

# *Julep Magazine*

2013-2014 League year



**JUNIOR LEAGUE OF  
PEORIA**

*Women building better communities*



Morgan Stanley is proud to sponsor The Junior League of Peoria

**Paul DiGiallonardo**

Senior Vice President

Branch Manager

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**Morgan Stanley**

## Thank You from the 2013-2014 JLP Board of Directors

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### Our Mission

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

### JULEP Magazine

Chair/Editor.....	Hiral Hudson
Committee.....	Sandy Garza
	Jamie Johnson
	Jill Corbin
	Bethany O'Brien
Advisor.....	Mary Horst

If you have a change of address, email or phone please notify us at 309.685.9312 or email [juniorleagueofpeoria@gmail.com](mailto:juniorleagueofpeoria@gmail.com). For faster service, you can now update your own information at [www.juniorleagueofpeoria.org](http://www.juniorleagueofpeoria.org). Instructions can be found on page 16.

If you would like to submit an article for the Julep Magazine or have a submission for the eJulep email: [julep.peoria@gmail.com](mailto:julep.peoria@gmail.com)

### Contact Us...

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# President's Message



The motto and logo that I selected for the 2013-2014 League year, was **ONE** but in looking back I think it should have been **CHANGE**. As a League, we have and are continuing to undergo significant change this year. The intent of these changes is to better align ourselves with the direction of Association of Junior Leagues International (AJLI), improve member engagement, and continue to grow in the community. In order to move forward, many times we are looking back and re-implementing things of the past that brought great value to our League. Here are just some of the things that underwent change this year:

**Board of Directors:** The current Board of Directors has been split into two pilot Boards in 2014-2015, the Executive Board and Administrative Board.

**Executive Board** consists of President, President-Elect, Immediate Past President, Sustaining Mentor, VP Finance, VP Administration, and Recording Secretary. This Board is empowered with the long term 3-5+ year strategic direction of the League and JLP's leadership presence in the community.

**Administrative Board** is comprised of the leaders of each committee and chaired by the VP Administration. This Board is tasked with the day to day function and execution of the League's mission.

## Fundraising

**Julep's Closet:** After 67 years, the shuttering of the sale was moved forward to 2014 rather than the original 2016 timeline due to the low revenue per volunteer man-hour invested.

**Pair Up for Health:** After 4 years, the race is not being held in 2013 or beyond due to lack of profitability.

**Frolic with the Fairies:** Sold out one week before the event with 1,600 tickets!

**Superhero Saturday is back!** A new boy friendly fundraiser is being launched November 2014. This event will provide the same spectacular level of experience that Frolic does year after year.

## Community

**2013 Storm Relief:** Our members raised \$13,000 in financial and ware donations for our T,H, &L partners and members who lost their home in the storms.

**Kids in the Kitchen:** Continued to grow its partnership with Quest Charter Academy with an afterschool program once per month being delivered.

**CRPD:** Five proposed Impact areas were presented to members. In fall 2015 we will narrow to one Impact area to pursue after the Peoria PlayHouse Children's Museum opens.

## Membership

**Membership Expectations:** A point based system has replaced the previous membership requirements. Points are required to be earned in every facet of the League, no longer only in fundraising.

**2 New Member Classes!** The dual Fall and Spring new member class was brought back with 37 new members. The Spring class was reinitiated due to so much community interest in our League that did not want to wait until August to join!

## Communication

**New Website:** Our website got a new format and look!

**Volunteer management software:** Closerware was implemented for use among our members to give the ability to sign-up and RSVP for volunteer opportunities online.

So many changes this year! These should position us to grow and prosper as we continue the Junior League of Peoria's legacy in our community.

Thank you for the honor and privilege of serving as your 2013-2014 President for our 77<sup>th</sup> League year. Thank you to my husband for supporting the many meetings, evening and weekend hours that were spent on JLP. Thank you to my Board of Directors for enduring the long, long meetings that it took to drive change in our organization. Thank you to the members, active and sustaining, that supported the League through its changes, activities, and great events all League year long.

Andrea Tognetti, 2013-2014 Junior League of Peoria President



# Frolic with the Fairies

by Kendra Sipes

Frolic with the Fairies Mother Daughter Tea was once again the talk of the town this past March. As the Junior League of Peoria's top fundraising event, it has quickly turned into an annual tradition for many of its returning guests. This year's event was held on Friday, March 7th and Saturday, March 8th at the Par-A-Dice Hotel Ballroom. The theme for the year was *Frolic with the Fairies Enchanted Forest*.

The event started six years ago as a Mother Daughter Tea hosted at the Junior League's headquarters, the Balance Herschel House. While the first tea served just over 100 guests, the event has quickly become a sought after occasion to attend in the Peoria Community. The Saturday tea included three tea times at 9:00am, 12:30pm, and 4:00pm. Due to the popularity of the event a fourth tea, catering to more mature fairies was held on Friday evening.

Emilie Egan, Committee Co-Chair, said that almost 1,600 guests attended this year's festivities.

Frolic with the Fairies has become an event that is looked forward to year after year by League members as well as the community. Guests even travel from as far as Bloomington, Springfield and the Chicago Area to attend.

According to Christina Walker, Lead Decorator, *"The look on the little fairies' faces as they enter the magical ballroom full of whimsy and delight is something that you will never forget."* This year the Junior League of Peoria oversaw all of the décor for the event and created a whimsical experience by turning the ballroom into an enchanted forest complete with 10 foot tall trees and a waterfall.

The event kicked off Friday night with the First Annual Friday Night Frolic. Attendees were treated to performances by Cornerstone Dance Academy, a Fairy Etiquette Lesson, Rock'n Runway Style Show, Hip Hop Dance Lesson and a DJ Dance Party. According to Kendra Sipes, Committee Co-Chair, *The Friday Night Frolic was created to accommodate some of our more mature fairies that still want to participate in the special event but are feeling a little too old for the entertainment and dressing up in costume."*

Saturday's tea times kicked off with the much anticipated Fairy Style Show. The attendees were given the opportunity to sign up their daughters to walk in the style show. After each of their models had their hair styled by Objet D'Art Hair Salon, they got to strut their stuff on the runway while special remarks were read about them.



The event was topped off with a performance by award winning children's singer and song writer, Julie K. Julie K's performance had the children and adults alike, up out of their seats singing and dancing along. In addition to Julie K, the event also included several performances by the Cornerstone Academy of Inspired Arts as well as guest appearances by the Peoria Metro Pageant winners.

This year just over \$27,000 was raised at the event from ticket sales, raffles sales, advertisers and sponsors. All net proceeds from Frolic with the Fairies go towards the Junior League of Peoria at its work to build a better community.





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**Meerkat Monday • Wallaby Wednesday • Sea Lion Saturday**

## New Members

by Marta Herget

For the first time in years the new member committee recruited in the Fall *AND* Spring generating a class of 34! These women are passionate about the enhancement of their community through voluntarism. The new member volunteer hours, over 1000 hours worked, are an obvious reflection of their commitment!

This year, the large group of new members were split into two subcommittees for the new member project. The subcommittees were assembled with a chair and assistant chair so they could gain awareness on how a Junior League committee works. One group paired up with Threads, Hope and Love to continue the JLP partnership with a day working at their store. The other group assisted the BHH Committee with a clean-up day completing a long list of projects around the house.

New members were paired up with a Member Mentor to guide them through their first year in the Junior League. This is the second year the Member Mentor program was utilized. Through this initiative new members received important insight of the Junior League, and mentors were rewarded by sharing their knowledge and supporting the new members ultimately increasing the quality of the new member class.

We will celebrate the graduation of the new members with a party at Basta's East Port hosted by Michelle DellaValle, new member sustainer mentor. Michelle has been invaluable to the new member class speaking at many new member meetings and sharing her league experiences. She continues to create relationships with League members by graciously offering to host this annual party.

## Community Now

by Darcy Gibson

Community Now's goal this year was to provide volunteer opportunities to our members every month of the league year. In the fall, we started the year off with a personal item drive to benefit The Children's Home. The JLP members were very generous and donated all kinds of toiletries and personal care items at the GMM. In October, our committee organized all the JLP volunteers for the Worldwide Day of Play put on by the Park District and the Power of Play and we had a tremendous turnout. This past winter our members also volunteered at Midwest Food Bank, the Crittenton Center Stocking Stuffer Store and the 12 Hours of Giving for the Red Cross. In 2014 our committee's focus has been to help the community of Washington and through the JLP partnership with Threads Hope & Love, we set up volunteer hours for members to help Threads with what they needed including sorting donations or working in the Threads community store. Our volunteer year ended with opportunities setting up and tearing down for the Peoria Playhouse Before Party on April. It has been a great year and our JLP members have spent a lot of time out in our community helping any way they can.





# Farewell Juleps Closet

By Shauna Skowronski & Priscilla Slaughter

The 67<sup>th</sup> Annual Julep's Closet sale was held the weekend of November 9<sup>th</sup> at Peoria's RiverPlex. As always, Junior League of Peoria spent hundreds of hours prepping for the sale through pickups and markings. Over \$10,000 was raised. The weekend was a blast – a great time for Actives and Sustainers to come together to help the over 700 customers who came to shop.

One of the best moments of the weekend came on Saturday when one of the community members who came to shop was seated in the corner. One of the Committee members stopped over to ask her if she was ok, after she had been seated for close to an hour. She said that she was waiting for us to announce a sale on winter coats, as she had her eye on a pink coat. The coat was only \$6, but the Committee member took her up to the front and told her to take the coat home and enjoy it. The woman took \$3 out of her pocket and said – “Please take this – it's all I have.” That made the entire weekend worthwhile!

We couldn't have done the sale without the help of such a small, but very strong committee, so the chairs would like to thank each and every one of the committee members, as well as the League as a whole for their hard work and dedication throughout the entire year!



Emily Woodall, Shauna Skowronski, Teresa, Schissler-Boichot



After the sale was over this year, the Board and Committee Chairs gathered to talk about the sale. They decided that the 2013-2014 League year will mark an end to an era. After much consideration, we have determined that it is within the Junior League of Peoria's best interest not to hold the Julep's Closet Rummage Sale in 2014. For 67 years, the sale has been a focal point of the League's fundraising efforts as well as a cherished community service. However, revenue from the sale has drastically declined over the last several years. With the expansion of thrift stores and consignment shops in our community, the Julep's Closet sale is no longer viable. We are currently planning a farewell party to Julep's Closet to be held at BHH in September 2014. This evening event will celebrate the successes of this event over the years while

including appetizers/drinks, an optional style-swap, cash raffle, “rummage sale” silent auction, and bake sale. More details will be coming this summer.



# Kids in the Kitchen

by Wendy McVay

Junior League of Peoria's Kids in the Kitchen has been hard at work this year expanding our program at Quest Academy. This year we expanded on the number of opportunities for sessions with the students as well as focused on our outcomes and impact.

During this school year, we educated students through various sessions at Quest Academy. For the first session in September, the students learned about the sugar content of common foods, how to read food labels, and basic rules of the kitchen. During the second session, the students enjoyed talking about healthy snacks, making trail mix, and tasting different types of apples. In November, the students participated in a yoga session led by Kirsten Hedden, Director of Yoga at Senara, who also talked about the importance of staying active during the cold winter months. For the January session, we had wonderful guests from Broad Branch Farm. This was by far a favorite session for the students! The students got their hands on some organic vegetables and made their own salad with dressing. The students also sampled some organic vegetable soup and learned about the importance of quality nutrition. To finish the year, we baked up a healthy recipe with students in April and we took a field trip to Hyvée in May, where we received a tour of the store by a dietician.



In the month of March, we submitted a grant application to Kashi with the hopes that they will help support our efforts in Peoria. We have really focused on measuring the impact of our program and the outcomes of the students in our program at Quest Academy. We are continually looking for opportunities in the community and at the national level to support expansion of the Kids in the Kitchen program.

Regarding the annual Girl Scout event, we had a comprehensive day planned for Brownies and Juniors to each earn a badge. However, we had to cancel the event this year due to weather. The event will hopefully be rescheduled for next fall during better weather! Thank you to everyone for your hard work and commitment this year for planning the event!

# Terror & Hope

by Shauna Myers



On November 17, 2013, our community was hit with the most devastating natural disaster in recent memory. The tornado impacted thousands in the Peoria area, including three members of the Junior League of Peoria who lost their homes. Within two days the Junior League had put together an ad-hoc committee. Thousands of dollars worth of diapers, toys, toiletries and gift cards were collected to help our members get back on their feet. Here are their stories:

**Amy Moore**, an Active Member of Junior League saw first-hand how JLP can come together to help one of their own. Amy, who was home at the time of the storm, was huddled in the basement with her husband, daughter, and their dog, as the tornado passed over and destroyed their home. After getting out of the basement and assessing the situation, she knew that their home was most likely totally destroyed and they would have to rebuild.

In the days following the storm, the most important thing was salvaging everything that they could from the house. On “moving day,” she sent out a Facebook message around 5am saying that they would be at the house and could use as many hands as she could get. On such short notice, over 20 JLP members and friends were there to help Amy get everything her and her family could from the house.

As you know, Junior League of Peoria quickly banded together and began collecting gift cards, clothes, diapers, and toiletries. Because Amy was so overwhelmed with bigger things – salvaging things from her home, dealing with insurance companies, and finding a new place to live, it was the little things that seemed to be forgotten. When the Moore’s moved into their temporary apartment, Amy went to BHH to pick up some of the supplies that had been donated. She was able to pick up clothes/diapers, and as she was looking at the supplies, she realized – “my apartment didn’t even have toilet paper, but someone had thought enough to bring some to the BHH.”

While so many people were willing to help Amy right after the storm hit, she realizes that the future is still going to require even more help, and many members of JLP have already told her to call whenever they need something. Even though the Moore’s are still trying to figure it out, there are things that Amy knows she will need in the future including: baby-sitting while rebuilding and of course, assistance when they are ready to move into their house.

When asked to describe how being a member of JLP benefitted her during one of the most difficult experiences of her life, Amy said, “I joined Junior League of Peoria to meet people and get involved. Through this experience, I have realized that JLP is not JUST a service organization, but we really have each other’s backs.”

**Becky Taylor** was also at home on November 17<sup>th</sup>, with her 2 year old and her 4 year old sons. That day, the boys were supposed to have a playdate with some friends, so she was making lunch earlier than usual for them, planning to put them down for their naps shortly after. As she was making their grilled cheese, her phone started buzzing. Thinking it was her mom sending her a text, Becky checked her phone and saw that there was a Tornado Warning. She looked out the back window, and saw it was a nice sunny day. She ignored the warning and continued cooking. Her 2 year old, however, was looking out a different window and kept saying “Uh oh.” She looked to see what he was looking at and realized the severity of the matter. Becky told the boys they were going to have a picnic in the basement and led everyone down the stairs.

When they got down to the basement, she ran back upstairs to get the boys ketchup, and when she returned to the basement, Becky immediately heard a really loud roaring noise. She grabbed the boys and went into the bedroom in the basement, and as soon as they got there they started hearing the crashing of their things all around them. Thankfully, the bedroom they had run into was the only room in the house that wasn’t impacted, and in fact, the window was the only window in the house that was not broken.

After the tornado hit, the only person she was able to call was her mother-in-law, and all she could say was the tornado had hit their house, but they were ok, and then the phones went dead. Her husband immediately went to the airport and was on a flight home as quickly as possible.

When the tornado was over, the toughest thing for Becky and her boys was that they didn’t even have socks or shoes on. When a first responder came, he had to pry open her closet to get her a pair of shoes, and a neighbor brought over a coat so that they could stand on it as they waited for a friend to come and pick them up.

#### **Susan D. Gorman recalls the events in her own words:**

Our home of forty-two years was destroyed by an EF-4 tornado on Sunday morning, November 17, 2013. My husband, John, and I were home when the sirens began going off – first on my phone, and then the city sirens. We had gone to church the night before. That warm morning, I awoke to see sunlight coming through the windows moments before I heard the sirens. John came into the bedroom where I was just waking up to tell me that there were storms around our city. I got up, put on my bathrobe, and walked through the dining room and the kitchen and seven steps down to the family room. He turned on the weather on the TV just as I came down the last step and asked, “Are there storms around here?”

At that same moment, I heard the infamous freight train noise and heard the windows blast out a few feet away. I screamed and ran into the concrete block shower in the laundry room and began praying, “Please don’t let us die” over and over again. I realized that John had not come into the shower with me. I screamed his name twice before he came running in, put his arms around me just as our house exploded all around us without touching us. When the tornado passed, there was perfect stillness. We walked into the family room and looked upstairs into what was once the kitchen and saw the sky. Our lives would never be the same again.



**These members will continue to need help throughout the next year and we are committed to keeping in contact with them as they work to rebuild their homes. Thank you to all of you who have helped by donating your time and money.**



## Superhero Saturday is Back!

By Priscilla Slaughter

In 2012, the Junior League of Peoria held its first Superhero Saturday event. Although it was not our fall fundraiser this League year, we are bringing it back bigger and better in 2014-2015 with plans for it to be a SUPER experience for both boys and girls! The event will feature a superhero's lunch, activities, and entertainment. The event will be held on Saturday, November 8 beginning 12:30 pm at the Par-A-Dice Hotel. We hope to grow this event annually and make it a large fundraising success just like Frolic with the Fairies. Please save the date and watch for more information to come flying your way!

# CALLING ALL SUPERHEROES!!



The Junior League of Peoria Proudly Presents

## SUPERHERO SATURDAY

Saturday

November 8, 2014

12:30 pm

Par-A-Dice Hotel  
Activities, Lunch, &  
Entertainment



# Broad Branch Farm

Broad Branch Farm is a local organic farm located 20 miles north of Peoria. Owned and operated by Brian and Anita Poeppel, the farm offers seasonal organic vegetables, pastured organic eggs, and pastured organic meat with delivery to the Peoria area. Along with their three daughters, the Poeppel family believes strongly in the importance of buying local organic food and building strong connections between producers and consumers.

This farming couple also believes in sharing the knowledge that comes with years of growing and producing food for their customers and for their own kitchen. Their passion for producing and consuming local organic food is driven by the belief that a vibrant local food system is essential to the health of rural and urban communities.

To find out how you can connect with this local organic farm: [www.broadbranchfarm.com](http://www.broadbranchfarm.com) or 309-231-9290.



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# There's something fun for everyone at the Peoria Park District!

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The Peoria Park District  
appreciates the many years of  
continued partnership with the  
Junior League of Peoria.



## Community Impact Award Winners 2013-2014

**September—Shauna Myers**

**October—Kelly Pabon**

**November—Amanda Campbell**

**December—Junior League of Peoria**

**January—Holly Teig**

**February—Kendra Sipes**

**March—Christi Walker**

**April—Wendy McVay**

## 2014-2015 Junior League of Peoria Board

The Nominating Committee slated and Active members approved the 2014-2015 Junior League of Peoria Executive Board of Directors. Congratulations to the new Board and thank you to our 2013-2014 Board of Directors!

**President-Elect:** Abby Clark

**Recording Secretary:** Priscilla Slaughter

**VP Finance:** Heather Russo

**VP Administration:** Shauna Myers

The Executive Board slated the following for the newly created 2014-2015 Administrative Board:

**Events Co-Chairs:**

Laura Presley & Christi Walker

**Asst Events Co-Chairs:**

Laura Bazhenow & Angie Anderson

**Community Outreach Chair:**

Marta Herget

**Asst Community Outreach:** Emily West

**Asst New Member Chair:** Ellen Krumholz

**Nominating Chair:** Darcy Gibson

**Peoria PlayHouse Co-Chairs:**

Emily Cahill & Brenda O'Russa

**Headquarters Management Chair:**

Megan Homan

**Asst Headquarters Management Chair:**

Kristen Frederick

**Member Development & Training:**

Lauren Burtscher

The following are previously slated positions for the 2014-2015 league year:

**President:** Colleen DiGiallonardo

**Immediate Past President:**

Andrea Tognetti

**Member Services Chair:** Sandy Garza

**Asst Member Services Chair:**

Amanda Gavin

**Marketing:** Sue Palmer

**New Member Chair:** Emily Wilburn

**Treasurer:** Kristal Roop

**Treasurer-Elect:** Amanda Campbell





## Dining Divas

The bimonthly gathering at Cyd's (Sustainer) the first Thursday of every other month has been awesome thanks to organizer Betsy Bladel. It is a time to catch up, laugh and get the latest updates from actives on what is happening in the league.



Thanks to our photographer  
Linda Couri, Sustainer!!

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Dr. Matt Howard  
Dr. Sara Howard

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## Awards & Recognition

Congratulations to the Junior League of Peoria Active and Sustaining members that have been recognized for their service to the community through awards during the past year:

**40 Leaders Under Forty**—Amanda Gavin

**25 Women in Leadership**—Amanda Gavin, Brenda O’Russa, Janet Roth

**Community Leadership School**—Kristal Roop

## Community Impact Awards - Sustainers

The Sustainer Community Impact Awards have gone to **Julie Russell** and **Anne Lynch** who have greatly supported the league’s mission over the years. Julie has generously donated significant resources to the League over the past few years with the creation, implementation and maintenance of the JLP website. She has provided space on her servers to host our website as well as leadership specific email addresses, and lots of lots of files! Anne has been a shining example of volunteerism through her work at Collector’s Corner & Boutique at Julep’s Closet for many years. It wouldn’t be the same without her and to see her smiling face every year and catch her enthusiasm for what she does is priceless. Thank you!

## Member Attends Community Leadership School

by Jamie Johnson



The Junior League of Peoria sponsored Active member Kristal Roop at the Peoria Area Chamber of Commerce Community Leadership School (CLS), a program aimed at motivating and inspiring its participants to a higher level of community awareness and development. The weekly sessions last four-months and offer its 40 participants from various non-profits and local businesses education on the issues and challenges facing the Peoria community.

Each week the class met at different non-profit and Chamber of Commerce member business offices hosted by a local leader from various religious institutions, government, and non-profit organizations. One of the sessions was hosted by Peoria County Sheriff McCoy and held at the Peoria County Jail with a tour at the end of the session. The focus was on Civic Leadership and included insights into the crime in our community. Other sessions provided participants opportunities to learn more about their own leadership and personality styles in order to maximize interactions with others.

Kristal ties CLS back to the Junior League of Peoria stating, “The more we know about the community and the issues, the more JLP can help fulfill the needs of the community that are not being met.”

## Junior League of Peoria's Shining Circle

Thanks to those who donated \$100 or more to the JLP annual fund during the 2013-2014 League year.

Carole Ackerman

Tilley Allen

Nicole Bach

Leah Bachert

Julie Balkema

Phyllis Barton

Patricia Bash

Carlotta Bielfeldt

Billie Block

Jane Bonick

Lauren Burtscher

Amanda Campbell

Kathryn Cobb

Marguerite Cullinan

Patricia Cullinan

Mary Dickinson

Colleen DiGiallonardo

Cynthia Fischer

Joan French

Angela Fritch-Milton

Drew Gay

Kristy Gorenz

Judith Gwillim

Patricia Howard

Hiral Hudson

Sally Jacobsen

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Wendy McVay

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Monica Regnier

Pamela Roberts

Kristal Roop

Heather Russo

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We sincerely apologize for any inadvertent omissions. If you believe you should be on this list please contact Shauna Myers at [shaunasmyers@gmail.com](mailto:shaunasmyers@gmail.com)



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**here's a zoo. here's a children's museum.  
put them together and it's gonna be awesome.**

We couldn't agree more. Combined with other activities in Glen Oak Park, the Peoria PlayHouse Children's Museum (to be located in the Glen Oak Park Pavilion) and Peoria Zoo bring together the educational, social and physical power of play—giving kids and families from all walks of life access to a safe, fun environment where they can explore, dream, discover and be inspired.

- Family-focused complex enhances quality of life, helping attract and retain young professionals and businesses.
- Living, changing exhibits create new experiences and invite repeat visits.
- Peoria Rotary Adventure Grove (opening this summer), adjacent playgrounds, trails, sports fields, tennis courts, picnic areas, amphitheater and Luthy Botanical Garden make for a day-long destination, close to home.
- Convenient parking and entry provide easy access for people of all ages.
- Historic Glen Oak Park once again becomes a community anchor.
- Convenient shared ticketing, gift shop and education space saves operating funds and improves the visitor experience.

With more than 86% of the funds pledged to build the Peoria PlayHouse Children's Museum, many exciting things will be happening this year. If you haven't already, please like us on Facebook at *Power of Play Peoria* for frequent updates and to learn how you can help us spread the word about this wonderful project started by the Junior League of Peoria.

Questions? Contact Brenda O'Russa at 681-3504 or Emily Cahill at 681-2803.



## We couldn't have done it without you!

Following are the Junior League of Peoria women who have donated to the Peoria PlayHouse and/or the Power of Play campaign as of March 25, 2014. Those with an \* following their name have qualified for the special Junior League naming opportunity. Thank you to all members who have contributed for your generosity! We will be celebrating our progress at the May meeting, so stay tuned!

Lisa Abraham	Jill Corbin	Holli Heinz	Judy Oakford	Pamela Shuck-Hoehne*
Carole Ackerman*	Kristin Crawford*	Mary Heller*	Bethany O'Brien	Cathleen Shultz
Char Allen	Nancy Crawford*	Cyd Henrickson*	Jane O'Malley	Kathryn Simpson*
Jill Appell	Margee Cullinan*	Marta Herget*	Brenda O'Russa*	Kendra Sipes
Niki Bach*	Susan Culp*	Sally Hojczyk*	Trish O'Shaughnessy	Priscilla Slaughter*
Leah Bachert*	Laura A. Curfman*	Sharon Holling*	Kathleen Palmer	Sally Snyder
Tomi Backlund	Cathy Curtis	Mary Horst	Selma Palmer	Ashley Spain*
Nancy Bailey	Carolyn Davis	Mary Howard	Michelle Parker*	Joann Spitzer*
Ellen Balagna*	Tenly Damrow	Hiral Hudson*	Marjorie E. Paulson*	Marjorie Springer*
Julie Balkema*	Betty DeBord	Regina Hutt	Mary Ann Penn	Lisa Steil
Amy Barlow	Michelle DellaValle	Sally Jacobsen	Jean H. Peters*	Jill Stratton
Michael Bartley	Mary Dickison	Joan Janssen*	Laura Petersen	Shirley Streib
Anne Bartolo	Colleen DiGiallonardo*	Beth Johnson*	Nancy Phillips	Harriet Swager
Polly Barton*	Mary Louise Dill	Jamie Johnson	Jayne Phillips	Sara Swain
Patti Bash*	Ellen Dingledine	Jillian Johnson	Lisa A. Plantamura*	Danette Swank*
Theresa Best*	Georgianna Dixon	Kelly Juergens	Tracy Pogue	Barbara Swanson
Katherine Best*	Laurie Donlan*	Jacquelyn Kellogg	Mary Pratt	Marsha Swardenski*
Carlotta Bielfeldt*	Kelly Driscoll	Lois Kellogg	Laura Presley	Holly Teig*
Vicki Bilsland*	Emilie Egan	Laura Kelly	Donna Pritchard*	Wendy Thomasson*
Betsy Bladel	Susan Fellerhoff	Susan Kingery	Carolyn Prusak	Carol Thorstenson
Billie Block	Cynthia Fischer*	Mary Koetter	Roslyn Radee-Smith*	Andrea Tognetti*
Joann Blum*	Cindy Ford	Sandra Kreiss	Penny Radley*	Margaret Trent
Susan Boal	Joan T. French*	Joan Krupa*	Trish Redman*	Jeannine Triebel
Anne Bodtke	Judy Friedman	Cheryl Kuppler*	Monica Regnier*	Sandra Ullman*
Kerrie Bogardus	Angela Fritch-Milton*	Kristen LaHood	Valerie Renner	Diane VanDettum*
Jane Bonick*	Patrice Fuchs	Maria Lane	Pamela A. Roberts*	Jennifer Vandewiele*
Pam Borden	Sandy Gallant-Jones	Jan Lees	Delores Robertson	Janet Varnes*
Celena Bourne*	Sandy Garza*	Sandra Lenz	Sally Robertson	Betty Vonachen*
Sue Ellen Brady	Lisa Gates*	Mary Jane Lizer	Julie Rock*	Carol Vonachen
Mollye Bright	Amanda Gavin	Barbara Loar*	Kristal Roop	Donna Vonachen
Jennifer Brooke*	Drew Gay*	Dana Lyddon	Janet Roth	Jill Wahlfeld*
Barbara Brown	Julia Ghantous	Katie Madison	Colleen Rouzer	Christina Walker*
Kathleen Burke	Mary Jo Ghighi	Susan Martin	Melanie Rowley	Pauline Wallden*
Lauren Burtscher*	Ramona Gibbs	Jacqueline Mauer	Colleen Runkle*	Kelly Walz*
Beth Bussan*	Darcy Gibson*	Carey Mayer*	Julie Russell*	Amanda Watson*
Emily Cahill*	Dianne Gootee*	Lucinda McArthur*	Heather Russo*	Emily West
Amanda Campbell*	Kristy Gorenz*	Sara McKee*	Megan Russo*	Kristen Westergaard
Julia Chan	Susan Gorman	Nicole Meyer	Mo Rustom	Nicole Wettstein
Johanna Christiansen*	Nellie Gould*	Rhonda Milburn	Erin Scherbinske*	Jacqueline L. White*
Abby Clark*	Amy Graham	Amy Moore	Teresa Schissler-	Emily Wilburn*
Wendy Clary*	Tracey Greenwood	Patricia Mueller	Boichot*	Elaine Wild*
Kathryn Cobb*	Lori Gudat	Cheryl Murin	Ruth W. Schneider	Brenda Wilson*
Mary Beth Cooper*	Judith Gwillim	Theresa Murphy*	Allyson Schneider	Shelley A. Wilson
Kris Coulter*	Marilyn Haefelin	Shauna Myers	Claire Seshul	Molly Wilson
Linda Couri*	Shelly Heiden	Anamarie Neumiller	Kirsten Shields*	Michelle Winkler
Shelley Couri	Roberta Heiden	Bonnie Noble*	Marci Shoff*	Margaret Withrow*

If you believe that you should be on this list and/or there is an error in your designation, please contact Emily Cahill (309-255-0884) or Brenda O'Russa (309-681-3504) for clarification. Thank you!





# Victorian Christmas Celebration

by Lori Rustom & Amy Barlow

The sixth Annual Victorian Christmas Celebration was held on Saturday, December 7, 2013, with two seatings for tea, soup, salad and desserts. We are proud to say all the food served this year was homemade, thanks to all the committee members who whipped up delicious soup and the general membership who baked Christmas cookies!

Spinach and cranberry salads with raspberry walnut dressing were also served, followed by cheesy baked potato soup. The tea selection this year included a fes-



tive spiced tea that was very popular!

Both seatings for the tea were serenaded by the beautiful harp music provided by Vanessa League, dressed in a Victorian themed outfit. As guests enjoyed homemade desserts, Connie Frank, Sustainer, entertained them with a brief history of the Ballance--Herschel House. The event ended with a house tour of the first and second floors. One delightful surprise this year was the attendance of one of the Herschel's nieces who had lived in the carriage house with her mother when she was young. She was able to provide the group with additional details about the house.



## Congratulations to Sustainers who have been out in the community helping in so many ways:

- Polly Barton was a co-chair of the Peoria Promise event and was serenaded by the cast of Grease
- Patti Bash was honored and roasted at the Hult Center's Lobster Boil
- Margee Cullinan and Bonnie Noble were models in the Salvation Army fashion show

## Sustainer Updates – news from fellow sustainers:

- One sustainer is finishing her Masters in Health Administration, making a career transition from Family Law into Healthcare Administration at OSF. Skills learned from Junior League Leadership positioned me to make this transition.
- Another sustainer went on a Great American Roadtrip out West, including Yellowstone and the Grand Tetons! (We would love to see photos!)
- We are finally grandparents to Benjamin Palmer. We are spending a lot of time in Pittsburgh celebrating his first birthday.
- The summer went too quickly...nothing exciting has happened to me! Which, as a senior sustainer is a good thing.
- I might be tutoring on a full or part time basis again this year. I just have to see how District 150's budget works out!
- In Florida from mid-October to mid-May, otherwise I am here to help. Nancy Bovee

(Do you have things to share about events going on in your lives, community events you support and want to let others know about, awards -let us know -Trish Redman, [haybridgeroad@aol.com](mailto:haybridgeroad@aol.com) or phone 360-8250)





# CLOSERWARE

Have you accessed our new volunteer management software? If not, here's step-by-step instructions on how:

**Webpage:** [WWW.JUNIORLEAGUEOFPEORIA.ORG](http://WWW.JUNIORLEAGUEOFPEORIA.ORG)

## Login:

Username: First name . Last name (ex...Suzy.Smith)

Password: Will be sent to you once you are added to the database. You  
Will then be able to change it.

## Click on Member Area:

General Message Board- this is where committees will post announcements for all members to see

Files- this is where all documents will be posted such as GMM minutes, financial documents, forms...etc.

## My Profile:

You can edit most fields yourself, such as change of address, name change, phone number changes, photo...placement history etc.

Requirements: will show what events you have attended and what requirements have been met.

Volunteering: This is a list of past and current events that you have signed up to volunteer at.

## Volunteer Calendars:

If you'd like to sign up for a shift you will click on the date of the event and sign yourself up by clicking the sign up now button

## Member Directory:

Should open up to all members

Click on advanced filter to search by current placement, name, committee, new members... etc.

If you need your password reset or have any questions, please email  
[juniorleagueofpeoria@gmail.com](mailto:juniorleagueofpeoria@gmail.com)





## Incoming President's Message



I am so excited to step into the role of President for the Junior League of Peoria! In some ways, I feel ready to embark on this journey. I have been privileged to learn through experience as well as attend training through the Association of Junior Leagues International, AJLI, and have received guidance from numerous members of our League. In other ways, I feel that my training is just about to begin. I hope to give my best and lead our members in a positive direction.

AJLI is going through a transformative process to ensure it remains current and viable in a world of changes, from technology and communication to diversity and inclusion. Throughout our 78-year history, the Junior League of Peoria has seen our active membership change from mostly stay-at-home mothers to mostly working women. Along with that, we have seen an increase in different meeting formats and times, as well as a need for flexibility. In order to address some of these changes, we have recently added a current technology infrastructure and have revamped our new member process and organizational structure.

Throughout this upcoming 2014-15 league year, I will strive to continue this transformation by working with the newly slated Executive and Administrative Boards to further our mission of promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women and improving our community through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. The Junior League of Peoria has a rich and impressive history of producing community leaders, and it is our obligation to continue this legacy by developing our membership. The active members have grown to a total of almost 100. Mostly in their 20's and 30's, these actives represent the next generation of women in community leadership. Providing them with meaningful opportunities to learn and grow can be considered an investment in the future of our community.

In order to advance our mission, collaboration and teamwork is required. We have several successful partnerships in place. The Power of Play - the partnership between the Junior League of Peoria, the Peoria Zoological Society and the Peoria Park District – is a tremendous example of a collaborative team working together to complete our largest project to date, The Peoria PlayHouse Children's Museum. As we begin the process of exhibit fabrication, we are very close to 90% of the capital campaign funds raised in order to start construction. The completion of The Peoria PlayHouse will improve our community by enhancing the Glen Oak Park neighborhood and helping all children who visit this interactive children's museum "learn through play."

The upcoming league year has exciting things planned! In September, there is a *Farewell to Julep's Closet* party to be held at the BHH, which will entail lots of fun details that encompass the project's history. In October, we will again help with the *World Wide Day of Play* in Glen Oak Park. We will be introducing a new family-friendly fundraiser, *Superhero Saturday*, taking place in November. Our annual *Frolic with the Fairies* will reoccur in March. We will also be continuing our monthly *Kids in the Kitchen* events as well as offering *Community Now* opportunities.

Along with all of our volunteer activities, we will also be studying various internal and external issues affecting our League. The Community Research and Project Development committee will continue its work to identify our next community impact focus area. Other ad-hoc committees may be studying aspects such as financial strategy, diversity, advocacy, community involvement, Balance-Herschel House, mentoring and sustainer participation in an effort to improve our engagement and effectiveness as an organization. If you are willing to donate time to strengthen our League, please let me know. Now is the time to make a difference.

I look forward to serving you and promoting our mission – one that will help ensure continued growth for our League and our community.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Colleen DiGiallonardo".

Colleen DiGiallonardo, 2014-2015 Junior League of Peoria President





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