunity to participate in a silent auction and an opportunity drawing. Get those bids ready!

We're excited to present more interactive experiences for our guests this year at Harvest Boutique. We have included two new Premier Vendors -- Kendra Scott, who will be hosting a color bar where guests can create their own jewelry, and



Continued on pg 5

community
connections
issue 11

A member of The Association
of Junior Leagues International, Inc.



*"Alone, we can do so little.
Together, we can do so much."*
—Helen Keller

Dear Community Connections
Readers,

Welcome to the Fall 2016 edition of Community Connections! I am so honored, humbled and excited to serve as the 2016-2017 President. We have so much to accomplish this year and by working together with a common vision we can achieve amazing things.

This summer, JLLA launched a social media campaign #whyJLLA where our diverse and talented membership shared their stories of why they are so proud to be part of JLLA. Some of the most significant reasons we heard were in the areas of: *Direct Service, Advocacy, Leadership Development and Membership*. Let me elaborate further:

Direct Service

JLLA is proud to partner with several community agencies that reflect our mission, values and vision. Through our project focus areas of self-esteem/empowerment of foster youth and education, JLLA provides the Los Angeles community with much needed programmatic and volunteer resources that serve as catalysts for positive change through our partnerships.

Last year JLLA made the strategic decision to further refine our focus on education. Our exciting new partnership with United Friends of the Children (UFC) will include support of their college readiness program that utilizes an innovative curriculum focused on life skills and professional development.

JLLA will continue to fund four full-time projects: "Fostering Independence" at Alliance for Children's Rights where we provide life skills classes for young women transitioning out of foster care; "Building Literacy One Family at a Time" at Children's Bureau aims to increase literacy among five to eight year old children and their families; "Discover You" arts education program at Mar Vista Family Center focuses on improving the creativity and self-confidence of pre-teens; and "Women's Empowerment" at Daybreak helps to inspire and motivate homeless and formerly

homeless women to succeed in their personal lives by teaching life skills. In addition to these full-time projects, JLLA will also plan and carry out nearly 30 one-day service projects through our long-standing Done In A Day (DIAD) program.

Advocacy

JLLA has a rich history of advocating on issues that affect the lives of women and children in Los Angeles. Through activities such as Day at the Capitol and Day at City Hall, members learn about the critical issues facing our communities and how to effectively advocate on behalf of the clients we serve. Through our Community Leadership Forum, JLLA promotes dialogue, awareness and education among JLLA members, community organizations and policymakers on issues facing Los Angeles. Our recent focus has been on the many challenges faced by foster youth.

Leadership Development

Leadership development is at the core of JLLA's mission of developing the potential of women. We are proud to provide JLLA members and members of the community with access to award-winning leadership development programs. Our Public Policy Institute (PPI) helps prepare JLLA and community members to enhance their

effectiveness in the nonprofit arena by deepening their understanding of advocacy and relevant public policy issues. PPI is honored to welcome distinguished leaders such as John Chiang and Wendy Greuel in upcoming sessions this year. Leadership Development Institute (LDI) focuses on providing JLLA members with leadership training seminars and one-to-one professional and peer coaching sessions. LDI's goal is to help our JLLA leadership become great leaders both in our League and community by strengthening leadership skills.

Membership

JLLA's strength comes from the passion and dedication that is so evident in our membership every day. As I serve as President, I know I will continue to be inspired by each of you and am looking

forward to our 91st year. JLLA has a demonstrated legacy of women building better communities. That can only happen through the extraordinary leadership of the Board of Directors and Management Council and the collective effort our entire membership. Our phenomenal membership has always demonstrated unwavering commitment, dedication and hard work. Let us continue to inspire and empower each other to more fully realize our collective potential as members of the JLLA.

In honor of our incredible membership, I invite you to join me at JLLA's 17th Annual Harvest Boutique on November 20th, where we will be honoring two extraordinary women, Jeanne Pritzker and JLLA Sustaining Member Daryn Horton. I have had the privilege of getting to

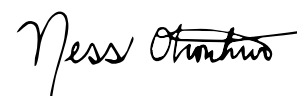
know both of these women and I am filled with such admiration for their achievements which have made a tremendous impact on the landscape of the Los Angeles community.

To our wonderful members, thank you for giving and serving with open hearts. Please continue to share your stories of impact throughout the year #whyJLLA.

To our valued community partners, we are so grateful for your support and partnership.

Together, we can truly make a difference and move our mission forward.

Warmest regards,



Ness Okonkwo
President, 2016-2017
Junior League of Los Angeles

Don't forget to follow our social channels:



Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/JLLosAngeles>



Twitter - <https://twitter.com/JLLosAngeles>



Instagram - <https://instagram.com/jllosangeles/>



Pinterest - <https://www.pinterest.com/jllosangeles/>

Table of Contents

Harvest Boutique	cover
President's Welcome	2-3
Harvest Boutique	4-5
Leadership Development	6-7
Direct Service	8-10
Public Policy & Advocacy	11-12
Membership	13-15
Board of Directors & Rainey House	16

Harvest Boutique Honorees 2016

We are pleased to introduce two remarkable women as this year's Harvest Boutique Honorees! Jeanne Pritzker, founder and chair of Foster Care Counts, will receive our Community Achievement Award, and Daryn Horton, Sustaining JLLA member and past president, will receive our Spirit of Voluntarism Award.

The Community Achievement Award honors a person or organization that has done significant work in the Los Angeles community that aligns with JLLA's mission, vision and focus areas. The Spirit of Voluntarism Award is presented to a Sustainer that has served the community through her work both inside and outside of JLLA. This person is selected by their peers (fellow Sustainers) for their work in the Los Angeles Community. Both of these women are passionate and dedicated to bettering our community, and the JLLA is delighted to honor them.

Jeanne Pritzker, recipient of the *Community Achievement Award*, has been deeply invested in foster care and child psychology for years. Over a decade ago, Jeanne took in the daughter of a friend in need after having six of her own children. She eventually welcomed an eighth child into her family, providing her with a better educational opportunity. Jeanne came to realize how challenging it is

to raise someone else's child, regardless of what kind of home they came from. She decided to pursue a doctoral program in



psychology to learn more about child attachment and parenting.

Because of her own experience and her continued studies, Jeanne continues to grow more and more passionate about helping children who need parents. With a B.A. in Psychology from the University of Michigan and an MBA in Finance from Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management, Jeanne has been able to help start up life-changing programs and initiatives for foster parents and children.

In 2012, Jeanne founded Foster Care Counts, a nonprofit organization that raises awareness and provides financial support to local agencies working to serve the foster-care population. The nonprofit supports foster-children at every stage: they give grants to organizations in Los Angeles serving transition-age foster youth, they've raised tens of

thousands of dollars to provide laptop computers to college-bound foster youth, and they also provide clothing, school supplies and gifts for foster to youth in college during the holidays and at graduation.

Jeanne also serves as a Director of the Anthony & Jeanne Pritzker Family Foundation and Pritzker Foster Care Initiative, which provides financial and philanthropic support to key social service, education, environment, and arts-related organizations in our community. She hopes to eventually become a foster parent herself.

Daryn Horton, recipient of the *Spirit of Voluntarism Award*, served the JLLA as President from 1979-1980. Throughout her active years in JLLA, she



held various other leadership positions including Education Chair and Vice President of Community and Administration. She acted as a delegate to the national convention, established a future planning process for JLLA, and developed a volunteer package with the UCLA Center for Early Education. She also

spent a few years with The Junior League of Washington, D.C., where she gave guided tours of the White House, Houses of Congress, and Library of Congress to invited guests of the State Department.

Daryn worked as Vice President of Finance at Fitness Systems, Inc., her husband's multi-state business. She has served as trustee for Hollenbeck Palms, board member for both the United Way of Los Angeles and for the Los Angeles Council on Careers for Older Americans, and President of the Board of Marlborough School.

Daryn is currently retired, but remains an active supporter of Children's Institute, Inc., Teach for America, and Children's Hospital of Los Angeles. She and her husband Bill have two married daughters and two grandchildren that they love dearly. Daryn is honored to receive the Spirit of Voluntarism Award, and thanks JLLA for the skills she was able to develop that have allowed her to lead and serve our community in so many ways.

Harvest Boutique - Continued from cover



Our Community Achievement Award recipient is Jeanne Pritzker, founder of the nonprofit organization Foster Care Counts and compassionate supporter of foster parents and children throughout our community. Former JLLA President Daryn Horton will receive the Spirit of Voluntarism Award for her many invaluable contributions to JLLA as well as her support for other community-focused organizations such as Teach for America and the Children's Hospital of Los Angeles.



Don't miss out on wonderful food and even better company at the Harvest Boutique luncheon.



Get your tickets to Harvest Boutique today. You can purchase them online at www.jlla.org, or by calling Rainey House at 323-957-4280. There are several different ways to get involved, from becoming a member of our Host Committee to attending the luncheon, or purchasing a Sip and Shop ticket and inviting

your friends! We hope you will join the growing list of supporters who make JLLA's work possible.

If you have any questions about the event, please feel free to email this year's Harvest Boutique chairs, Maire Camille Evans and Christina Bangara at harvestboutique@jlla.org. This is



one of JLLA's most important fundraising events of the year, and it's your support that makes it possible for us to contribute in so many ways to our community -- specifically in our focus areas of education and self-esteem/empowerment of foster youth. We can't wait to celebrate and shop with you at Harvest Boutique. See you there!

Board Fellows – Just Another #WhyJLLA



Ever see a program that looks really interesting but wonder if it will live up to the hype? We do and to convince you Board Fellows is the real deal, here is a snapshot of #WhyBoardFellows from Board Fellow graduate and current Assistant to the Training Vice President, Heather Castle!

Q: Heather, thanks so much for taking time to share your story. To give our readers a sense of your #WhyJLLA, can you talk about why you decided to join this organization?

A: I joined JLLA because I wanted to meet other motivated, professional women who were interested in building close friendships as well as a better community.

Q: How did you hear about Board Fellows and what made you decide to complete the program?

A: I saw a Board Fellows listing online and was very interested in submitting an application.

Q: What was your experience in the program?

A: Being a part of Board Fellows was a great experience. It allowed me to better understand the workings of nonprofit boards and how they support and interact with executive management.

Q: What board did you sit on for the program?

A: I worked with Pathways LA and was really impressed with the work they do. [Pathways is a community-based nonprofit agency dedicated to ensuring that all families, regardless of income or special needs, have access to high quality early childhood education and child care.]

Q: Any particular experience from the program that stands out in your mind as particularly impactful and meaningful?

A: During my 2nd sit-in on Pathways' Board Meeting, the board was discussing the potential for merging their nonprofit with another nonprofit.

During their discussion they asked for input from other people around the table. I spoke up and gave my view of the situation. After which they voted and the decision was to not merge. (Merging would have meant they would have made a big shift in their mission.) I thought that was a pretty significant decision to make and I was proud that my input was heard, respected, and asked for. It made me feel good.

Q: What did you learn from the Board Fellows program that will help you in future League placements and in other community activities?

A: I had two big take aways: 1) I learned a lot about board development and 2) I learned ways to evaluate the effectiveness of board members and their impact on the organization. I feel like I learned how to be a better board member and to promote leadership through board involvement.

Q: Did your participation in the Board Fellow program influence your decision to be AA to training council?

A: I always feel like if I am going to spend my time doing something it should be: impactful, fun, and I'm the type of person

JLLA board fellows

The Junior League of Los Angeles

that would rather be involved and lead. So, I was preconditioned to pursuing a leadership role. However, my participation Board Fellows sparked more of my interest in Training within the League. I also attended a few of the Public Policy Trainings and this helped as well. I was really impressed with the quality and content as well as the women who I was involved with. Without a doubt when it came time to pick placements I was excited to join leadership and because I had such a good experience with training I was interested in learning more and working to help other members of the League have that same exposure.

Q: Who would you recommend the Board Fellows training program to in the League?

A: I would recommend this training to anyone who is considering board involvement in their future, anyone who is considering leadership within the League, or who would like to gain a better understanding of board leadership and best practices to build board involvement.

Q: Any other thoughts you have as to #WhyBoardFellows for other League members?

A: This is a great training opportunity for personal

development as well as getting a hands-on experience with a nonprofit board. The program provides a huge learning experience and the value is well worth the time.

Did we pique your interest? Want to know more about Board Fellows? Here's a quick overview of what the program entails to better understand why you should consider Board Fellows in the future. For further questions on participating in the program (if you are a JLLA member) or partnering with the program (if you are a nonprofit organization), please contact the Board Fellows team at boardfellows@jlla.org.

- Board Fellows receive a comprehensive foundation for future nonprofit board positions.

The program has two components:

- Classroom training by leaders in the community on identified topics (including Board basics; agency fair; strategic planning, impact and evaluation; board governance and public policy; funding the organization; financial planning; and PR, marketing and social media) to help ready individuals to be active and effective members of Board of Directors

- Hands-on training through participation on a Board of Directors with a nonprofit organization in Los Angeles County. Previous Nonprofit Partner organizations include Downtown Women's Center, Junior Achievement of Southern California, MEND, Pathways LA and Torrance-South Bay YMCA.
- Finally, did we mention this program is highly recommended for JLLA Board of Directors candidates? Previous graduates include former JLLA Presidents Alexa Bleifer, Dale Harbour Day, Courtney Hunkele Garvin, Minna Taylor and current JLLA President Ness Okonkwo. You can't get better company than that!

JLLA members, now that you know #WhyBoardFellows, keep this program on your radar and make sure to submit an application for the 2017-2018 Board Fellows Class! Make sure to take advantage of this incredible training opportunity to further your #WhyJLLA purpose. For those who aren't yet JLLA members, make this one of the many reasons you join! We are an organization dedicated to promoting voluntarism, training future women leaders and creating lasting friendships. Contact us at recruitment@jlla.org to find out the #WhyJLLA for so many talented and diverse Los Angeles women.

JLLA Helps Kids Dive Deep into Reading



Imagine for a second that you are scuba diving at the bottom of the sea. There's loads of fish, octopus, starfish, sea urchin, jellyfish, and seaweed. It's so beautiful and enchanting that you never want to return to the surface. That's the effect that we wanted to have on the children attending JLLA's *Thrive Through Literacy* event last March. We wanted their imaginations to run wild, for them to remember the importance of books, and the magic of reading forever. A lot of kids have to grow up faster than they should and this was a chance for kids to be kids.



This past Spring, I, along with the rest of the members of the East Side/Downtown New Member group, spent a magical day promoting literacy. Yes, it was literally magical, as our book of choice was *The Magic School Bus on the Ocean Floor* written by Joanna Cole, but more on that later.

Thrive for Literacy was the 2015-2016 JLLA New Member

community project. The Eastside/Downtown group's day of service location was at the Children's Institute, Inc. (CII) in Silverlake. CII which has three locations throughout the city and services over 28,000 children and their families, is a safe place for kids who often have tough home lives. Knowing how



places like CII provide a brief escape from reality for kids, we wanted to enhance that feeling for them and truly help take them to a faraway place.

Our group created four different stations for the day; there were the reading, snack, activity, and craft rooms. In addition, we created a photo booth and fun accessories (cardboard yellow magic school buses included) for the kids to dress up with while they took pictures.

Our magical day of reading, exploration, and discovery began with an introduction from Ms. Frizzle, the teacher from *The Magic School Bus* series. Next,



our excited bunch of children were divided into groups and sent to one of the four stations.

I was assigned to the activity station outside on the playground. This was like recess during school or, as we called it, four half-hour intervals of organized chaos. We started with a few rounds of the parachute game. Next came basketball. Then PANIC! What do you do when the kids are ready for another game and you're tired from running in and out of the parachute? You play Duck Duck Goose of course!

As we wrapped up the day, we could see the joy on all of the kids' faces. They were happily tired. They were each holding a donated copy of their book along with other goodies. And hopefully they went home with lasting memories as well. The event took a



great deal of preparation, but seeing kids thrive during a day dedicated solely to them made it all worthwhile.

A Shift to Education:

JLLA Members Maximizing Community Impact

Women join the JLLA for many reasons - friendship, networking, leadership, service, and advocacy. Perhaps one of the biggest factors that keeps members engaged throughout their JLLA career is the League's commitment to community service. Given the importance of the League's service projects for the community and for the satisfaction of its membership, JLLA's leadership recently assessed our two issue-based projects to determine their effectiveness. After a thorough evaluation, JLLA has decided to shift from a focus on literacy-based projects toward education community projects.

In 2012, JLLA leadership decided to choose specific issue-based community projects, rather than supporting a variety of projects throughout the community without a broader purpose or initiative. "We decided to join the AJLI issue-based community impact roll-out to focus our League efforts on populations in need. Our issues provide the League a chance to make a deep and sustained impact on the community in a targeted and meaningful way," says Karla Sayles, President-Elect-Elect. Leadership presented the idea to the general membership, and during the first general meeting members were asked to list any big picture issues in which they were interested and vote on issues that they wanted

the League to dedicate its time and resources toward. That October, leadership shared the results and tried to dig a little deeper at the Neighborhood General Meetings. JLLA as a whole decided to support two community based issues: literacy and foster youth.

With the issues set, leadership then needed to figure out its community project evaluation process. How often should the League evaluate the two issues? How should the League measure community impact? What do these two issue areas mean to the membership and their satisfaction? Are members able to participate in both the literacy and foster youth projects in a meaningful way? After having spent a few years on each community issue area, leadership recently assessed each one.

Last year leadership attended neighborhood meetings to ask members about their experiences with literacy projects. It became evident that the literacy community service stories being told by members were not the same impactful, positive narratives as those about foster youth projects. Literacy did not have a community partner like foster youth did, so the projects lacked consistency. Many members had trouble attending the literacy projects, as they often occurred during the work day, and



members also found it difficult to build a curriculum around literacy without in-depth training. The foster youth projects were clearly resonating more with members allowing them to be more effective volunteers in that focus area.

This year, JLLA started the shift from a focus on literacy to education to have a broader impact on the community and re-engage its members. The League has a history of working on education projects and can coordinate one-off projects that are more accessible for members to attend. The move toward education will still include successful literacy projects such the New Member Reading to Kids Done in a Day. Public Policy is supporting the change toward education by working on an education forum. In the community, JLLA has started working with United Friends of the Children to work on college prep and life skills for foster youth. With these changes underway, it should be an exciting year for all members to participate in education projects and make an impact on our community.

JLLA and United Friends of the Children: A New Partnership Addressing Education and Foster Youth Empowerment

Los Angeles is home to over 30,000 foster youth, constituting the nation's highest concentration. The outcomes for these youth are not bright. Within two years of aging out of the system:

- 36% are homeless
- 70% are incarcerated
- 51% are unemployed
- 50% have significant behavioral or emotional problems
- Suicide and PTSD are 4 times more likely to occur in foster youth than in U.S. Vietnam veterans

Clearly, the foster system is unable to provide the necessary resources or guidance needed to provide successful outcomes for the youth in its care.

That is where United Friends of the Children (UFC) comes in. Serving 1,400 current and former foster youth every year, the organization takes a three-pronged approach:

1. Pathways Housing: providing housing, career counseling, life skills, and alumni services to youth aging out of the system
2. College Readiness: supporting youth from 7th grade to high school graduation with individualized academic prep and tutoring, SAT support, college application assistance, and college tours
3. College Sponsorship: providing financial assistance to attend four year colleges with yearly tuition and expense support, ongoing UFC help, summer internship placements, and post-grad career help

As one of the strongest nonprofits

serving foster youth in Los Angeles, UFC's programs have had a far-reaching impact on the foster youth landscape, providing hope and access for positive career and educational outcomes. Thanks to a conversation about JLLA's desire to work with foster youth between a JLLA board member and her friend, who happened to be serving on UFC's board, a meeting between UFC staff and JLLA was organized, and a partnership was born. In aligning with our focus areas of self-esteem/empowerment



of the foster youth population, JLLA had a natural connection with the College Readiness program, giving foster youth the tools to apply for, attend and graduate college. This year marks the inception of the UFC incubated project. Beginning in October, JLLA will conduct a session at UFC's monthly college readiness workshops for high school seniors. These sessions will host 30 high school seniors, teaching academic and life skills, including networking skills, financial management, etiquette, self-advocacy, and self-care. The sessions are intended to lay the 'pipeline for success' to college and beyond, assisting the participants in the college application process, cultivating

their ability to navigate the challenge and responsibilities of adulthood, and helping the seniors secure funding for their education. Successful graduates of the College Readiness program have gone on to four year colleges including the University of Southern California, Stanford University, UC Berkeley, and Yale University. Ruby A., a graduate of the College Readiness and Sponsorship Program, expresses her experience:

"Since joining the College Readiness Program in the 7th grade, UFC has been like a second family and has always been there for me. My life with UFC has changed me completely. I learned who I am, what I want to become, and how I can get there."

This project not only furthers JLLA's commitment and assistance to foster youth, but also lays a foundation towards increasing educational success and college preparedness in underserved youth. The direct service nature of the project will provide JLLA members with opportunities to educate themselves on foster youth and develop long-lasting interpersonal relationships with the population served. Along with the monthly workshops outlined above, the committee is also interested in holding Done In A Day events and project drives in the near future. Stay tuned for further information and ways to get involved in this exciting project. In the meantime, you can visit UFC's website at <https://www.unitedfriends.org/about/> for more information or ways to get involved.

JLLA Public Policy Council– Agents of Change

Book Club for Change

JLLA Public Policy Council has been hard at work already this year. The first event for the council was the Book Club for Change. Led by Senior State Public Affairs Committee (SPAC) Delegate Mariana Aroditis, the club seeks to discuss topics that align with our chosen issue areas while promoting collaboration and discussion among members. September's book was How Children Succeed by Paul Tough. The book discusses how character (grit and perseverance) is the best indicator of future success, rather than access and privilege. Since a large population of the youth we serve through the League has barriers to access



of education, this is relevant information with which to equip ourselves as we go out into the community. The strength of JLLA lies in its ability to educate and prepare its members with pertinent information then put that knowledge to work by serving our community. Mariana said, "Turnout was better than last year, and the participants enjoyed it so much they asked us to do another one in a couple of months!" If you would like to be a part of the next Book Club for Change, members will be able to register through the JLLA website.



State Public Affairs Committee (SPAC)

In addition to leading the Book Club for Change, Mariana Aroditis has also been active as our Senior SPAC Delegate along with Erin Wolfson as Junior SPAC Delegate. There are seventeen California Junior Leagues with two delegates each. All the delegates meet four times per year in League locations across the state. This year, the delegates have already met in Pasadena and will be meeting in Fresno, Bakersfield, and Sacramento. Traditionally, each SPAC delegate is assigned a bill in their designated focus area, they then present the bill to the other California SPAC delegates, and decide whether or not to support the bill. This year, Mariana will be focusing on Education, while Erin will be focusing on Health. Next, they advocate for that bill by writing letters to legislators and encouraging them to vote. While this year's delegates will be advocating for the aforementioned assigned bills, they are also interested in authoring their own bill. In true action-oriented Junior League fashion, these ambitious women will be brainstorming ideas at their respective Leagues, discussing ideas within SPAC, taking the ideas to local legislators, and then eventually finding an elected official to sponsor the bill. While the SPAC-authored

bill is still in the planning stages, it showcases the power of the Junior League to promote and affect change not only in our local community, but also throughout the state.

While SPAC is concerned with its role at the state level, it is also interested in making itself more well-known within JLLA. They desire to relay their message to JLLA members, receive feedback, and be a resource for other Councils. Is there legislation you feel your Project would benefit from? Is there an elected official that you have been dying to speak to? If you feel SPAC could help you or your Council, they invite and encourage you to reach out. As Erin puts it, "Having seen first hand some of the populations JLLA serves-- their needs, their challenges, and what we offer them--SPAC is an especially exciting and rewarding opportunity. It's the ability to go to our decision-makers and say, 'This is what we're doing to serve these communities and here's what you can do to support that; here's what we can do together to make an even bigger impact.'" To take advantage of the unique access Erin is talking about, reach out to either Mariana Aroditis or Erin Wolfson.

continued on pg 12

continued from pg 11



Community Leadership Forum

The Community Leadership Forum in December is the next major event for the Public Policy Council. The forum is still in the planning stages, but the topic will be "Breaking Down Barriers to Education." This event has been well-attended in the past and this incredibly relevant topic should ensure that this year is no different. Johanna Arias-Bhatja and Hallie Fisher will

be co-chairing the event at the Los Angeles Public Library in Downtown LA on December 2nd from 9am-12pm. More details will be released soon, but it promises to be an informative and inspirational experience for all in attendance.

Voter Education & Engagement

JLLA members are known for being passionate and engaged citizens. As a group, we identify needs in our community and work together to enact change every year. In that vein, the Public Policy Council would like to encourage everyone to get

out and vote this November. In addition to the Presidential race, this November's election will have the longest list of ballot measures since 2000, and most are hot-button issues. If you are interested in the list of ballot measurements, you can find them here: <http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/ballot-measures/qualified-ballot-measures/>. No matter your political beliefs, it's important to make sure your voice is heard in this and every election. Plus, you can get those cute little "I Voted" stickers. No Instagram feed is complete without one! #JLLAvotes.

membership

Q&A with Sustainer: Maria Robinson Glover



What has the League done for you?

I came to JLLA through the Board Fellows Program which I read about in a nonprofit newsletter.

Going through the program

expanded my ideas about the meaning of leadership and also gave me an even greater appreciation for the work of a frontline volunteer. My work as a professional fundraiser has benefited significantly through the trainings and quite often I find that many of these learned skills are put to test within the scope of a JLLA member's service to the LA Community.

How has the League impacted your life?

I always leave a JLLA gathering feeling inspired and motivated by something I've observed, learned or experienced.

How long were you an Active Member?

Nine years. I just went Sustaining this year.

How has JLLA changed since you joined?

Methods of communication have broadened

significantly. Digital Cheetah - how were things accomplished without Digital Cheetah? And now I find that social media has become a critical piece to how we share information not only among members but to others who are interested in the work we do.

What are some of the positive impacts you've seen happen over the years?

I appreciated the strategy of implementing a management council to lead the organization. This plan makes for a smoother and thoughtful way to transition board leadership.

What was one of the most memorable experiences you had in the League?

Most of my time has been spent on the Nominating Committee and each year I've participated I have remained in awe of the talent and commitment of the women who choose to dedicate so much of their personal time toward the success of JLLA. Getting to know the passions that drive these women to lead are inspiring to me. And most of all, it's personally rewarding to observe the successful accomplishments of the boards I've helped to shape.

Welcome 2016-2017 New Members!

On August 20th, 179 woman attended the 2016-2017 New Member Retreat. Tables were adorned with red roses and each new member was divided into their designated group. However, instead of referring to the groups by their neighborhood (e.g. "Beach Cities" or "Downtown") this year the groups were divided by shades of red -- a nod to JLLA's official color. Colors included: burgundy, cardinal, crimson, garnet, rose, ruby, scarlet, and vermillion.



Pictured Above: The Centerpieces for the new members. Each also included their group's special flag

The New Member Training Co-chairs, Lindsay Spiller and Jessica Schmitt (who met during *their* new member year), wanted to make sure the retreat was as interactive as possible.



(Pictured Above: The "Ruby" New Member Class)

After the opening remarks by President Ness Okonkwo, and a short welcome from Lindsay and Jessica, the New Members went into their first breakout session. The session introduced them to their upcoming project and other requirements for the year. New Members were able to ask a lot of questions in this smaller, intimate group setting.

The retreat ended with a lot of excitement from New Members and volunteers alike!

Not long after, on September 10th, the New Member class had an opportunity to participate in their first Done in a Day (DIAD). For the second year, Reading for Kids and JLLA partnered together. With an amazing turnout of 102 JLLA volunteers, the New Member class was able to see first-hand what makes JLLA so special. This also falls in line with their first year project, "Thrive Through Literacy."



(Pictured Above: A Group from the New Member DIAD)

New Member Spotlight: Bevens Goodman



Q&A With New Member Bevens Goodman

Q: How old are you and where are you from originally?

A: 31 and from Southlake, Texas

Q: Why did you decide to join JLLA?

A: I'm new to LA and wanted to find a way to get involved in the community in order to make LA feel smaller and more like home. I also wanted to meet like-minded women and make new personal connections.

Q: What do you do for work? For fun?

A: I am a gynecologic nurse practitioner at Planned Parenthood in Santa Monica. I am passionate about women's health and their reproductive rights. For fun I like to be outside – running, hiking or at the beach. In the winter I love being at the mountains skiing, or trying to snowboard.

Q: What member group are you in and who are your advisors?

A: Vermillion, led by the lovely Reba Rosenthal and Erin Kurtz.

Q: What was the most interesting thing learned from the New Member Retreat?

A: I was impressed to learn that JLLA offers the Leadership Development Institute to

members who are interested in furthering their personal leadership style. I've heard of similar courses being offered for a fee, but did not realize a leadership program would be accessible to me as a member of JLLA. I'm looking forward to my first year as an Active Member so I can participate and further develop my leadership skills.

Q: What is your favorite thing about JLLA that you've learned so far?

A: As one member at the New Member Retreat put it, "this isn't your grandma's Junior League". I have been blown away by what I've learned the League has been able to accomplish in the community, and the positive impacts members have made on the lives of individuals in some of our more vulnerable populations.

Q: What are you most looking forward to about JLLA?

A: I'm excited to work with other New Members on our New Member project. I know that with such a motivated group of inspired women the result will be amazing. I'm also looking forward to attending Public Policy Institute trainings. In my career I am able to help individuals, but would love to be involved in forming legislation that could impact larger groups of women.

Q: Who would you have dinner with if you could choose anyone in the world?

A: Michelle Obama. She's generous, confident, and not afraid to speak her mind. She (and Beyonce) make me believe that women can truly run the world. Plus, she has a great closet.

JLLA - Sharing Stories of Impact

Social Media is always evolving. It's a constant struggle to stay ahead, to be more creative in the next post and to keep your audience engaged and informed. In the grand scheme of things it's fairly new but vitally important to every business, company and nonprofit.

In the nonprofit world, emails and websites have always been the number one way to get your message out to the public, but in the past few years nonprofits' social media platforms have been gaining in importance. In 2015 on average nonprofits Facebook and

blog (www.jllablog.com) in hopes of keeping members and the public even more informed on our activities throughout the League. The blog also provides more detail than an Instagram post or a Tweet can provide.

This year we wanted our members to have more of a voice. Membership VP, Sydney Johnson attended AJLI's Organizational Development Institute (ODI) conference in January where they discussed the power of storytelling. She brought to the table the #WhyJLLA hashtag for

personal touch to our social media posts. It wasn't just facts and info about an upcoming event; it was emotional and personal to each member that participated.

We are continuing the theme of storytelling throughout our social media and blog this year. We began the #JLLAStories campaign in September, which is similar to the #WhyJLLA posts. Members will submit their stories of being a member and what has really affected them and what is important to them in continuing



#WhyJLLA



Twitter followers have grown by 42% respectively.

The JLLA has been focusing on growing our social media outreach for the past few years. Our Communications Council has been hard at work revamping our social media platforms, maintaining regular posts, collecting imagery and information from every part of our League to let the public know what we're up to. Last year we introduced our

our New Member recruitment campaign in the summer. JLLA members posted on their social media accounts why they joined and why they continue their membership. We got a peek into what it means to them to be a part of JLLA and what motivates and empowers them. It gave the viewer and potential members a glimpse into the different personalities, the different drives and the diversity of our members. The campaign also brought a

their membership. We are hoping to bring an authenticity to our posts and to continue with our members' personal touches.

The Communications Council is very excited for the upcoming year! If you haven't already, please make sure to follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram (JLLosAngeles) and check out our blog at www.jllablog.com.



Board of Directors 2016-2017

Top: Nicole Gonzales, Ricci Ramos, Nikki Williams-Nagler, Gena Urowsky, Melody Fang, Yasmin Coffey, Alecia Burkett, Nadine Weiss-Flam **Bottom:** Alexa Hughes, Katie Young McCullough, Ness Okonkwo, Karla Sayles, Kimberly Novak

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
VAN NUYS, CA
PERMIT 1246

Immediate Past President
Denise Snider Perstein
Assistant to the President
Alexa Hughes
Assistant to the Board
Kimberly Novak

President-Elect
Katie Young McCullough
President-Elect-Elect
Karla Sayles
Advisor to the President
Minna Taylor

Board of Directors 2016-2017

Directors
Alecia Burkett
Yasmin Coffey
Nicole Gonzales
Ricci Ramos
Gena Urowsky
Sustaining Director
Nadine Weiss-Flam

President
Ness Okonkwo
Secretary
Nikki Williams-Nagler
Treasurer
Melody Fang

**JUNIOR LEAGUE
OF LOS ANGELES, INC.**
Women building better communities™

Junior League of Los Angeles, Inc.
630 North Larchmont Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90004
Telephone: 323.957.4280
Fax: 323.957.2072
Email: info@jlla.org
Website: www.jlla.org
Office Hours:
Monday through Friday
9:00AM – 5:00PM
Bookkeeper Hours:
Monday 7:30 AM - 1:00 PM
Thursday 7:30 AM - 1:00 PM
Hours flexible
**General Office Assistant /
Development Assistant Hours:**
Monday through Friday
9:00AM – 3:00PM
Staff:
General Office Administrator:
Mary McGoey
Bookkeeper:
Ses Juhn
General Office Assistant /
Development Assistant:
Sweshta Dutt
**Special Thanks to the Publications
Committee for their hard work on
Connections:** Erin Ardon, Brittnay Banks,
Caroline Craig, Karuna Dewan, Mireya
Gideon, Brooke Goldstein, Mary Lischke,
Allison McElroy, Cammie Patton, Kathleen
Richter, Lauren Seely, Laina Stapleton,
Carly Weaver

JLLA Mission Statement: The Junior League of Los Angeles is an organization of women committed to promoting volunteerism, developing the potential of women and to improving the community through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. Its purpose is exclusively educational and charitable.