

The Association of Junior Leagues International, Inc. is an organization of women committed to promoting volunteerism, developing the potential of women, and improving the community through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. Its purpose is exclusively charitable & educational.

J Connections

Women building better communities



JUNIOR LEAGUE OF EAU CLAIRE

VOLUME 12 ISSUE 5

Celebration of Women

Dinner and presentation a huge success

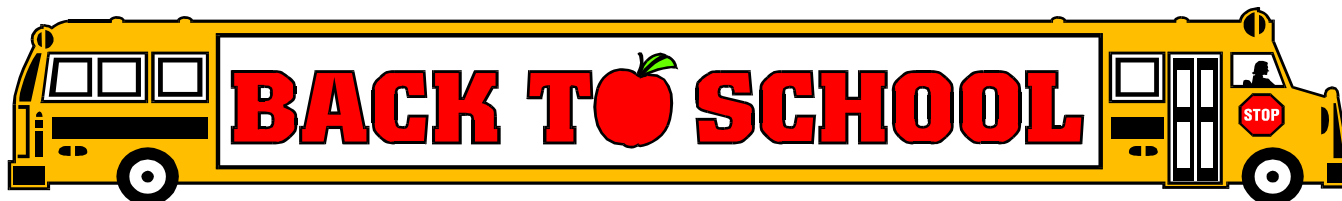
On Monday, April 18th we hosted the Celebration of Women Dinner at Fanny Hill. The Women's Health Center at Sacred Heart Hospital partnered with us to help market and bring about an evening that was a great success. A record 135 women gathered to hear the insights and inspirations from two remarkable speakers, Jessica Witte and Sally Anders. They did an extraordinary job of entertaining us with their life stories. Provisional member, Hannah Vick, was a wonderful emcee. It truly was an evening of laughter, shopping, and fine dining.

Congratulations and sincerest thanks to the committee who made this event a success: our honorable co-chairs Donnie Magadance and Tracey Newhouse, Tammy Eckert, Jacqui Muir, Marianne Klinkhammer, Denise Kristo, Hannah Vick, Bobbi Giles, Sarah Hanson, and Chris Sniegowski. We also thank our generous sponsors and vendors for their support.

Our sponsors were Lasker Jewelers, Peoples Bank of Wisconsin, Pine Cone Manor, and Southside Medical Clinic.



Kate Hinnant and Robin Shih at Celebration of Women



Back to School Gears Up

We celebrate 10 years of helping local families.

The tenth annual Back To School Project is off to a great start. On August 25th we will distribute 1,600 backpacks and supplies to children in need in Eau Claire County. Those children that qualify for the free lunch program will have an opportunity to benefit from this project. We will be serving the Eau Claire School District and Altoona, Augusta, Fairchild, and Fall Creek schools. The BTS project has come signify what Junior League does for our community. We need your support. Please consider a donation this year to the BTS project. As members of JLEC, we strive to make a difference. Help us make a difference in the lives of these children.

Please mark your calendars for the next BTS meeting, May 12th, 7pm at Shanghai Bistro.

“This is the body you've been given- love what you've got.”

Oprah



Spring—the season that exudes vitality and energy. We are awakened from the dormant state of winter and reminded of how glorious life can be. There is anticipation for longer days and warmer nights. It is a time of renewal and new beginnings.

Spring also means the end of our Junior League year. Please join me at the annual Spring Banquet on Tuesday, May 17th to welcome thirteen new members to the Junior League. These incredible women have completed their provisional training and have helped to make the Celebration of Women and the Dine in the Chippewa Valley fundraiser a success.

We have had many shining moments in the last year. Our League's signature Back to School Project distributed over 1,400 backpacks and supplies to children in need in Eau Claire County. Linda Bohacek and her many helpers continued to provide dental care for hundreds of children. We hosted, for the first time, the regional Midwest Leadership Conference, which offered a chance for our own members to experience the training and educational opportunities that League can provide. We brought back The Celebration of Women dinner event and our partnership with the Women's Health Center at Sacred Heart Hospital. Thank you, Hannah Vick and Jesica Witte, two phenomenal, provisional women who had the courage to speak that evening.



“Spring also means the end of our Junior League year. Please join me at the annual Spring Banquet on Tuesday, May 17th to welcome thirteen new members to JLEC.”

Our fundraising efforts were also a big success. We supported our second annual Bunko event to raise funds for Junior League programs and celebrated a successful Packer Party by raising thousands to support our mission. Thanks to the vision of Jen Ropes, we started our first annual Dine in the Chippewa Valley fundraiser. These fundraising efforts will allow us to vote to give funds back to the community when we convene for the last time in May. I am so proud that we have been successful in our fundraising efforts.

I also want to thank Robin Shih for making this last year seem so effortless. Without her guidance and support, I would have floundered. It's hard to go wrong when at every turn she stops and says these three simple words, "You cannot fail" This has been and will continue to be my mantra.

Thank you to the incredible group of hardworking women that served on the board this year: Marianne Klinkhammer, Bobbi Giles, Carol Johnson, Liz Falkner, Sheri Baemmert, Caldwell Camero, and Robin Shih. I value your opinions and your friendships.

I am honored to have had the opportunity to serve as president. Although at times challenging, it has been an amazing learning experience. I will continue to look on with pride and amazement at the new challenges we will face and the new beginnings we will foster. Thank you for making the world a better place.

Chris



Chris and past-President Barbara Ihlenfeldt at the Celebration of Women on April 18th at Fanny Hill

Dine in the Chippewa Valley

Drawing scheduled for May 24 GMM

Mark your calendars! The date for the drawing of the Dine in the Chippewa Valley raffle ticket has been announced. The winning ticket will be drawn at the May 24th GMM. You do not need to be present to win. Tickets are \$10 each and are available at the following locations: Gator Garb, Gonstead, Smith, Vanasse and Prissel Chiropractic, and Lasker Jewelers. Tickets will also be available at the Spring Banquet on May 17th. This is a great fundraiser and a chance to win the prize of eating out once a week for an entire year. Only 500 tickets will be sold. If you have questions, call Jen Ropes at 834-1840.



Linda Bohacek honored

and we are very proud!

On Wednesday, April 27th the Fourth Annual Children's Legacy Luncheon recognized the 2005 Outstanding Achievement Award Honorees for their service and abiding commitment to children and youth in our community. Our very own Linda Bohacek was among the six honorees who also included Owen & Janice Ayres, William Conway (posthumously), Wynne Cook, Rob Fadness, and Tim Robertson MD.



Linda Bohacek is a past-president of Junior League and continues to serve in too many capacities to even list. She began her crusade to provide access to dental care for all citizens while in Connecticut where she worked as a clinical dental hygienist treating underserved, low income, high risk children. In Eau Claire, she is the driving force and tireless coordinator of the Sealants Today for Smiles Tomorrow program, which involves a team of collaborative partners, dental professionals and JLEC volunteers. This team provides dental sealants to children in need using portable equipment in the school setting. Funded by grants Linda helped write and Junior League helped secure, this program has been so successful that it has been incorporated into the programs of the Eau Claire City-County Health Department.

Congratulations and thank you to all who give so bountifully of themselves to help others achieve their true potential. We love you, Linda Bohacek. Your grateful and admiring JLEC friends.

Country Jam

Thursday, July 21 to Saturday, July 23

It's time for a little summer fun. We will again have the opportunity to work at Country Jam to raise money for our projects. Bring your friends, your family, and your date. All are welcome to help raise money at this fundraiser. Country Jam kicks off Thursday, July 21st and goes through Saturday, July 23rd. Contact Marianne Klinkhammer at 833-8954 or Marianne@gatorgarb.net for more info.



To **Nicole Lasker**, her husband, Erik, and son, Mika on their new addition--Giselle Elizabeth Ringsrud. Giselle was born on February 28, 2005 at 2:52 a.m. She was 6 pounds, 15 ounces and 19 inches long.

To **Dr. Angela Prissel** and her husband, Jeff, on the birth of their son, Andrew Thomas, on April 6, 2005 at 4:33 a.m. He was 8 lbs., 1 ounce & 21 inches long.

To **Hannah Vick** for her re-election to the Altoona city council.

To the newly elected **Junior League of Eau Claire** slate of officers for 2005-2006:

President-Elect - Bobbi Giles

VP of Finance - Sallie Kernan

VP of Communications - Sheri Baemmert

VP of Community - Caldwell Camero

VP of Membership - Amy Leonardson

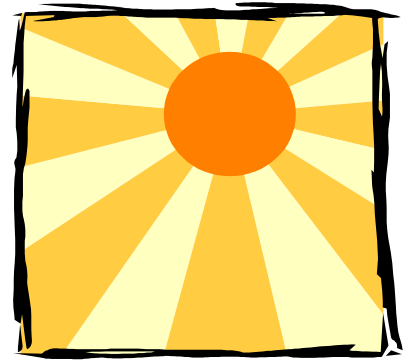
Recording Secretary - Kate Hinnant



MAY

- 9 Board Meeting
- 11-14 AJLI Annual Conference in New Orleans
- 17 Spring Banquet @ Eau Claire Golf and Country Club
- 24 GMM-- Year-end Wrap-up at WAYY/Maverick Media, 944 Harlem, Altoona

*"The most beautiful thing under the sun
is being under the sun." Christa Wolf*



ECRAC Volunteer Opportunities

Thanks to everyone.

A special thank you goes out to all the members who volunteered their time to work at the State Theater. Your continued support has made it possible for us to complete our required hours for this year, plus we have additional hours banked for next year. Great job everyone! There are still shows that need volunteers now and into the summer. Volunteering is a great way to earn office space for JLEC and to sneak in a show. Call Jean at 832-2787 to help out.



Membership Dues

Don't forget!

As we close our current year, we're also starting the upcoming year. Please pay your membership due before June 1, 2005. Invoices have been sent out for your convenience.

Annual Dues: **Active: \$70** **Active-Sustainer: \$60** **Sustainer: \$50**

This is also a great time to consider giving to Junior League's Endowment Fund.

Checks can be turned in at the Spring Banquet, May's GMM or by mailing directly to:

Susan Jewett, 5150 Interlachen Blvd., Eleva, WI 54738.

Reminders:



Don't forget the **Spring Banquet** is Tuesday, May 17th 6:00pm at the Eau Claire Golf and Country Club, off Willson Drive in Altoona.

Please join us for the **final GMM** of the year on Tuesday May 24th at Maverick Media. 944 Harlem Street, Altoona. 6:30pm social, 7:00pm meeting. If you are an active/active sustainer member, please make an effort to attend, as we will be voting on allocation of funds that evening.

Thank you to **Panera Bread** for donating soup, salad, and bread for our March GMM at the Boys and Girls Club. We are grateful for your community support.

What Special Someday Are We Saving For?

© Ann Wells
Los Angeles Times, 1985

My brother-in-law opened the bottom drawer of my sister's bureau and lifted out a tissue-wrapped package. "This," he said, "is not a slip. This is lingerie." He discarded the tissue and handed me the slip. It was exquisite; silk, handmade and trimmed with a cobweb of lace. The price tag with an astronomical figure on it was still attached. "Jan bought this the first time we went to New York, at least 8 or 9 years ago. She never wore it."

"She was saving it for a special occasion. Well, I guess this is the occasion." He took the slip from me and put it on the bed with the other clothes we were taking to the mortician. His hands lingered on the soft material for a moment, then he slammed the drawer shut and turned to me.

"Don't ever save anything for a special occasion. Every day you're alive is a special occasion."

I remembered those words through the funeral and the days that followed when I helped him and my niece attend to all the sad chores that follow an unexpected death. I thought about them on the plane returning to California from the Midwestern town where my sister's family lives. I thought about all the things that she hadn't seen or heard or done. I thought about the things that she had done without realizing that they were special.

I'm still thinking about his words, and they've changed my life. I'm reading more and dusting less. I'm sitting on the deck and admiring the view without fussing about the weeds in the garden. I'm spending more time with my family and friends and less time in committee meetings. Whenever possible, life should be a pattern of experience to savor, not endure. I'm trying to recognize these moments now and cherish them.

I'm not "saving" anything; we use our good china and crystal for every special event—such as losing a pound, getting the sink unstopped, the first camellia blossom. I wear my good blazer to the market if I feel like it.

My theory is if I look prosperous, I can shell out \$28.49 for one small bag of groceries without wincing. I'm not saving my good perfume for special parties; clerks in hardware stores and tellers in banks have noses that function as well as my party-going friends'.

"Someday" and "one of these days" are losing their grip on my vocabulary. If it's worth seeing or hearing or doing, I want to see and hear and do it now. I'm not sure what my sister would have done had she known that she wouldn't be here for the tomorrow we all take for granted. I think she would have called family members and a few close friends.

She might have called a few former friends to apologize and mend fences for past squabbles. I like to think she would have gone out for a Chinese dinner, her favorite food. I'm guessing - I'll never know.

“Don't ever save anything for a special occasion. Every day you're alive is a special occasion.”

It's those little things left undone that would make me angry if I knew that my hours were limited. Angry because I put off seeing good friends whom I was going to get in touch with—someday. Angry because I hadn't written certain letters that I intended to write - one of these days. Angry and sorry that I didn't tell my husband and daughter often enough how much I truly love them.

I'm trying very hard not to put off, hold back, or save anything that would add laughter and luster to our lives. And every morning when I open my eyes, I tell myself that it is special.

Every day, every minute, every breath truly is... a gift from God.

Note About the Author

Ann Wells originally wrote the essay above. We're not sure if those above are her exact words as the original essay is not available online. We do know that the essay originally appeared in the Orange County Edition of the LA Times in 1985.

In 1998, two more articles were written in the LA Times about her 13-year-old essay and the impact it has had on the internet and how it has been unexpectedly "re-born" on the internet, through emails, chain-letters and the like.

She currently lives in condo in Laguna Niguel, California and was born in 1922 (which means she is 83 years old at this writing). She penned the column a couple of years after her sister unexpectedly died, and several years before she would lose her husband.

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2004-2005

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Bunco	Jen Ropes
Cookbook	Robin Shih
Packer Party	Liz Falkner
Celebration of Women	Donnie Magadance & Tracey Newhouse

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