



**THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF  
TROY, NEW YORK**

*Women building better communities*

**THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF TROY**

**DECEMBER 2007 EDITION**

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT — ALISON ARAKELIAN**

Dear friends,

It is a few days before Thanksgiving and all the Thanksgiving Dinner Baskets were delivered to Stephentown Elementary School today. This means over 30 children and their families will have a full traditional meal on Thanksgiving, plus the parents will still be able to pay their rent for the month. WAY TO GO!!! These Thanksgiving baskets mean more than you know. Thank you **Susan Dempf** and **Bernice Hebert** for coordinating this project.

**Projects:**

For December our project is ADOPT A FAMILY with Stephentown Elementary. We will be receiving a list of children in need and will provide them with warm clothes and a toy. Please look for more information via email. This is a great opportunity to share in the Christmas spirit.

**Membership Development:**

Thanks to **Susanne Ryan** and **Caroline Melkonian** (Membership Development co-chairs) for a great new member meeting. There was a wonderful turnout and I can't wait for everyone to meet these enthusiastic ladies. The guest speaker was our very own **Lori Bennett** who somehow made learning Roberts Rules FUN and PAINLESS.

Thank you Lori.

The new members are already hard at work on their project, the stockings for the girls at Vanderheydens Polly's Cottage, please look inside for more details. We would love your participation...

**Victorian Stroll:**

We will be front and center at City Hall again this year. Please stop by and see us. We will be reading stories, doing projects and handing out cider & doughnuts. This location is great and we look for-

ward to seeing you there.

I would like to wish you all a HAPPY THANKSGIVING and THANK YOU for all you do for the league.

**Have a great day – you deserve it!**

**Alison**

**2007-2008**

**BOARD MEMBERS**

- *President - Alison Arakelian*
- *President-Elect - Molly Williams*
- *Secretary - Nancy Bell*
- *Treasurer - TBD*
- *Nominating Placement - TBD*
- *Sustainers - Barbara Arakelian and Lois Arakelian*

**COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

- *CPRD — Susan Dempf and Bernice Hebert*
- *Communications — Margaret Clarke*
- *Membership — Susanne Alterio-Ryan and Caroline Melkonian*
- *Publications — Moira Rienzo*
- *Ways & Means — Brigid Young and Kyle McCauley*
- *Training — Paula Hanlon and Kelly Bergmann*

**PRINTER**

The Prout Printers, Inc.  
51 Collins Avenue  
Troy, NY 12180

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY—NANCY BELL

**The Junior League of Troy**

**Tri-league Meeting**

**November 13, 2007**

There was no monthly membership meeting of the Junior League of Troy.

**TROY VICTORIAN STROLL**

1) CRAFTS

Lead: Caroline Melkonian (12-3)

Dorothy Jane – to get all craft supplies ahead of time and will work with Caroline on craft ideas which go with Rudolph (doing 1 Rudolph craft the entire time)

Susanne Alterio-Ryan – will assist Caroline and do crafts with kids from 12-1

Bernice Herbert – will assist Caroline and do crafts with kids from 12-1

Lynn Vance – will assist Caroline and do crafts with kids from 1-2

Tamara De Martino – will assist Caroline and do crafts with kids from 1-2

Kyle McCauley – will assist Caroline and do crafts with kids from 2-3

Dawn Arnold – will assist Caroline and do crafts with kids from 2-3

2) BOOK READERS (only need one per hour) – Bernice Hebert to bring both books to the stroll.

Frosty and Rudolph both within each time slot

Molly Williams – will let me know what hour

Amanda Pogoda – will be there from 12:00-1:00 and read from 12:15-1:15

Theresa Setzer – will be there from 1-2 and read from 1:15-1:45

Alison Arakelian – will be there from 2-3 and read from 2:15-2:45

3) REFRESHMENTS

Margaret Clark – bring brownies and greet people and give out refreshments and JLT information for interested new members (12-3). Theresa Setzer will also greet and serve refreshments from 12-1).

Amanda Pogoda – will bring paper products (small plates, napkins and cups)

Kelly Bergman – will drop off drinks to Margaret ahead of time

Megan Olchowcy - will bring cookies and meet Margaret @ 11:30 to help set up.

Susanne Alterio Ryan – cookies

Molly Williams – sweets

Theresa Setzer – sweets

Bernice Hebert – sweets

Lynn Vance – cookies

Kyle McCauley - cookies

4) MEDIA

TBA

**ACTING TREASURER  
— MOLLY WILLIAMS**

I want to thank everyone who sent in their dues following the notice we sent out last month. I greatly appreciate your prompt attention and I apologize to those of you who erroneously received a notice. If you have any further questions about your dues, please do not hesitate to contact me at 286-1731.

## PRESIDENT-ELECT — MOLLY WILLIAMS

I hope you are all enjoying the holiday season! This is my favorite time of year – a time when I always try to remember to stop, slow down and enjoy what the season brings. I am not always successful, but being part of the Junior League has helped me in many ways with this endeavor.

I am writing this after having dropped off a Thanksgiving basket for a family at Stephentown Elementary School with Susan Dempf, CPRD Chair. Again, Susan has done an amazing job coordinating this project. In discussing the plans for our year-long project with Stephentown Elementary, we thought it would helpful to provide an overview of what our plan will include, as well as some information about the school and the children it serves.

### Stephentown Elementary School

### Partnership Project

Stephentown Elementary is located in the Berlin Central School District in Eastern Rensselaer County and serves approximately 75 children in grades K-3. In March, as its annual project, the League decided it wanted to partner with the Stephentown Elementary School for the 2007-08 school year in an effort to provide additional support to the students, teachers and families served by the school. Through this partnership, the League planned it would hold an event or activity with the school each month, and as such provide JLT Members and Sustainers with a wide range of volunteer opportunities.

We kicked off our partnership with a very successful Back to School Backpack program. We followed this with a \$2,500 donation for their new playground equip-

ment in October. And this month, League members and sustainers generously donated items for Thanksgiving dinner baskets for a number of families identified by the school as in need.

For the remainder of the year, we are planning to partner with the school on professional development, teacher appreciation, arts appreciation and cultural awareness programs, just to name a few. We are very excited about this year's project and look forward to future programs and updates! We will provide you with additional information throughout the year and thank you to everyone in the League for their participation. We will certainly notify you all of future events and volunteer opportunities.

## NEW MEMBER PROFILES — A SHORT BIO OF SOME OF OUR NEW MEMBERS

### Jessica Brearton

Jessica is a lifelong resident of Rensselaer County and recent State employee who enjoys reading, watching movies and traveling. Jessica also has an interest in local politics and is currently involved in Literacy Volunteers of Rensselaer County. Jessica decided to join the Junior League of Troy after being impressed by the wonderful JLT projects performed in our community. Thanks to **Jude Mulvey** for introducing Jessica to the JLT.

### Crystal Cole

Crystal is a mother of two young children and works at Vanderheyden Hall. Crystal is involved with Vacation Bible School at her church and enjoys reading and scrapbooking. Crystal decided to join the JLT after hearing **Patti DeVito** speak highly of the LT. Thanks, Patti, for introducing us to Crystal.

### Tamara DeMartino

Tamara is the mother of two girls (ages 4 and 14) and has lived in Troy for 10 years. She is an artist focusing in painting and mosaics, a design consultant, and designer/technical trouble shooter for Best Tile. Tamara loves tennis and anything outdoors as well as cooking and entertaining. She is active in Parent Council at both Troy High School and the Robert C. Parker School and also with St. Paul's Episcopal Church. Tamara was introduced to the JLT by **Caroline Melkonian**.

### Dorothy-Jane Goldsack Porpeggia

Dorothy-Jane is a mother of two girls (ages 1 and 4) and is an attorney at Whiteman, Osterman & Hanna. Her practice areas include labor and employment, education and religious corporations. Prior to having her children, Dorothy-Jane enjoyed cross-stitch and needlepoint, and traveling to new places with her hus-

band. She just completed a term on the Hartwick College Board of Trustees, is active in the Capital District Alumni Network, Parent Council at the Robert C. Parker School and a member of the Provincial Council for Province II of the Episcopal Church. Dorothy-Jane learned about the JLT through **Caroline Melkonian** and **Kristin Guilbault**.

### Lynn Vance

Lynn is an attorney at the Governor's Office of Employee Relations and lives in Albany with her daughter, Alexandra who is 16. Lynn is originally from the Washington DC/Virginia area and moved to Albany in 2000. Lynn enjoys cooking, baking, reading and traveling and currently volunteers at her daughter's school, Albany Academy for Girls. Lynn was introduced to the JLT by **Caroline Melkonian**.

## SUSTAINER NEWS — BARBARA ARAKELIAN AND LOIS ARAKELIAN

Greetings, trusted teammates!

It has been a busy month here in our sustaining corner of the world. Thank you to all who have shared items of newsworthy and noteworthy interest. My apologies in advance if I miss something...bring it to my attention, and I'll see it is printed in the next bulletin. Until then, here goes our latest happenings:

(1). Hearty and heartfelt congratulations are extended to our own **Mary Beth Bruno** for being this year's recipient of the Mother Francis Cabrini Distinguished School Support Award for her efforts on behalf of Our Lady of Victory School. Mary Beth was nominated by OLV, and chosen out of the entire nineteen county diocese to receive this award. The award recognizes that member of the school community "who challenges the entire community to make a radical commitment to the school's Catholic mission through the personal giving of time and talents." Congratulations, Mary Beth, on this well-deserved recognition.

(2). The legacy continues: our incoming new member class has designated Polly's Cottage as beneficiary of its new member project. Our new members (eight in all!) are busy collecting items to be used in their Christmas stocking project. If you would like to contribute, there is still time. Stockings will be assembled at the league's Christmas meeting December 4<sup>th</sup> at Molly Williams' home. A wish list of items appeared in last month's bulletin. For more info, contact Susanne Alterio Ryan at 674-3486.

(3). Heartfelt condolences are extended to the family of **Charlotte Stebbins**, who passed away at the age of 87. Charlotte was a dedicated community and league volunteer, and with her family owned and operated Morris-Stebbins Funeral Home. She will be sorely missed.

(4). This next item comes courtesy of Polly Mason, who thought it would be of interest to many of our "more mature sustaining members" (Polly's words, not mine). **Betty George**, a local t.v. per-

sonality known for her ever-present dog "Moo" also recently passed away. While Betty was not a JLT member, she was well known in our community, and she too will be missed.

(5). Last but not least, the end of the year is a perfect time to make a contribution to the league's Tribute and Memorial Fund. Gifts can be made as a tribute, a memorial, or as a commemoration of celebration in another's life. Recipients receive an acknowledgment of the gift, and can be made anonymously if the giver so chooses. Contributions can be made payable to the JLT and sent to our JLT post office box, along with a note designating in whose honor the contribution is made.

Until next time,

Lois, on behalf of Lois and Barbara

This is from JLT Sustainer Mary Alice Quillinan, the winner of the 2007 League Service Award.

*Dear Junior League of Troy Members,  
Your friendship means dear to me.*

*Thanksgiving is a time for thinking of those who are a special part of our lives  
and have a special place in our hearts - that's why Thanksgiving is a time for thinking of you.*

*Mary Alice Quillinan.*

## MEMBERSHIP — SUSANNE ALTERIO-RYAN AND CAROLINE MELKONIAN

This year, the League is welcoming 13 new members! We will be introducing them at the December 4<sup>th</sup> General Membership Meeting. Please take a moment to introduce yourself and welcome them to the League.

On November 14<sup>th</sup>, the Membership Development Committee held its first of two training sessions for new members. Sustainer Lori Bennett presented a very informative session on parliamentary procedures. A special thank you to Lori for lending us her expertise in this area and keeping it lively at the same time! The night's agenda also included a general review of the JLT By-Laws and project planning for the stockings for Polly's Cottage. In late January, the Committee will host a training session on project management techniques. All are invited to attend. More information will follow as plans are solidified.

### **New Member's Project – Stockings**

### **for the Girls at Polly's Cottage**

The new members are busy organizing stockings for seven girls residing at Polly's Cottage at Vanderheyden Hall. The girls have provided us with their "wish lists," which have been emailed to you and are published below. New JLT member, Crystal Cole, works at Vanderheyden and knows these girls well. At the New Member Training, Crystal told us all about the girls and described their excitement when they have received our gifts in the past. If not for the JLT, some of these girls would not receive a single Christmas gift. In addition to the individual gifts, the girls also enjoy playing group games and doing arts and crafts. You will notice that these group items are also included on the wish list.

The new members have already taken on a leadership role in this project by volunteering their time and by committing to purchasing items. But we cannot do it alone. In order to give these girls a Christmas, we are relying on both active and sustaining members to purchase an

item from the wish lists. Please help us make this project a success by positively impacting the lives of these seven girls. To contribute a gift, please select an item from the wish list and contact Susanne Alterio-Ryan at [susealterio@yahoo.com](mailto:susealterio@yahoo.com) or 674-3486 so she can update the list. The item (unwrapped) will be collected at the December 4<sup>th</sup> meeting at Molly Williams' home or contact Susanne if you would prefer to drop it off at her home. We will sort and wrap the gifts and will deliver the stockings to Vanderheyden Hall on December 10<sup>th</sup>. **On December 12** at 4:00, Vanderheyden is hosting their Holiday Open House, at which time the girls will open their stockings. All are welcome to attend this exciting event.

Thank you for your support of the new member's project and for making it a wonderful holiday for the girls in Polly's Cottage!

### **WISHLIST:**

Radio with cd player (preferably red if possible)  
 Blue or black bootcut jeans size 5  
 Big, stuffed Spongebob, squarepants doll  
 Leopard print, twin sheets  
 Brown jewelry box (glass door with little drawers)  
 Stereo/cd player (radio, tape, cd)  
 White, anti-skip, Sony discman  
 Perfume-Curve for Women (has a blue bottle)  
 Queen size comforter/sheet set (gold)-can be found at WalMart  
 Gift card to a nail salon for a French manicure  
 Large, over the shoulder pocketbook- black or gold or both  
 Small, stuffed Scooby Doo  
 Black, drawstring backpack  
 CD/Stereo with radio, cassette and cd player  
 Radio with cd player (preferably blue & silver if possible)

Gold necklace with cross  
 "Very Sexy" perfume by Victoria's Secret

### **Cottage gift ideas**

Referred Playstation 2 and pre-owned games-NOTHING RATED "M"  
 PG-13 DVD's- Teen movies, suspense, drama  
 Board Games (Pop5 has been purchased)  
 Taboo  
 Monopoly  
 TV/Movie/Entertainment trivia  
 Dance, dance Revolution and Dance, Dance Revolution dance pad



**THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF  
TROY, NEW YORK**

*Women building better communities*

Attention: Moira Rienzo  
Post Office Box 1161  
Troy, NY 12181

**Address correction requested.**

MOVING? NEW E-MAIL ADDRESS?  
PLEASE LET US KNOW —  
moirar@nycap.rr.com  
OR 266-1433

[WWW.JLTROY.ORG](http://WWW.JLTROY.ORG)

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## **TRAINING — PAULA HANLON AND KELLY BERGMANN**

The December holiday meeting will take place on **Tuesday, December 4**, 2007 at 7pm at Molly Williams home in West Sand Lake. Please bring something (food related) to share.

The January meeting will take place on **Tuesday, January 8**, 2007 at 7pm at Dinner Me Quickly in Shoppers Park off of Wolf Road behind the Macaroni Grill. More details to follow. We will have a short meeting and then have the opportunity to make some great quick and easy meals.

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## **UPCOMING JLT EVENTS**

**Sunday, December 2** — Troy Victorian Stroll — see inside for details

**Tuesday, December 4** — JLT monthly meeting at Molly William's home. Please note change of date.

**Wednesday, December 12** at 4:00 p.m., Vanderheyden's Holiday Open House, at which time the girls will open their stock-