

NEW VIEW

Fall/Winter 2011

THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF THE ORANGES AND SHORT HILLS

Vicki Clark Gets Us Thinking!

Submitted by Sandy LoPiccolo, Communications Council Chair

JLOSH was honored and very fortunate to have had a visit from motivational speaker Vicki Clark on Wednesday, October 19th at the Burgdorff Cultural Center in Maplewood. She shared her wit and knowledge with almost 100 women who braved the rainy weather to learn how they can reduce stress and restore balance in their life.



JLOSH President Kat Eklund with Guest Speaker Vicki Clark.

Clark's delivery hit right at home with the audience of mostly women – yes, there was one man sitting in the audience! We all walked away laughing, but carrying some ideas

we could use for ourselves. JLOSH was thrilled with the turnout at the event and excited that Clark was able to get women thinking about how they can better manage their time.

In addition to her presentation at the Burgdorff Cultural Center, Vicki Clark facilitated two workshops hosted by JLOSH on Thursday, October 20th at the League building. In

"We can choose to be happy, or we can choose to let life's ups and downs create stress and disease in our lives. This isn't easy, but it's something we each must work on each and every day. Some days I am able to do this and some not, but the sun comes up again the next day and our lives begin anew and we get the chance to choose to be happy."

– Vicki Clark

the morning, a leadership workshop was held for Board and Committee Chairs on the importance and value of delegating. We also discussed the components of our mission and had a really interesting strategic dialogue.



Pictured from left to right are President-Elect Kate Lee, Robin Peacock, Sara Agress, Margaret Santana, Gail Davis, President Kat Eklund, Sheila McClure, Vicki Clark, Julie Liepold, Adriana Johnson, Cate Edell, Michelle Solgan, Helen Lynas, Kim Walls and Denise Eliopoulos.

A second workshop was held in the afternoon for local non-profit organizations on how they can be more successful in the current economic environment. Over 20 organizations attended the event. Not only did they value the opportunity to learn from Vicki Clark, but they also networked with each other.

Overall, it was a resounding success! Thank you to the following people who helped coordinate

Vicki Clark's visit, the GMM and the workshops: Odette Allen (and team), Helen Lynas, Denise Eliopoulos, Margaret Santana, Robin Peacock and Julia Bersch. Special thanks to Kate Lee for suggesting Vicki Clark as a speaker and for organizing the details of her visit months ago so we could get on her busy schedule.



Vicki Clark speaking at the community workshop.

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President's Message



Kat Eklund

Well, we always like to start the year off with a bang, but this year we were outdone by Mother Nature who chose to start our year off with a flood! As most of you have heard by now, our League Headquarters building in Millburn was severely impacted by Hurricane Irene in August, and had 5 feet of water in the basement. Thanks to a small group of very dedicated JLOSH women, we are happy to announce that the building has made a full recovery, and we will also receive nearly full reimbursement from our insurance company for the \$30k in damages that we sustained. Read more about the details in the article submitted by Terri Lannino, Building Manager.

Much of our concern in restoring function to the building had to do with our wonderful new tenant, Splurge Bakery, who needed the basement facilities and equipment to run their business. See inside for a fantastic feature story on Julie Winer, the owner of the bakery, and you will see why we feel so lucky to have her in our building.

In October we were honored to have a visit from Vicki Clark, a wonderful motivational speaker and consultant who spoke at our October General Membership Meeting about how to manage stress and find balance in our lives – a theme our Junior League women could definitely relate to! She followed up with two workshops – an internal training for our leadership and a workshop for our external community partners – both of which were highly successful.

The rest of this newsletter reads like the resume of a highly productive and successful organization. In just a few short months, we have racked up project after project that has impacted the women in our organization and those in need in the community: launching the Leadership Development Institute, recognizing our longest-serving members, providing meals to needy families, and bringing some cheer to foster children and their families at the holidays. All this and it is only January.

I am proud to be part of such a wonderful group of women and wish you all a happy holiday season. We have much to be thankful for.

Sincerely,

Kat

Katherine Eklund, President

Let's Give a Warm Welcome to JLOSH's Provisional Class of 2011-2012!



Meredith Amico

Allison Anderson

Christine Cofer

Cheryl Darmanin

Robbi Destri

Kristi Gerstel

Shanease Guion-Davis

Michele Keaveney

Tonya A. Kittur

Janette McDermott

Jody Miller

Rie Oberliesen

Laura E. Perry

Wana Petrucco

Christine Ploetner

Felicia Storey

Iris Tan

Lauren Teetsel

HURRICANE IRENE

Submitted by Terri Lannino, Building Manager

On August 28th, Hurricane Irene hit our area, causing tremendous damage to downtown Millburn, including the League building. The backyard and memorial garden were under at least a foot of water, and at some point, we lost power and the use of our sump pumps. The first and second floors were untouched, but the basement looked like it had been in a whirlpool – 5 feet of water had submerged everything. Boxes were displaced and had floated up to rest, one on top of another, on the stairs. Everything was wet and coated with mud, and a foul smell pervaded the building.



In typical Junior League fashion, we quickly sprang into disaster recovery mode. A few dedicated JLOSH members pitched in to help carry what was salvageable upstairs. And with the help of our handyman, everything that was ruined in the basement was hauled out of the building, including filing cabinets and tables – the task alone took 2 days!



Many of our archive materials, including photo albums, programs and press clippings, were submerged. Despite our valiant efforts, only those that were stored in plastic bins with lids survived the storm. Most of what was salvaged had to be left out on wire racks or on the back deck in the sun to dry out. We did not have such luck with The Littlest Volunteers. Most of the books that were stored in the basement were soaking wet, and even the few that we tried to save had to be thrown out. We lost about 1,000 copies – our entire inventory. But not all is lost. The Littlest Volunteers project can continue this year with the 50 copies of the book left remaining. Margaret Santana and the TLV Committee have also tracked down the publisher and they are currently looking into other options for us regarding the books.



Aside from what we lost, the building equipment in the basement was ruined and had to be replaced. Kat Eklund, Sock Wang and Ilona Volz spearheaded the lengthy process of having all of the systems in the building replaced. In all, we had to replace two furnaces, one hot water heater, one boiler, two

electrical panels and one alarm panel. And they managed to do it all in 10 days so that we could get the building back up and running – a considerable feat given that contractors all over town were overwhelmed with customers!

With the last of the building equipment replaced, our handyman scrubbed and bleached the basement walls and floor. Dehumidifiers were purchased and borrowed. There was so much moisture in the basement that the dehumidifier buckets had to be emptied about 3 times a day. It took about 2 weeks for the basement to completely dry out.



All in all, this disaster cost us about \$30,000. Thanks to the hard work and persistence of Sock Wang, who was the primary insurance contact during the building emergency, we are pleased to announce that the majority of our building damage will be covered by our insurance company. Kudos to Sock!

Life has returned to normal, and we all learned a lot from this disaster. An ad-hoc Building Committee has been formed to look into various issues associated with the building that we need to address to better prepare us for the next storm to come along. They say Hurricane Irene was a 100 year flood. Isn't it ironic that we're approaching our 100th year?

JLOSH thanks Terri Lannino for all the time she has put in and her selfless efforts to restore our building, even as her own basement was flooded and needed her attention more urgently.

And many thanks to the following people who helped with the emergency:

Ilona Volz, Sheila McClure, Sandy LoPiccolo, Kim Walls, Julia Bersch, Michelle Solgan, Christina Connant, Melissa Sheehy, Kara Lawler, Margaret Santana, Kate Lee, Joan McKeown, Joan Daeschler and Sock Wang.

Member's Update

Submitted by Helen Lynas, Membership Council Chair

Congratulations

to our longest-serving members who were recognized at our September GMM. Between them, they have clocked a staggering 192 years of service, exemplifying the JLOSH commitment to voluntarism. Well done ladies, and keep up the good work!

On the long-service roll of honor are:

Claire Van Der Tuin,
27 years

Elizabeth Duncan
Pederson, 20 years

Jane Carano, 18 yrs

Sara D'Andrea,
17 years

Kate Lee, 11 years

Christina Connant,
8 years

Myriam Scicolone,
Joy Kalfus, Laura
Overdeck, Sara Agress
and Kelly Sandler,
7 years each

Denise Eliopoulos,
Terri Lannino, Maura
Bigelow, Joi Koenig
and Sheila McClure, 6
years each

Anita Lekhwani-
Kurani, Robin
Grapkowski, Amy
Ricalde and Kimberly
Sleeman,
5 years each

Please welcome...

Josephine Ettinger,
who transferred from
London and joined
the Done-in-a-Day
Committee.

And Cathy
Gianchandani, who
has rejoined JLOSH
as a member of the
Training, Meetings and
Social Committee.

We bid a fond farewell to the following members who have transferred out of JLOSH in the past year:

Lynda Bradley
Active to Princeton, NJ

Legh Garrett
Active to Washington, DC

Heather Taylor King
Active to Austin, TX

Holly Mattson
Active to Boca Raton, FL

Leah Ward
Active to Baltimore, MD

Congratulations to these Active members who have become Active Associates:

Maura Bigelow
Joy Kalfus
Laura Overdeck

...and to these members who have become Sustainers:

Tracy Beveridge
Antoinette Fraser
Megan Josephson
Terri Lannino
Sandy Loprete
Philicia Levinson
Jane Martinez
Claudia McIntyre
Maggie Zembruski

The following members have resigned from JLOSH:

Actives:

Monique Bostic,
Zanetta Glover,
Stephanie Hoyte,
Ridie Markenson,
Mauri Myers-Solages,
Kim Shannon, Pat
Canning and Ava
Martin.

Sustainers:

Paula O'Toole, Robin
Saunders, Stacy
Schiffman and Laura
Sullivan.

A big JLOSH welcome to our new little Leaguers!

Alexander Robert, born on May 26th to proud parents Robin and Andrew Grapkowski.



Katie(7), Ryan (4) and Alex.

And Finley
Eden, born
on December
21st to proud
parents Kelly
and Jon Sandler.



And warm congratulations to our two wedding belles...



Jamy Kokinda,
our Fundraising
Council Chair,
who married
Dave Barton on
September 18th.

And Patty Stern
Rosenblum of the
Children in Need
Committee, who
married Gary
Rosenblum on
May 21st.



Please be sure to pass along any news to your Advisor and Membership so we can update and celebrate!



Join us on Facebook!

Want to stay up-to-date on JLOSH happenings? Check out our Facebook page and join in on the conversation! You will see what we've been up to and you can follow our news, catch up on events and give us feedback. While you're there, remember to "like" JLOSH so you'll see our posts in your news feed. If you read something that you like on our wall, or if you have additional information to share about a topic, leave a comment and keep the conversation going!

Done-in-a-Day

Submitted by Cate Edell, DIAD Committee Chair

More than 30 JLOSH volunteers worked to prepare and serve a delicious meal to almost 75 people at Christine's Soup Kitchen at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in West Orange on October 28th and 29th.



JLOSH volunteers and church members at Christine's Soup Kitchen.

On November 19th, JLOSH volunteers prepared 250 Thanksgiving baskets for needy families in East Orange. Kings donated 20 turkeys for our event and another 20 turkeys for the Forest Street Elementary School in Orange.



Pictured from left to right are JLOSH members Margaret Santana, Mary Wilson, Brett Cortell and Cate Edell with Captain Margie Lanchester of the Salvation Army.

And on December 15th, JLOSH volunteers helped bring holiday cheer to recently reunited families at FAMILYConnections during their annual "Home for the Holidays" party. We collected \$1500 worth of gifts from our members. In addition, 30 volunteers wrapped gifts, packed food baskets, decorated the space with decorations donated by JLOSH and volunteered at the event. In total, JLOSH donated close to \$2500.



JLOSH volunteers at the "Home for the Holidays" party.



Children unwrapping presents at the "Home for the Holidays" party.

We've had a very successful year so far and we're looking forward to more exciting Done-in-a-Day events to come!

Sustainer's Corner

Submitted by Jane Carano, Sustainer Council Chair

The Sustainers kicked off our 99th year with a wonderful event at Splurge Bakery in October. The sweet treats had our mouths watering and a good time was had by all!



Sustainers at Mitten Tree. Back left to right: Mary Conway; Maggee Miggins; Rhoda Harris, Past President 2002-04; Ann Wiss; Kat Eklund, President; Joan Daeschler, Past President 1964-66; Marianne Connor; Liz Visone; Lynne Crow; Karen Hartshorn Hilton, Past President 2005-06; Sarah McClanahan, Past President 1978-79. Front: Kate Lee, President-Elect; Cheryl Wood. Not pictured are: Jane Carano (host); Ginger Stearns; Sallie Bunn; Millie Denton.

Our annual Mitten Tree was held on December 9th. We collected 50 mittens, hats and scarves for children in need and we raised over \$300 towards meal baskets for FAMILYConnection's "Home for the Holidays" party. Thanks you to everyone who made donations.

And coming soon – a "Lunch and Learn" mini-series for us this winter and a Done-in-a-Day in the spring.

JLOSH is so lucky to have a vibrant and wise Sustainer community. We hope you will participate in our events and reconnect with old friends and the community! Feel free to come to any of the General Membership Meetings and catch up with the League.

Please let me know if you have any ideas, questions or concerns. Thank you for your past and continued support of JLOSH!

In Her Own Words

By Vicki Clark with questions submitted by Sandy LoPiccolo, Communications Council Chair



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For the past 20 years, Vicki Clark has devoted her life to assisting non-profit organizations and to building capacity in volunteer and membership based organizations. She served in a variety of positions with the Points of Light Foundation

(POLF) and served on the steering committee for Colin Powell's President's Summit for America's Children.

1. How did you first start working with the Junior League?

I was working at The Points of Light Foundation and we were selected to be one of three lead organizations for the International Year of the Volunteer, 2000. The other two organizations were AJLI and United Nations Volunteers. We worked together planning for the year and then implementing shared trainings and celebrations.

2. What has been your most memorable Junior League experience?

One that brings tears to my eyes. During a Board retreat, a Board member told her story of being a recipient of that League's services many years ago when she was a poor, unwed mother at a public hospital. Her life had taken a radically different turn and she had vowed that she would find "those ladies" who provided a layette for her new baby when she had nothing. She said they also included a card wishing her well as a new Mom, the only card she received. She had never shared this with anyone. Here we sat in awe and amazement at her courage. It brought community impact to life, from a concept to reality. Of course we were all in tears.

3. Some Leagues are approaching their Centennial, including JLOSH. Where do you see the Junior League in the next 100 years?

The next 100 years for Junior Leagues should be a time of "change." Leagues will rely more on strategies and plans and will need to be more flexible. Leagues will help the next 4 generations of women to understand the true meaning of leadership, service and community impact. The

next generation of women will probably need the Junior League more than ever. Their lives will be very different, but women will always need a sisterhood of friends, a place to be authentic and the opportunity to learn, grow and try new things in a safe place.

4. Which woman stands out in your mind as the Mary Harriman of our day?

This is a tough question – I think it's not one woman, but a composite of all of the volunteers who are diligently working to change things in their communities, to draw women together in a circle of support and strength, who don't go with the flow, who step out into new areas, and who are not afraid to ask tough questions and search for the answers. In other words, women who are not afraid to change and want to create change.

5. If you could have lunch with anyone in the world, who would it be and why?

It would be my mother who passed away in 1998. I would love to tell her how right she was about so many things, how much I understand the lessons she tried to teach me and to thank her for all that she did for me.

6. Who has influenced you the most in your life?

My Mom and Dad. My Dad gave me my sense of humor and my work ethic. My mother taught me to be humble but strong and she was the first one who taught me that all people are to be valued, no matter their circumstance in life.

7. What is the one thing you are most proud of?

My family. My two sons, Michael and Chris, and my grandchildren, Michael Jr. and Cierra. As an only child, of an only child, family means everything to me. I also have an extended "family of choice" – 4 dear friends who are truly my sisters and brothers. We've been friends since childhood and remain close and supportive to each other.

8. What is the best piece of advice anyone gave to you?

"Give yourself some grace." I tend to be pretty hard on myself and this helps me.

Splurge!

Submitted by Sandy LoPiccolo, Communications Council Chair

When you first walk in, it's not the splash of pink and brown on the walls that catches your eye, nor is it the showcase of tempting treats that greets you at the door. It's the smell of something sweet baking in the kitchen. And it's at that moment when you peer behind the glass windows where the desserts are baked, a wonderful confectionery world is revealed before your very eyes. Welcome to Splurge Bakery.

"I'm very proud of the baked goods we're producing," says owner Julie Winer. "We use very high end ingredients. I think we're turning out some of the delicious, if not the most delicious, cupcakes and cakes anywhere nearby." When you take a bite, it's hard to believe the woman behind it all never intended to be a baker.



Born and raised in the sleepy suburb of Old Bridge, New Jersey, Winer graduated from Boston University with a degree in Communications. She wanted to be a broadcast journalist, but instead landed a job selling advertising space in New York, first for the Wall Street Computer Review and then for Chemical

Week. "It was weird because I knew nothing about computers and I knew nothing about chemicals," she explains. "It was so far from my personality but I ended up in both industries doing really well."



Julie Winer: Splurge Bakery owner
Julie Winer.

Winer moved to Houston, where she met her husband, Steven. It was a perfect match – they both wanted to own their own business. They started a mail order specialty food business and even dabbled in real estate, but the idea of

owning a bakery took shape when they moved back to New York. "Everyone asks us where we came up with the name Splurge," says Winer. "We had been working on this business plan and we needed a name. Steven was on his computer. He put in this word, and he doesn't remember what the word was, but it branched and he put another one in and it branched and all of a sudden Splurge popped up." And that's how it all began.

After moving to Short Hills in 2003, Winer was ready to test market her business. At the time, she was involved with the American Jewish Committee, and she heard that they were bringing in an author to speak. She offered to put the author's book cover on a cookie and pass it around as a favor. "So I'm making these cookies on my kitchen table and we were expecting 500 people at this event," says Winer. "I got to 250 cookies and I couldn't do it. It was so hard. But I got 250 cookies

and packaged them up. We passed them out at the end of that event and I've been busy ever since."

Winer moved out of her house and into rented kitchen space. It wasn't until she wanted to expand her business that she started looking for a home of her own. And that's where Sustainer Amanda Damesek comes in. A realtor and good friend of Winer's, Damesek approached Winer to take a look at the first floor of the League building after JLOSH hired her to find a new tenant. And the rest is history. As Winer explains, "The thing we loved about the space is that we're able to do the parties and classes the way we wanted whereas a lot of other spaces were smaller, much more cramped. So being with the Junior League and the space, we were able to realize the dream that we had."

And what a dream it is. On any given day, it's a dessert lover's paradise. Cupcakes are her biggest seller, but the core of her business is still her branded logo cookies which she makes for a host of local businesses. She also makes gift baskets for every occasion, hosts birthday parties and offers a wide range of classes for children and adults.

These days, you likely find Winer behind the counter. Managing the business is a full time job, so to help carry out her vision she's employed about half a dozen bakers who she calls the best in the business. As she explains, "Everyone here is creative. We're a family. We all add in our own ideas. And that's how we work." Some of the bakery's most popular sellers include the peanut butter graham cracker cake with chocolate chips and the chocolate chip cookie cake.

What's in store for the future? So far, no calls from *Cupcake Wars*, but you never know. And if given the chance, Winer said she would love to expand and open up another location. For the time being, she likes being one of the best bakeries on the block. As she notes, "We really just want to make this a hometown family favorite that you can come in and be creative and hang out and have a really awesome experience."



Splurge Bakery is located at 105 Millburn Avenue in Millburn. They are open 7 days a week from 10am-6pm. For more information on birthday parties, class offerings and special orders, please call 973-379-0740 or visit www.splurgebakery.com.



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

Women building better communities®

105 Main Street
Millburn, NJ 07041

Return Service Requested

Phone: 973-379-9655

Fax: 973-379-2811

Email: jlosh1913@gmail.com

www.jlosh.org



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