

# NEW VIEW

Summer 2011

THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF THE ORANGES AND SHORT HILLS

## JLOSH'S 2010-2011 PROVISIONAL CLASS BRIGHTENED THE LIVES OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN AT SIERRA HOUSE

*Submitted by Elizabeth Kahn and Heather Taylor King*



*2011-12 JLOSH President Katherine Eklund with Assemblyman Thomas P. Giblin and House Mother Phyllis Person of Sierra House*

This spring, the Provisional Class of 2010-2011 undertook an ambitious renovation project at Sierra House in East Orange. Inspired by the young women who reside there, the provisional members sought to transform their living space as a way to support the residents' continuing journey toward success.

Sierra House is a non-profit organization that provides housing and life skills programs for at-risk youth, primarily serving young women and their children. Its mission is to improve the prospects of individual achievement for at-risk youth and young adults through housing, education and community services, thereby contributing to the long-term stability of the community.

To kick off the renovation project, the Provisional Class hosted a pizza dinner at Sierra House for the residents and staff, marking the beginning of a fruitful partnership. The connections forged at this initial gathering grew stronger as the project continued. Over the course of several weekends, JLOSH members and the young women of Sierra House worked side by side with other volunteers to transform their living space.

*“JLOSH has helped to instill a greater sense of pride in our residents, making them happier to live at Sierra House.” — Keely Freeman, Executive Director of Sierra House.*

The renovation provided a much-needed face-lift to six bedrooms. Volunteers used donated paint and supplies to spackle and paint the rooms. To add more color and warmth to the bedrooms, provisional members purchased bright new bed linens, including sheet sets, comforters, and shams. In each bedroom, provisional members hung a full-length mirror and large bulletin board, which was covered with a colorful coordinating fabric, and provided pushpins so that residents could personalize their walls.

In addition to the bedroom renovations, provisional members hung donated artwork throughout the house, restocked the kitchen pantry, and secured a donation of window treatments for the entire house. As a result of the many donations and hard work of the volunteers, the house's six bedrooms are much brighter, and Sierra House has a warm, inviting feeling of home.



On Saturday April 16<sup>th</sup>, the Provisional Class hosted a party to mark the completion of their renovation project and to honor the inspiring residents and dedicated staff of Sierra House. The event included tours of the renovated areas of the house, a hot buffet, and refreshments.

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## President's Message



*"If you want anything said, ask a man. If you want anything **done**, ask a woman."*  
- Margaret Thatcher

As one JLOSH year comes to a close and another one kicks into gear, I am honored to be taking my place in a long line of JLOSH Presidents who came before me. These are great women who all helped move this organization forward, and I am excited and hopeful that we can continue that momentum going into this new year. I really believe that **there is nothing in the world that this group of women could not accomplish if we put our minds together and just did it.**

Speaking of great women, I must say a **BIG thank you to Laura Overdeck**, our fantastic outgoing President. Her strategic plan and leadership thinking have guided us so well this year. It was a pleasure to be a part of her leadership team. We thank you, Laura, for your time and dedication this year.

As you look through this issue of the New View, you will get a glimpse of some of the great work we have been doing and what is in store for the future. Our Provisionals completed an ambitious and **highly successful renovation for Sierra House** in East Orange. This dynamic and driven group of fifteen women came up with this project on their own and tackled it with passion and enthusiasm. We are so lucky to have them entering into their first year as active members across our committees this year.

We are **re-introducing trainings** and making them a priority for this year. After sending eleven members to the AJLI Annual Conference in May, we are busy planning a schedule of training workshops intended to **develop our members as leaders**. Training is a key piece of our mission, and we are taking it seriously this year. Look for more exciting news on this front!

Also included in this issue is some information about our upcoming **Centennial Celebration** from our new Centennial Director, Sheila McClure. We have developed a cross-functional Centennial Team that will be working on how we celebrate and mark our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a League in 2013. What an exciting time to be part of JLOSH!

Finally, I want to say that I understand the demands on your time, the other obligations and commitments that you have in your life and how difficult it is to balance those. I truly do. I also thank you for giving of your *time* to this organization. As we move into the new year, I'm asking you to **give us your passion, your commitment, your heart - and together let's see what we can do.**

Sincerely,

*Kat*

Katherine Eklund, President

### **TAKING THE PLUNGE**

Submitted by Helen Lynas, Membership Council Chair

Congratulations and thanks to all the women who have stepped up for leadership positions in the coming year! We couldn't run without you, and our community would certainly miss your talents.

Taking the plunge into leadership can be a daunting prospect, but those who **do** dive in usually find it a very rewarding experience. We don't expect you to go it alone: all new leaders attend a JLOSH training day and a training session for NJ Leaguers, both fantastic opportunities to pick up some valuable leadership skills. The AJLI offers great training, too. In May, 11 JLOSH incomers went to the AJLI Annual Conference in Philadelphia where they attended some inspirational seminars and workshops and networked with over 800 Leaguers from all over the world. One of the nicest qualities of Junior League members, wherever they are, is that they are always generous with their advice, so we all benefit from the collective wisdom as well as their friendship.

So as you progress to your next committee or council, think about the ways you can develop your Junior League career. Because we are a small League, we rely on all members to step up to leadership **every two or three years!** And for those who still feel nervous, I've just one thing to add – come on in, the water's fine!

# JLOSH's Centennial Celebration: Remembering Our Past and Celebrating Our Future

*Submitted by Sheila McClure, Centennial Director*



I had the privilege to attend the AJLI Annual Conference this past May in Philadelphia with a number of my fellow League members. Just like all conferences, they provided me with a binder to guide me through the various sessions being held each day. As I flipped through the program, I came upon the List of Leagues - just under 300 - in order of their admission into AJLI. While I knew we had been around since 1913, I was momentarily taken aback when I saw our placement on the list: the eleventh League admitted was the Junior League of the Oranges and Short Hills.

This is an exciting time to be part of our League! We are a little over a year away from beginning our 100<sup>th</sup> year of service and kicking off our Centennial Celebration. The goal is for our celebration to be not a single event, but rather multiple activities taking place over a period of time. The focus of these activities will be to honor and remember past projects, to recognize our partners in the community, to engage people in our service area, and most importantly to applaud those women who have been and are currently part of the League.

In true JLOSH fashion we are having a lot of “brainstorming” sessions this summer, the results of which will give us many ideas of the types of activities we may want to consider for our Centennial Celebration. Meetings are being held with the council heads from Communications, Community, Fundraising and Membership. We are also hosting gatherings with our Sustainer community, the first of which was held at the home of Amy Richardson, Past President 2006-07. A second meeting was held on June 21<sup>st</sup> at the home of President-Elect Kate Lee.

We look forward to the fall when we can share in person our ideas for our Centennial Celebration. If you have an idea you wish to share, please reach out to me at [scmclure2000@yahoo.com](mailto:scmclure2000@yahoo.com).

**This is a historic moment  
for our League — come and  
be a part of it!**



*Just a few of the Sustainers who attended our first 100<sup>th</sup> Brainstorming Session held on May 6<sup>th</sup>. Pictured from left to right: Joan Daeschler, Past President 1964-66; Joan McKeown; Kate Lee, President-Elect; Amanda Greene; Amy Richardson, Past President 2006-07; Rhoda Harris, Past President 2002-04, Jane Carano, Sustainer Council Chair; Karen Hartshorn Hilton, Past President 2005-06.*

# SPAC Concludes Another Productive Year

*Submitted by Myriam Scicolone*

The State Public Affairs Committee (SPAC) wrapped up the year with a very successful training day at the Millburn Public Library, a luncheon at the United Nations and a meeting to honor its outgoing Chair, Kate Lee.

SPAC's two-hour training session on how to conduct legislative advocacy work, which was open to all New Jersey Junior League members and their guests, was attended by approximately 60 people. The theme of the morning was that individual citizens can have an impact on the legislative and regulatory process. SPAC's "There Ought To Be a Law" contest was used to demonstrate how individuals can transform ideas into action.

NJ Senate Minority Leader Tom Kean, Jr. praised SPAC's research-based approach to advocacy, and he discussed his collaborations with SPAC over the years on issues such as child-safe guns and human trafficking.

Senator Kean then presented awards for the "There Ought To Be a Law" contest. Kimberly Rescorla from the JL of Morristown won for her idea to create a civil course of action for victims of stalking. In addition, three other women were recognized for their proposals: Jennifer Larson from the JL of Montclair-Newark for her idea to ban plastic water bottles; Susan Buchner from the JL of Elizabeth-Plainfield for her idea to require higher nutritional standards for school lunches; and JLOSH's own Helen Lynas for her idea to ban the use of the words "fat free" on high sugar foods.



*SPAC Chair Kate Lee and NJ Senator Tom Kean, Jr. present an award to JLOSH 2010-11 President Laura Overdeck, accepting on behalf of Helen Lynas*

Assemblyman Peter Barnes (D-16) supports Ms. Rescorla's idea and has agreed to introduce it in the form of a bill in the next several weeks. Senator Bob Smith (D-17) is expected to sponsor a companion bill in the Senate, with the support of Senator Kean and others. SPAC will make this bill one of its priorities in the upcoming year.

Another highlight of the year was a lunch offered by the United Nations Association to honor its work on human trafficking. Many SPAC members from all over the United States attended the event on May 11<sup>th</sup> in New York City.

SPAC's last meeting was held on May 17<sup>th</sup>, with guest speaker Kaitlyn Keisel-Stagnone of Polaris Project. She talked about the work of the organization helping victims of human trafficking.

To conclude such a successful year, SPAC members honored their outgoing Chair Kate Lee with an American flag, which was flown over Capitol Hill in Washington, DC this past January when a group of delegates visited the city.

SPAC is very grateful to Kate for all her hard work and dedication these past two years and is looking forward to welcoming its new Chair, Patricia Devine Harms from the Junior League of Montclair!



*JLOSH's Kate Lee receiving the flag flown over Capitol Hill during SPAC's Walk to Washington from Teri DiFrancesco (JL Elizabeth-Plainfield) and incoming SPAC Chair Patricia Devine Harms (JL Montclair)*

# JLOSH Annual Dinner and Awards



2011-12 JLOSH President Katherine Eklund takes the gavel from Laura Overdeck

Another wonderful year was celebrated by JLOSH members at the Annual Dinner, held at Canoe Brook Country Club in Summit on May 18<sup>th</sup>.

Outgoing President Laura Overdeck thanked everyone for their hard work and support throughout the year before handing over the gavel to new President Katherine Eklund.

We welcomed this year's Provisional Class as fully-fledged active members, following the success of their renovation project at Sierra House in East Orange.

JLOSH also honored several members for their outstanding contributions to the League this year.

**Margaret Santana** was named Active of the Year for her tremendous efforts as Chair of the League's Community Project Development Committee in helping to identify Kid Care as JLOSH's new focus area.



Members of the 2010-11 Provisional Class

## Gail Davis

was named Rising Star of the Year for her tireless efforts as Chair of the Training, Meetings & Social Committee, and for stepping up to Chair JLOSH's annual fundraising event next year.

And Sustainer of the Year was awarded to **Rhoda Harris** for volunteering her time and talent to the Junior League and to our community at large. Rhoda first joined the Junior League of the City of New York and transferred to JLOSH when she moved to Short Hills. She held numerous positions and served on several committees within the League, most notably as President during JLOSH's 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary. She is an active Sustainer and

continues to volunteer in the community, but her greatest passion is her family. Husband Jim Irwin and their three boys, Carrick, Jarrod and Quintain, were all on hand at the dinner to surprise her and celebrate her accomplishments.

## **Congratulations to all of our award winners!**

Thank you to the Training, Meetings & Social Committee – Gail Davis, Monique Bostic, Courtney Glover, Anita Lekhwani-Kurani and Mauri Myers-Solages – for planning the Annual Dinner. It was the perfect way to end the year!



Sustainer of the Year Rhoda Harris with her family

2011-12 JLOSH President Katherine Eklund, who spoke at the celebration, said, "Our mission is to promote volunteerism, train and develop the potential of women, and improve the lives of women and children in our communities. Sierra House fits so well within our mission. We are so grateful that they gave us the opportunity to work with them on this project. It has helped us train our volunteers to go out into the community and really make a difference."

House Mother Phyllis Person expressed her gratitude to JLOSH, as did Sierra House Social Worker Schrkya Massey. Provisional Class member Gretchen Lerach, who initially identified Sierra House as an idea for the Provisional Class project based on her existing relationship with the organization, expressed her appreciation and affection for the young women of Sierra House and was greeted by a group hug from the residents.



Assemblyman Thomas P. Giblin, who also attended the event, thanked JLOSH for its involvement. Mr. Giblin said, "This looks like a labor of love. You're making a difference in the lives of the residents here, and I just really want to commend you and thank you."



Keely Freeman, Executive Director of Sierra House, who was unable to attend the event, said, "Sierra House is extremely grateful to the members of JLOSH for such a thoughtful donation. They really showed they cared by taking time out of their

busy schedules to hang pictures, paint the walls, and redecorate the house with donated items. More importantly, JLOSH has helped to instill a greater sense of pride in our residents, making them happier to live at Sierra House."

Many thanks to the fifteen provisional members who made this project possible through months of planning and hands-on work: Odette Allen, Lia Barron, Alison Corbin, Elizabeth Kahn, Gretchen Lerach, Rosemary Mattson, Carol Ouzounian, Laura Palomaki, Katie Piotrowski, Sumukha Ravishankar, Minakshi Saggi, Patty Stern, Dawn Stewart Harris, Heather Taylor King, and Mary Wilson.

The Provisional Class of 2010-2011 would especially like to thank the following individuals and businesses who generously donated goods and services:

- Ms. Jeanine Burkhardt
- Church's Kitchen
- Costco
- Creative Wallcoverings & Interiors
- Ms. Kate Dorum
- Bishop and Mrs. Jordan
- Liepold Design Group LLC
- McGrath's Hardware
- Mr. Sachin Pannuri
- Ms. Jayanthi Reddy
- Rutgers Painting
- Mr. and Mrs. Cedric Thompson
- Ms. Susan Warner
- World of Colors



JLOSH's 2010-2011 Provisional Class

We would also like to thank Kay Birkholt and Susan Schillinger for their help with the celebration.

*Reach high, for stars lie hidden in your soul.  
Dream deep, for every dream precedes the goal.  
— Pamela Vaull Starr*

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## JLOSH Slate for 2011-12

<b>President</b>	Katherine Eklund
<b>President-Elect</b>	Kate Lee
<b>Recording Secretary</b>	Sock Wang
<b>Buildings Manager</b>	Terri Lannino
<b>Sustainer Council Chair</b>	Jane Carano
<b>Treasurer</b>	Christina Connant
<b>Assistant Treasurer</b>	Kelly Sandler
<b>SPAC</b>	A Sara Agress B Claire Van der Tuin C Myriam Scicolone
<b>Centennial Director</b>	Sheila McClure

### Membership Council

<b>Membership Council Chair</b>	Helen Lynas
<b>Asst. Membership VP/Nominating Chair</b>	Michelle Solgan
<b>Nominating Advisors</b>	Elizabeth Duncan Pederson, Joy Kalfus, Joi Koenig, Julie Liepold, Robin Grapkowski
<b>Training, Meetings and Social</b>	Odette Allen (Meetings and Social) Denise Eliopoulos (Training)
<b>Provisional Co-Chairs</b>	Lisa Susan Vick, Cynthia Tratnyek

### Communications Council

<b>Communications Council Chair</b>	Sandy LoPiccolo
<b>Public Relations Co-Chairs</b>	Chesney Blue Julia Bersch
<b>New View Editor</b>	Mary Grossman
<b>Web Editor</b>	Lesley Stiska

### Fundraising Council

<b>Fundraising Council Chair</b>	Jamy Kokinda
<b>Asst. Fundraising Council Chair/ Fund Development Chair</b>	Melissa Sheehy
<b>Fundraising Event Chair</b>	Gail Davis
<b>Centennial Event Chair</b>	Adrianna Johnson

### Community Council

<b>Community VP</b>	Margaret Santana
<b>Asst. Community VP/CPD Chair</b>	Robin Peacock
<b>TLV Chair</b>	Amy Ricalde
<b>Done in a Day Chair</b>	Cate Edell
<b>New Community Project Chair</b>	Kim Walls



**JUNIOR LEAGUE OF  
THE ORANGES AND SHORT HILLS**

*Women building better communities*

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***New Jersey table at the voting session of the AJLI Annual Conference in Philadelphia.  
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