



JUNIOR LEAGUE
BERGEN COUNTY

38th Annual
Festival of Trees

November 15, 2025
Seasons, Township of Washington, NJ

Evening's Schedule



7:00pm	Check-In
7:30 pm	President's Welcome Deb Norman, President
7:40 pm	Honoree Introduction Iwona Leoszenia, Chair
8:00 pm	JLBC Group Photos * Past Presidents * Sustainers * Active Members
8:00 pm	Buffet Open
9:50 pm	50/50 Winner Announced Money Tree Winner Announced
10:00 pm	Silent Auction Closes
10:30 pm	Last Dance & Last Call
10:15 – 10:45pm	Check-Out

Event Sponsors



Thank you for your generosity and dedication!

Silver Sponsor:

Courtney Lisecki

Evergreen & Bar Sponsor:

Civil Affairs Cigars

CivilAffairsCigars.com

Additional Sponsors:

Anna Suarez & Daniel Kozlowski

Pam Pearson

Deborah “Beechie” Witcher Jackson

Midland Park Barber Shop

62 Godwin Ave, Midland Park

JLBC Sustaining Members

Junior League of Bergen County



Our Mission

The Junior League of Bergen County (JLBC) is an organization of women whose mission is to advance women's leadership for meaningful community impact through volunteer action, collaboration, and training.

Our Beginning

The Junior League of Bergen County, Inc. originally started in 1928 with 60 members and was called the Englewood Junior Service League. In 1933, the name was changed to the Junior League of Englewood when we were admitted to the Association of Junior Leagues. In 1962, the Ridgewood Area of the League was established and hereafter, the name became the Junior League of Englewood-Ridgewood, Inc. Later, in June of 1972, the League's name was officially changed to the Junior League of Bergen County.

Today

JLBC is a member of the Association of Junior Leagues International, which encompasses more than 113,000 women in 297 Junior Leagues within five countries. Our membership (approximately 130) leverages their League training and volunteer experience to serve Bergen County and beyond. The funds we raise are reinvested into the community through JLBC projects, events, and scholarships.

Empowering Environments

October 2023, JLBC launched our signature community project called Empowering Environments: *Where Everyone Can Thrive*, creating indoor and outdoor spaces throughout Bergen County for growth and empowerment.

- Art Therapy Room, West Bergen Mental Health (Ridgewood, October 2023) An inspiring space providing clients to express emotions, build coping skills, and promote healing on their journey toward mental wellness through art.
- STEM Room, Boys and Girls Club of Lower Bergen County (Lodi, November 2024) A vibrant space sparking creativity and innovation - featuring colorful under-the-sea and outer-space murals, neon signs, and cutting-edge tools like microscopes, robotics kits, and a 3D printer.
- Music Studio, Boys and Girls Club of Lower Bergen County (Lodi, January 2025) A lively environment for music enthusiasts boasts pop-art murals and professional-grade equipment including microphones, headphones, remixing technology, and a new Mac laptop.
- Sensory Garden, Flat Rock Brook Nature Center (Englewood, Spring 2025) An immersive outdoor space designed to engage all five senses. It serves as a therapeutic and educational resource for the community, promoting well-being and environmental awareness.
- MORE TO COME IN 2026!

Board Members



President Debra Norman

AVP Michelle Sweeney

Treasurer Roopa Saggar

VP Fund Development Iwona Leoszenia

VP Community Vanessa Marquez

Communications Gabrielle Garritano

Nominating/Placement Patty Gravatt

Sustainer Chair Laura Behrmann



Summer 2025: Board Retreat

Online Auction

1. Visit www.biddingforgood.com/FOT2019/FOT2025 via a mobile device to register and access the auction, or scan the QR code. Volunteers are available if you need assistance registering or navigating Bidding for Good.



2. Each item is labeled with a QR Code that identifies the item by number and title. The baskets description and contents can also be found in this booklet.

3. To bid on an item, scan the QR code with your mobile device or type in the item number in the search function on Bidding For Good. Each item has a starting bid and a minimum raise. For example, if an item has a starting bid of \$100, the first bid would be \$100, and if the item has a minimum raise of \$20, the second bid would be \$120, the third bid would be \$140, and so on.

4. You may raise your bid at any time during the silent auction period.

5. All QR Codes must remain in their proper location at all times throughout the evening. Please do not remove any QR Codes from the auction items.

6. At the conclusion of the auction your mobile device will alert you if you have won. Please bring the device to check out to process payment. In addition to credit card , you will have the option of paying via cash, check or Venmo at time of check out (a fee will be applied to Venmo and Credit Card transactions)

7. A delivery fee of \$25 will be charged for delivery or a shipping charge will be assessed. You must be present at time of delivery and the JLBC is not responsible for any damage that may occur during the delivery process.

Bid Boards

1. Some oversized items are available for bidding via a bid boards. To bid, write your name and place your desired bid on the bid sheet attached to the bid board for that item.

2. The winning bid will be circled by the committee at the conclusion of the auction. If you are the winner, please bring the board to check out to process payment.

Auction Items



Beauty & Spa

100 - Lisa Thomas Salon, Ridgewood. \$75 Gift Certificate good for one haircut and a condition treatment with select stylists

101 - CoolSculpting - Better U Medical Spa
Englewood - Includes (2) probes of CoolSculpting

102 - Araya Rebirth GC & Sothys Active Cream & Soothing Melting Fluid
Araya Rebirth \$50 Gift Card, Ridgewood
Sothys Active Cream & Soothing Melting Fluid

103 - La Mer Moisturizing Soft Cream

104 - Jo Malone English Pear & Sweet Pea Cologne

105 - Burberry Goddess Perfume

106 - Jo Malone English Pea & Freesia Cologne
Jo Malone English Pea & Freesia Body & Hand Wash

107 - Jo Malone Sakura Cherry Blossom Cologne

108 - Jo Malone Red Hibiscus Cologne Intense

109 - Jo Malone Orange Bitters Cologne

110 - Brow Boutique by KY in Ridgewood -
\$150 Gift Card Services include: Brow Tinting, Waxing, Lip Blushing, Lip Liner Tattoo & MORE!

111 - Judit & Co Beauty in Kearny - **\$150 Gift Certificate**

112 - Pamper Package - Dove Day Spa in Ridgewood
60 Minute Classic European Facial, with relaxation foot, hand, and scalp massage with essential oils, and hydrating eye treatment.

113 - Changing Heads Salon \$50 GC in Northvale
& **Redken Hair Products** (28 Hour Control Hairspray, Root Lifter, Dry Shampoo, Spray Smooth, Acidic Color Gloss: Masque, Heat Protection Treatment, Sulfate Free Shampoo and Conditioner)

114 - Lennon Brooks Salon & Oribe Endless Style Kit
\$150 Gift Card to Lennon Brooks Salon in Paramus
Oribe Endless Style Kit: Dry Texturizing Spray, Superfine Hair Spray, Royal Blowout Heat Styling Spray

Jewelry & Accessories

200 - Kendra Scott Mallory Small Short Pendant Necklace (approx 19")

201 - J. McLaughlin Mel Shoulder Handbag
Color: Merlot Suede. Size: 9-1/4"W, 5"H, 1-3/4"D, 10" Handle Drop. New without tag

202 - Max Mara Marine XS Leather Bag
Color: Bourdeaux, Smooth Calfskin. Tubular handles, removable/adjustable shoulder strap;
Size: 24 x 16 x 15 cm

203 - Michael Kors Jet Set Travel Large Saffiano Tote Bag
Color: Black Leather, Gold-tone Hardware; Size: 14.6"W X 10.7"H X 5"D, 11" Handle Drop

204 - Michael Kors Jet Set Large Saffiano Crossbody & J Vineyards Brut Rosé
Color: Dragonfruit Leather, Silver-tone Hardware;
Size: 9"W x 4"H x 0.75"D

205 - Dune London Purse with Coin Purse
Color: Red/Navy/Tan Faux Leather, Gold-tone Hardware; Size: 9.5"W x 8"H x 4.5"D

206 - Pearls, Kate Spade Sunglasses & Pinot Grigio
Fashion Pearl Necklace 30"; Kate Spade Samantha Sunglasses. Gemma Di Luna Pinot Grigio

207 - Tiffany & Co - Return to Tiffany™ Mini Crossbody Bag
Color: Black; with shoulder strap

208 - Tiffany & Co - Return to Tiffany™ Pendant Necklace
28" Sterling Silver Etched Heart and Arrow Tag

Auction Items



Jewelry & Accessories

209 - Prada Sunglasses PR17WS
Black Frame, Dark Gray Lenses

Collectibles

301 - Mike Richter NY Rangers Autographed Stanley Cup Trophy Celebration Photo w/ "94 Cup Champs" Inscription

302 - NY Jets Sack Exchange Photo Autographed by 2023 Hall of Famer Joe Klecko

303 - Bob Marley Mr. Brainwash Pop Art Framed Collage Made from Broken Albums, 26" x 26"

304 - Banksy Boy Behind the Curtains Framed Collage 18" x 28"

305 - Banksy Aaron Judge Follow Your Dreams Framed Pop Art Collage, 26" x 26"

306 - Banksy Leo Messi Follow Your Dreams Framed Pop Art Collage, 26" x 26"

307 - Taylor Swift Autographed CD Framed Collage 24" x 24"

308 - Billy Joel Innocent Man Cassette Framed Artwork 22" x 28"

309 - Notorious BIG Ready to Die Cassette Framed Artwork 22" x 28"

310 - NY Giants Legends Framed Canvas

311 - GOODFELLAS Movie Quote Framed Collage
Laser Engraved Signatures of the Cast

312 - Dwight Gooden NY Mets Autographed Framed Photo. "Last to Wear #16" Inscription

313 - Rory McIlroy 2025 Masters Championship Celebration Framed Collage
Laser Engraved Signature

314 - Mike Tyson Autographed Everlast Boxing Glove

315 - Soccer Legends Replica Rookie Card Collage
Messi, Ronaldo, Pele, Maradona

316 - 1980 USA Olympic Hockey Replica Gold Medal Autographed by Jack O'Callahan with USA Gold Inscription

317 - Jalen Brunson NY Knicks Nike Framed Collage
Laser Engraved Signature

318 - Tyler Kolek Signed Knicks Photo
Certificate of Authenticity

319 - Jack Hughes Signed NJ Devils Jersey

320 - Dougie Hamilton Signed NJ Devils Puck
Certificate of Authenticity

321 - Garrett Wilson Signed NY Jets Photo
Autographed Fanatics Authentic 8" x 10" Leaping Touchdown Catch Photograph

Experiences, Activities & Services

400 - Bathtub Gin Speakeasy in NYC - Wednesday Night Music Experience

\$200 Dinner Gift Certificate and (4) Front Row Seats to a Sold Out Show - One of the Toughest Reservations in Town. Tax and Gratuity Not Included; Dinner Reservation for 8:30pm

401 - Golf for (3) Players with Jim Leyritz!

Play with NY Yankees World Series Home Run Hero Jim Leyritz at Harrison Meadows Country Club in Westchester, NY. Includes Golf Carts, Lunch, Autographed WS Home Run Photos and Photo Ops

Auction Items



Experiences, Activities & Services

402 - NJ Devils vs Ottawa Senators

(2) Tickets for April 12th, 2026 7pm

(2) Black Club Tickets: Section 9, Row 2, Seats 3 & 4 Sunday Home Closer Game and Jersey Shirsey Night, Includes Free Parking and All-Inclusive Food & Soft Drinks

403 - Urban Auto Spa - Car Care Bundle

(5) Silver Level Car Washes to Urban Auto Spa in Ramsey or Franklin Lakes; Hand Towel, Air Fresheners, Armor All Spray

404 - The Gravity Vault Climbing Session

The Gravity Vault Staff Belay Climbing Session for (2) Climbers. Great for all fitness levels, equipment provided. Location: Upper Saddle River

405 - Jenkinson's Aquarium Admission

(4) Admission Passes to Jenkinson's Aquarium in Point Pleasant Beach, NJ

406 - Alstede Farms One-Day Family Admission

Pass for (5) People to Visit Alstede Farms in Chester, NJ for Pick Your Own, Blooming Giants Sunflower Trail, A-Maze-Ing Corn Maze, Springtime and Easter Family Festival, OR Harvest Moon Hayride events

407 - (2) Red Bulls Tickets

(2) Lower Level Tickets to a Home Game at Sports Illustrated Stadium in Harrison, NJ. Certain restrictions apply. Certain matches may not be available.

408 - (4) Admission Passes to Catch Air in Paramus

Catch Air is a leading children's indoor playcenter offering a fun, safe, and interactive experience for families.

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410 - Pinot's Palette \$180 GC & Wine

Pinot's Palette in Ridgewood; Sessions Range from \$35-50. Sunset Sky Velvet Red Blend Wine

411 - Gun for Hire Shooting Range

1-hour of 25-yard Port Time, includes (1) 9mm Pistol Rental, (50) rounds of 9mm ammo, Targets, Ear Protection, Eye Protection, Gun For Hire Swag Items, and More! *All contents will be received at time of Range visit in Woodland Park, NJ

412 - American Museum of Natural History

(4) General Admission Passes, Location: Central Park West at 79th St, New York, NY

413 - Wine Tasting Experience with ONEHOPE

ONEHOPE Wine is an impact-driven winery and wine club located in Napa Valley, CA. When you celebrate with ONEHOPE, you're toasting to impact - every bottle gives back 10% to your cause of choice and helps make a lasting impact on the world. The Winner of this auction gets a reserve tasting experience in your home for up to 15 people. ** EXPIRES 2/26 **

414 - The Flavor Labs 60-minute Children's Cooking Class

The Flavor Labs is a kitchen created to experiment with food and flavors while having fun. Location: Paramus or Norwood.

415 - Warwick Valley Winery & Spirits Tasting

(4) Tastings for Wine or Cider at Warwick Valley in Warwick, NJ; Doc's Sour Cherry Cider (22 oz)

416 - Bookends - Free Book & Skip the Line!

Opportunity to move to the front of the line to have your book autographed at the book signing of your choice. Value = priceless! Location: Ridgewood

Auction Items



Experiences, Activities & Services

417 - \$50 Amex GC, Travel Pillow & Duffle Bag

napfun Travel Neck Pillow: 100% Pure Memory Foam, Size Medium w/ Eye Mask and Earplugs; Color: Deep Gray. Topbag Travel Duffle Bag, Waterproof Weekender Bag 18.5" x 14.2" x 8.7"

418 - Nickelodeon Universe (4) Passes for American Dream Mall Location. Must email in advance to receive tickets.

419 - (2) Tickets to Women for Women Today: Investing in Yourself Event

Invest in your peace, growth, money & happiness. Wednesday, January 28th, 2026, 5:30-9pm, The Terrace in Paramus.

420 - (2) Tickets to The Beauty Social: Smart Beauty Simplified

This is your space to cut through the noise and get real about beauty. Wednesday, March 4th, 2026 5:30-9pm, The Terrace in Paramus.

421 - 4 Day Stay at Stolk's Lodge Sleeps 10 people, Outside of Cooperstown, NY

Subject to Availability between 6/1/26 - 9/30/26
5 Bedrooms, 3 Bathrooms, Internet, Grill, Patio.
11.6 miles (20 minute) beautiful drive to Cooperstown Dreams Park. Experience the quiet and beauty of Central New York in this lodge that was hand-crafted of native timber.

This 4500 SF vacation home has a spacious living room which showcases the owner's private collection of wild game trophies, taken from all over North America, cathedral ceilings and lots of natural light. Stolk's Lodge also has a large great room, complete with comfortable seating, a dining area and a foosball table for family fun. Sliding glass doors lead to a patio with a view of the 5-acre pond. Breathe in the fresh country air as you enjoy outside dining on the patio. A gas grill is provided for outdoor cooking.

Home & Electronics

500 - Projector & 150" Portable Projector Screen

Happrun Native 1080P Bluetooth Projector, Full HD Portable Outdoor w/ Built-in Speaker, Compatible with Smartphone, HDMI, USB, AV, Firestick. Towond 150" Portable Projector Screen & Stand

501 - Comfort Basket - Smart Queen Weighted

Blanket, Homedics Foot Massager, Passion & Beyond Deep Moisture Set, The Queens of Crime Book by Marie Benedict, Live a Little Organic Red Wine, Tahitian Vanilla Candle, Inspirational Wall Decor

502 - Kitchen Tools: \$25 Shoprite GC, Pyrex & More!

\$25 Gift Card to Shoprite; 18-piece Pyrex Set; Fullstar Vegetable Chopper; Nutrichef Food Vacuum Sealer; Ultimate Universal Masher

Auction Items



503 - Masterbuilt® Charcoal Grill, Griddle & Smoker
Gravity Series® 800. Digital control panel or smart device control using WiFi or Bluetooth. Built-in temperature gauge and meat probe thermometer. Includes flat top griddle insert, cast iron grill grates, (2) porcelain-coated smoking racks.
Model MB20040221 **Assembly Not Included**

504 - Weber 22" Charcoal Grill with Accessories
Original Kettle Premium Charcoal Grill in Copper; Weber Rapidfire Chimney Starter, Tumbleweeds Natural Fire Starters (16 pk), 22" Grill Cover, Amazon Basics 4-Piece Stainless Steel Barbeque Grilling Tool Set with Carry Bag

505 - LG TONE Free Earbuds & LG Swag
LG TONE Free HBS-FN4 True Wireless Earbuds with Meridian Audio Technology; Basket includes travel mug, water bottle, and more!

506 - JBL FLIP 5 Waterproof Portable Bluetooth Speaker (Color: Black)

Food, Wine & Restaurants

600 - Lindt Giant Advent Calendar 2025
(24) Full-size Chocolate Surprises! 5' Tall

601 - 2025 Wine Advent Calendar
Take a journey through a whimsical WINE-derland! Includes 24 Wine-derful bottles (187ml each)

602 - In Good Taste Wine Advent Calendar
24 nights. 24 mini bottles. 24 opportunities to sip and explore your way through premium wines, sourced from the best regions!

603 - Champagne Stand & Veuve Clicquot Champagne
BirdRock Stainless Steel Champagne Bucket w/ Stand (32" free standing ice holder) and 750ml Veuve Clicquot with Ice Jacket

605 - Cheese Please - Cheese Board with Assorted Cheeses & Meats

Smirly Cheeseboard, Busseto Salami & Chorizo, Zoe's Pepperoni & Salami, Glacier Ridge Farms Cheeses, Old World Cheeses, Crackers, Snack Mix, Cheese Pairing Spread Set

607 - Goffle Road Poultry Farm GC & Italian Gourmet Basket

\$25 Gift Certificate to Goffle Road Poultry Farm in Hawthorne; (2) Sicily Sodas, Marinara, Cacio e Pepe, Olive Mix, Pasta, Pralines & More!

608 - Eat Clean Bro \$150 Gift Card

(2) Barebells Protein Bars (Cookies & Caramel and Creamy Crisp)

609 - \$150 Saddle River Inn GC & Wine

\$150 Gift Card to Saddle River Inn in Saddle River; Ciacci Piccolomini d'Aragona Brunello di Montalcino 2019

610 - Margarita Time!

Casamigos 750ml, Margarita Cocktail Mixer Gift Set, Lime Margarita Salt, (4) Glaver's Glass Margarita Glasses

611 - Blanton's Bourbon

Blanton's The Original Single Barrel Kentucky Straight Bourbon Whiskey 750ml

612 - Whiskey Advent Calendar, Basil Hayden Bourbon & Blackjack Mulligan's GC

Whiskey Advent Calendar 2025: 24-Day Bourbon Smoker Infuser Kit; Basil Hayden Bourbon 750ml; \$50 Gift Card to Blackjack Mulligan's in Hawthorne

614 - \$50 Spuntino GC & Wine

\$50 Gift Card to Spuntino Wine Bar & Italian Tapas, Locations in Clifton, NJ and Garden City, NY; Bartenura Moscato

615 -Codigo 1530 Tequila Anejo 100% Agave 750ml

616 - \$50 Stew Leonard's GC & Talisman Bacon Kitchen Accessories

\$50 Gift Card to Stew Leonard's in Paramus, NJ; Bacon Silicon Mat Tray, Splatter Guard & Tongs

Auction Items



Food, Wine & Restaurants

617 - Chocolate Covered Treats Platter

\$50 Value of Chocolate Covered Treats (pretzels, biscuits, etc) by The Chocolate Nook

618 - (2) \$50 Rispoli's GCs, \$15 Starbucks GC & Yeti Wine Tumbler

(2) \$50 Gift Cards to Rispoli's Bakery in Hawthorne; \$15 Starbucks Gift Card; Yeti Rambler Wine Tumbler (10oz, Navy); Wall Decor - "The Best Days Start with Coffee" & "The Best Nights End with Wine"

619 - \$100 Justin's Ristorante GC & Wine

\$100 Gift Card to Justin's Ristorante in Hawthorne; Kendall Jackson Avant Unoaked Chardonnay

620 - Moscow Mule Basket & Evolution GC

\$25 Gift Card to Evolution Restaurant and Bar in Woodland Park; Grey Goose Vodka 1.75ml, Ginger Beer, (2) Copper Mugs & Limes

621 - \$100 F1rst Restaurant GC & Wine

\$100 Gift Card to F1rst Restaurant in Hawthorne; 1858 Red Blend Wine

622 - \$100 Aldo's GC & Wine

\$100 Gift Card to Aldo's Restaurant in Wyckoff; Salvation Cabernet Sauvignon Napa by Faust

623 - \$100 The Brick House GC & Wine

\$100 Gift Card to The Brick House in Wyckoff; Sandhi Sta. Rita Hills Pinot Noir 2022

624 - \$80 Mezza Luna Bistro GC & Wine

\$80 Gift Card to Mezza Luna Bistro in Allendale; Duckhorn Merlot

625 - A Taste of Bergen County - (3) GCs

\$30 Gift Card to Fino Ristorante in Allendale; \$50 Gift Card to Allendale Bar & Grill in Allendale; Gift Card for (2) Tuesday Pasta Night at Mahwah Bar & Grill in Mahwah

626 - Basket of Trader Joe's Goodies

Fall Leaf Tortilla Chips, Pumpkin Cookies, Fall Harvest Salsa, Pancake Mix, Tomato and Roasted Red Pepper Soup, Maple Syrup, Tomato Basil Pasta Sauce, Artisan Pasta, Corn Bread Crisps, Apple Mango & Apple Coconut Fruit Bars

627 - \$200 Wegmans Gift Card

629 - \$75 Giovanni's Bicycle Club GC & Wine

\$75 Gift Card to Giovanni's Bicycle Club in Englewood; Educated Guess Pinot Noir

630 - \$50 Steve's Sizzling Steaks GC & Hot Sauces

\$50 Gift Card to Steve's Sizzling Steaks in Carlstadt; Flavors of the World (25) Hot Sauces

631 - Turning Point Gift Card

(2) Certificates for Two Complimentary Entrees at Turning Point (Good at any location)

632 - \$50 Calandra's GC & Dipping Oils

\$50 Gift Card for any Calandra's Locations (Caldwell, Fairfield, Newark)

Auction Items



Kids, Toys & Pets

700 - Lego Star Wars Gingerbread AT AT Walker

701 - Cat Basket - Toys & Treats

Gingerbread Cat Tunnel, Temptations Variety 4 Pack, Kitchstar 25 pack Christmas Cat Toys, Fringe Christmas Cat Toys

702 - Kids Craft Basket

(2) Rainbow Loom Rubber Band Bracelet Making Kits, (2) Pop! Holiday Craft Construction Kits, (2) Melissa & Doug Sticker Pads: Jewelry & Nails and Make-a-Face; (2) Little Makers Foam Butterflies, (2) Little Makers Foam Hearts, (3) Shrink Art Holiday Jewelry Kit

704 - Family Game Night

Twister, Family Bingo, Pie Face, Uno, Life Junior, The Case of the Code Breaker, Crazy 8's, Go Fish, Uno (Office edition), War Monsters vs Robots

705 - Rawlings Glove, \$25 Humdingers GC & Baseball

Rawlings 12" Youth Premium Pro Taper Series Baseball Glove, \$25 Gift Card to Humdingers in Paramus

Letter from the Festival of Trees Chair



Festival of Trees reminds us that what makes the Junior League of Bergen County so special isn't just the event itself, it's the people who bring it to life. The friendships formed, the laughter shared, and the countless hours spent planning, decorating, and basket-wrapping together are what truly make this evening possible.

As members, we join the League to give back to our community, but we quickly find that we gain so much more in return. The bonds built through shared purpose become lasting connections, and extend far beyond committee meetings and event nights.

Chairing the Festival of Trees gala is no small task (time, energy, and plenty of late nights!) Yet, seeing the event come together, filled with joy, generosity, and community spirit is what makes every moment worthwhile. Knowing that our collective efforts will fund the programs and initiatives that make a real difference in our community is the most meaningful reward of all.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this year's Festival - our members, sponsors, donors, and guests. Together, we've created not just a beautiful event, but another chapter in the League's story of friendship, service, and impact.

With heartfelt thanks,

Iwona Leoszenia

Festival of Trees Chair & VP of Fund Development



Letter from the President



This evening is a celebration made possible by the efforts, generosity, and shared spirit of countless supporters and dedicated members.

Tonight, we specifically honor the remarkable women who have led the Junior League of Bergen County as Past Presidents. Each brought her own vision and commitment to the League, guiding our members, shaping our projects, and strengthening our place in the community. Their leadership reminds us that the JLBC's greatest impact comes through the collective strength of women, built over time, with unwavering belief in our mission.

As we come together for the 38th Annual Festival of Trees, please reflect on the tradition of service and community that has defined this organization over decades. The programs we champion, the partnerships we nurture, and the women we empower continue because of the foundation laid by those who came before us. Their work has made it possible for us to respond to our community with purpose, action, and heart.

Serving as President at this moment in our history is deeply meaningful to me. I am grateful for the trust of our membership, inspired by the women who led us here, and hopeful for our future leaders.

With gratitude for the past and enthusiasm for the journey ahead,

Deb Norman

President 2025-2027



Honoring Our Past Presidents



Rachel Oster **2022 - 2025**

Vanessa (VP Community) and I were at the National conference in Indianapolis having lunch just hearing about all these other amazing projects other leagues were doing. It was in May 2023 when our league was at a crossroads with Set Sail and Project Playground. We were in search of a better fit for our organization and started to brainstorm what criteria we would need it to be for it be successful and feasible. We started to brainstorm a kernel of an idea called

"Empowering Environments" and over the next few months finessed the idea to present at the August board retreat to get the board's buy in prior to bringing it to membership. It was amazing to collaborate with Vanessa and come up with something that truly was the right fit for our organization and to watch it grow through the remainder of my presidency to 5 sites completed and more in the pipeline. It truly felt like we were making an impact in our community.

Nicole Rutigliano **2021 - 2022**

During my presidential year in 2021/2022 my biggest accomplishment was working on the family room at West Bergen's Childrens center in Ramsey. We were still in Covid/ coming out and the center was closed. It was a great way to get our members back in action and roll up our sleeves with literally "dirty work" and strengthen our collaboration and partnership with West Bergen.





Britt Tunick 2020 - 2021



My favorite Junior League project was Touch a Truck. In my first active year, I, along with my good friend and fellow past president, Melissa Borduin, took the reigns and chaired the event. It was always an interesting morning cleaning the parking lot of the Garden State Plaza bright and early! The trucks loved coming to our event and the kids had a blast. It was one of my favorite events because of its' dual purpose - raising money for the JLBC's many projects for the community, and also providing a fun morning for the kids. In addition, both active and sustaining members of the JLBC helped out. Unless you experienced heading up the ticket tents at Touch a Truck at opening, I don't think that anyone has truly lived! The SWAT vehicle was always a blast, as were the various fire trucks. The event was always held rain or shine, which made for some interesting adventures! Although the event has now been retired, it still holds a special place in my heart!

Gretchen Connard 2019 - 2020



Leslie Martin - Bazzini

2018 - 2019



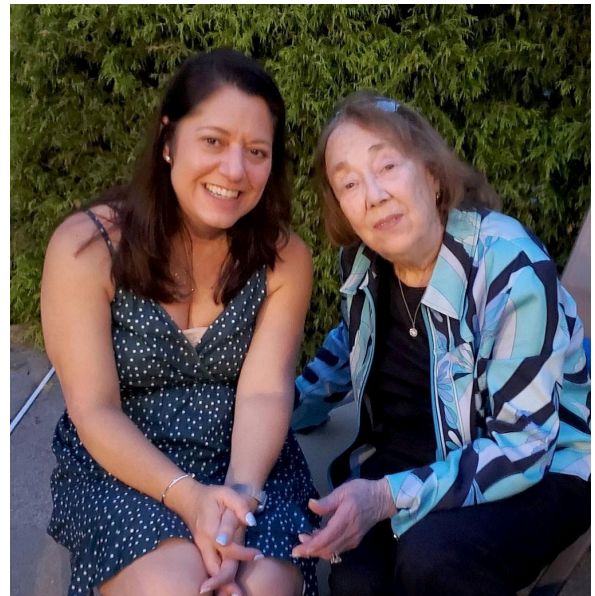
One of my fondest memories and something I am very proud of, was bringing The Little Black Dress Initiative (LBDI) to our League. This project was very near and dear to my heart, and working closely with our VP of Community, Rachel Oster, we were able to incorporate our theme of “Resilience” into the project. Our inaugural year was very successful and we kicked it off with a Little Black Dress Fundraiser,

a Fashion Show at the Garden State Plaza. Through our LBDI, the JLBC was able to provide generous product donations to very worthy nonprofit partners; each of whom had specific needs (menstrual/incontinence products; welcome bags for abused women and children seeking safe emergency housing; and laundry/baskets filled with towels for women/children transitioning into independent living.) We also brought awareness to our communities and workplaces by wearing the same dress for a week. When the LBDI was complete, Rachel and I spent a full day shopping at various locations with the funds raised. We had a lot of laughs “playing Tetris” in my SUV to get everything to fit. I can tell you that we got more than a few curious side glances at BJ’s Warehouse with our pallet cart full of womens’ sanitary products! This project and its impact was mission-filling and impactful.

2019: Connard, Rutigliano, Tunick



2021: Kearney, Dial



Maria Reis

2017 - 2018

Humbled and honored when the Nominating Committee visited my home with a bottle of Veuve to propose my candidacy for President. I leave Digital Cheetah and an updated “marshmallow and stick story” as my presidential legacy. Throughout my time with the JLBC, I have been blessed with so many fond memories, each of which have played a significant role in shaping leader I have become. Among the memorable are the pure joy of fluffing Festival of Trees baskets & trees in my basement.



My husband, Chris, shares the joy as he vacuums up the glitter that finds its way into every corner of the house. Equally memorable are lasting impressions we left on the girls at Star Power and seeing the smiles on the residents faces at the Valentine's event at Brightside Manor. More than just the impact the JLBC has left of the community, is the lasting friendships the JLBC has brought me.

July 2022: Reis, Branda, Tunick, Ricca, Bazzini





Kristi Branda

2016 - 2017

During my presidential term at the Junior League of Bergen County, I had the privilege of leading the organization through a period marked by both transition and significant development. Together with my dedicated board, we embraced resilience and focused on creating a meaningful impact within our community. We successfully expanded our membership by 10%, welcoming new members who shared our passion for service and community engagement. Signature fundraising events, such as the Festival of Trees and Touch a Truck, were revitalized, breathing new life into our efforts to support the League's mission. Our members

dedicated over 3,000 volunteer hours to Community Impact projects designed to educate and empower individuals of all ages. Throughout my term, I remained committed to fostering collaboration and encouraging innovation. By inspiring members to lead with purpose, my goal was to leave a lasting mark not only on the organization but also on the broader community we serve. I hope that this legacy of dedication and impact will continue to inspire future leaders and members of the Junior League of Bergen County.

Melissa Borduin

2015 - 2016

I am honored to be one of the JLBC Past Presidents. So many women and events have inspired and taught me things throughout the years I've been a member. Touch A Truck has a special place in my heart because it brought me to the JLBC. Co-chairing with Gretchen Connard in our first active year was challenging but we made it through and forged a lasting friendship. TAT brought me to the JLBC but the women I've met kept me here and I am truly thankful for all of you.





Katie Scully 2014 - 2015

A highlight for me as a League Member was Peg Knight's Annual Cocktail Party at the Arcola Country Club, and it was an event "not to be missed". She was an incredible sustainer, extremely generous and very enjoyable company.

Of all the projects that I was fortunate to take part in, Touch A Truck and Learn to Earn were among my favorites. Touch A Truck, although not a huge fundraiser, gave us a presence in Bergen County. With a myriad of trucks and booths of fun activities, it was

a memorable event. Learn to Earn (L2E) was designed to help "at risk" teens learn about money and prepare them for adulthood. We partnered with The Boys and Girls Club of Lodi and received recognition at their annual dinner.

The JLBC Members are an enthusiastic, talented and vibrant group of women who share their knowledge, resources and time with the community. No President is able to lead effectively without their support. I feel fortunate to have been surrounded by so many great Members, Sustainers and Past Presidents during my Presidential year.

Lynne Roe 2013 - 2014

I truly valued my time as an active member of JLBC, but the project that stands out most for me is StarPower. Our first event was small and intimate, yet incredibly impactful—the girls and their moms walked away inspired and connected. Years later, I ran into one of those moms who shared that the conversations we sparked about body image and media influence had continued for more than a decade. Hearing that reminded me why we do this work—to create moments that ripple forward, shaping lives long after the event itself.



Laura Kelly 2012 - 2013



Hurricane Sandy played a memorable role in my 2012 – 2013 presidential year. Storming-in during October 2012, Sandy left many League members without power for days. I called each member and heard stories of shore houses swept from foundations, trees down, and the search for places to charge electronics. What struck me most, however, was the upbeat attitude of League members. Many asked what they could do to help others, even while they themselves were dealing with the storm's aftermath. This is typical of a JLBC member's resilience. I've learned so much from my sister members over the years. I'm honored to have played a small part in the history of the Junior League of Bergen County as one of its Presidents.

Laura Behrmann 2011 - 2012

As I reflect back on my more than 20 years with The JLBC, it's hard to pinpoint one favorite memory or project. What I value most is the many, many women I have met through the years. While some have relocated out of state or now volunteer their time with other organizations, I realize just how many amazing women I have had the opportunity to work with. The friendships made in The JLBC will last a lifetime. We are connected by our commitment to voluntarism, training, and dedication to improving the community.





Stephanie Mills Brown

2010 - 2011

The Junior League will always hold a special place in my heart and in my life for many reasons. The first reason being the lifelong friendships with strong, intelligent women who share my passion for voluntarism and community service. Through the JLBC, I have had the opportunity to develop leadership skills and gain confidence that have helped in my service, my professional life, and my personal life. Finally, it is the

projects that have been most impactful on me, especially the Audrey Hepburn Children's House, supporting children who have suffered abuse, Festival of Trees, and specifically Trees chair, and our partnership with the Boys and Girls Club. I am grateful for the almost 25 years that I have had the opportunity to serve the League alongside so many remarkable women.

Patricia Montegari

2009 - 2010



Branda, Borduin, Behrmann, Brown, Newman, Viggiano, Dial



Sarah Beane Ricca 2008 - 2009

As past Presidents of the Junior League of Bergen County (Christine Kearney, 2007–2008 and Sarah Beane Ricca, 2008–2009), we can say with confidence that the League taught us to lead, to laugh, and to stay calm while managing beautiful chaos (usually involving caffeine and clipboards). This superfun photo was taken ten years after our presidencies when Christine was honored at Festival of Trees in 2019, proving that the JLBC never really lets you go—it just finds new ways to celebrate you. The League shaped us as mentors, gave us new friends, and introduced us to so many fabulous women who get things done. The JLBC impact on our communities—and on our lives—continues to shine brightly. Congratulations to the JLBC on another amazing Festival of Trees!!

Christine Kearney 2007 - 2008

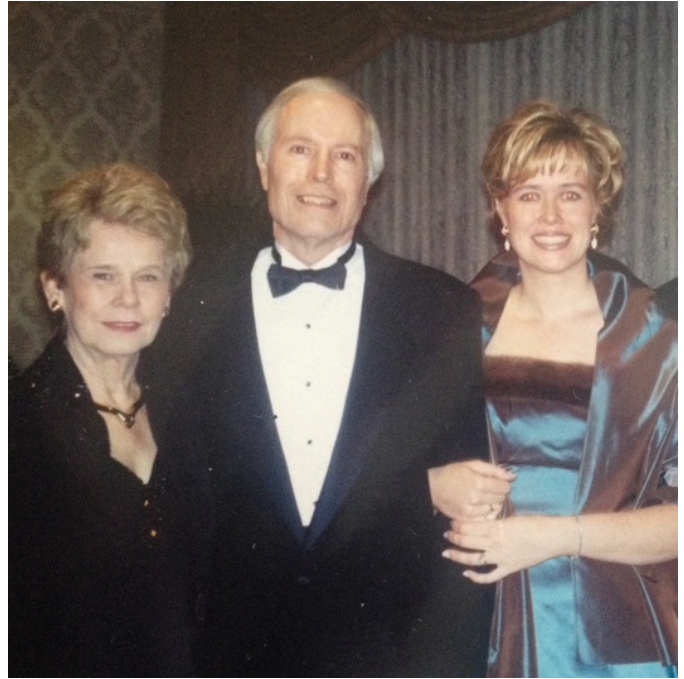
I was lucky enough the year I was President to honor the late Peg Knight at FOT. She was an absolute firecracker. She could command a room like know one I had met. She had an entire ballroom silent listening to her every word. The next memory was several years later when Karen Lerner lead a full dance floor in the Electric Slide.



Susanne Lovisolo

2006 - 2007

When I was president of the League, our theme for the year was “teamwork” and while there are many JLBC placements where a supportive team mentality is crucial, perhaps there is none more so than working on our iconic fundraiser, Festival of Trees. I co-chaired FOT three times and memorable moments include tree decorating parties at our home and the super fun “preview party” open house; rescuing an insane amount of beautifully decorated trees, wreaths and garlands from a very flooded basement in our old house during Hurricane Floyd; and the surprised looks on my family members’ faces as well as my own, when my husband raised his hand to buy the Harley Davidson motorcycle that was up for bid during live auction that year. Each FOT was a challenge, but ultimately completed with an overwhelming sense of accomplishment. Learning how to successfully run a fundraiser is invaluable and I commend the women who continue the tradition.





Pam Pearson

2005 - 2006

In 1993 the Provisionals had two groups during a year and after completion, you were put into a committee. My first assignment was Training. I was scared and asked to be moved to something else, they did. The next year, Gretchen Viggiano calls and asks me to Chair "Arrangements" because the assigned chair was moving. I told her "No, I could not possibly do that because I don't know what I would be doing." Gretchen being the N&P person she was said she believed in me. Not wanting to let her down, I said "yes". Guess what? I did do it and never looked back. Gretchen's belief in me gave me courage and self-esteem (which was not an easy task as I was so painfully shy).

My favorite placement has to be Training (once I was finally on Training, I LOVED IT, and on that committee for many years.) The hardest placement is a tie between FOT Chair and President. For FOT Chair, so much rides on what we net from the event. At the time, we had a lot of community outreach which needed to be funded. StarPower!, PATH One, and Woodlea were a couple of my most endearing and heartbreaking placements.

President placement was hard because that position had to oversee and not DO. I had a great Board of Directors and we did accomplish a great deal. But, being President, you are in the "hot seat" and it falls on you to make sure the organization does its due diligence, uses Best Practices, and moves the organization forward as is outlined in our mission. I have been inspired by members believing in me, by members undaunted dedication to projects, the work ethic of members who have tirelessly given so much of their time not only to the projects but to other members.

The friendships that are made in JLBC are life long friendships.



Adrienne Anderson

2004 - 2005

As I reflect back on my more than 20 years with The JLBC, it's hard to pinpoint one favorite memory or project. What I value most is the many, many women I have met through the years. While some have relocated out of state or now volunteer their time with other organizations, I realize just how many amazing women I have had the opportunity to work with. The friendships made in The JLBC will last a lifetime. We are connected by our commitment to voluntarism, training, and dedication to improving the community.

I was president of the JLBC in 2003-2004. I enjoyed this time leading the League and the incredible women with which I worked. My favorite memory was the leadership training we had in the fall of that year. Prior to that meeting, I had taken an Adirondack chair, took it apart, and passed out each piece of wood to the leadership team. The instruction was to decorate the wood in any way they preferred, The only stipulation was a red white and blue color theme. We met at Flat Rock Brook Nature Center and re-built the chair. It was an incredible experience in teamwork, leadership and creativity. Three muscles we are all able to flex at the Junior League!



Sally Merchant

2003 - 2004



Courtney Liseck-Galganoi

2002 - 2003

It all started with an article in the Ridgewood News in 1990 about Festival of Trees (FOT) and I quickly joined the JLBC provisional class. The event checked off all the boxes: community service, raising money and a wonderful party. I have met all my best friends working on FOT. The team work and intense schedule have developed into lasting friendships and wonderful memories lasting over 35 years.

It was the proving ground for many a Junior League President. I learned a lot of Martha Stewart skills by decorating trees and planning the party, QuickBooks by serving as FOT treasurer too many times to count.

Fun fact: I stopped by FOT on my wedding day between the church and the reception! I happily chaired FOT in 1994, followed by multiple reunion tours we chaired to keep Festival going. Thank you to the current FOT committee for honoring the Past Presidents and continuing a wonderful legacy.



Festival of Trees 2023



Catherine Brefach Newman

2001 - 2002



My first Board meeting as JLBC President was on September 11, 2001. All of us were touched and scarred by this tragic loss of life. My first priority was making sure my Board and all our members were safe and accounted for. Once that was accomplished, reality set in. Our community was diminished but also brought together. The events struck cruelly in Bergen County, but JLBC members were committed and trained to help those in need, and assisted relief efforts in every way possible. The Board developed special

fund raising projects that eased the hardship and pain of September 11 and had the support of the entire league. I was so fortunate to have and to work with such an energetic, talented and dedicated team of women. In the face of tragedy, it was a gift and a great honor to be their President.

Festival of Trees 2018



Gretchen Viggiano

2000 - 2001

I chaired Festival of Trees in 1993, the League leadership was concerned because I had a job and a two-year old so they had a meeting with me to make sure that I understood the goal of clearing \$50,000. We had monthly meetings and I attended as many sub-committee meetings as I could that year. Festival of Trees was being held at the North American BMW Headquarters, we used the auditorium for the live auction the exciting items such as trips, fur coats, jewelry and one of a kind items. Over 500 guests attended and we had a great menu

which included a huge table of cheese and crudité, baby lamb chops and shrimp. Hundreds of baskets and wonderful donations filled two floors and over 40 specially decorated trees filled the space. I was so relieved the next day when we went to clean up to hear from the Treasurer that we achieved our financial goals.

The Junior League also founded the non-profit organization that I work for to this day, Rebuilding Together North Jersey, which has repaired over 700 homes in Bergen and Passaic Counties. The organization is growing and thriving and it has been a pleasure to work there for 25 years. It was wonderful that the JLBC saw the need for this organization and brought it to the community, your efforts have helped thousands of low-income homeowners.



JUNIOR LEAGUE OF BERGEN COUNTY

Group celebrates 75 years of service to communities

The Junior League of Bergen County (JLBC) celebrated its 75th year of service to the communities of Bergen County at a luncheon hosted by Peg Knight, at Arcola Country Club on Feb. 23.

For the past 75 years the JLBC has been assessing community need, creating solutions and training women as volunteers to make Bergen County communities healthier, more vital places to live. Started in 1928 with 60 members the then Englewood Junior Service

League has since moved and been renamed to the JLBC, headquartered in Ridgewood.

How has the JLBC affected positive change in Bergen County? The JLBC and a group of concerned community representatives founded The Volunteer Center of Bergen County in 1966. The result is a clearing-house that matches volunteers with opportunities to serve. Rebuilding Together - Bergen County was brought to Bergen County in 1998 by the

JLBC. Rebuilding Together works in collaboration with communities and local businesses to rehabilitate owner-occupied, low-income homes-particularly for the elderly, disabled and families with children. The JLBC partnered with the American Red Cross and pledged \$100,000, as well as a team to plan and oversee the renovation of the Hackensack Red Cross Chapter House.

Time and time again, the Junior League is among the first organizations to step up to the plate and tackle a community's biggest challenges.

What are some of the present community needs identified and being addressed by the JLBC? Childhood obesity, social pressures of teenage girls and mothers transitioning back into the workforce are a noteworthy few.

The JLBC implemented the Kids in the Kitchen program to tackle the issue of childhood obesity and initiated the StarPower program, consisting of self-empowerment seminars for adolescent girls and their parents, to address issues such as cliques, internet safety, bullying and self-esteem.

The JLBC is qualified to partner



PHOTO COURTESY OF JUNIOR LEAGUE

Luncheon attendees include, from left, Tory Blackford, of Teaneck; event hostess Peg Knight, of Saddle River; and Joan Van Aalst, of Englewood.

with the communities of Bergen County because of a history of involved and dedicated members. Financial support for JLBC projects and scholarships are provided by annual JLBC fundraising events like Festival of Trees and Touch-A-Truck.



Victoria "Tory" Blackford 1999 - 2000

As I reflect on my time as President, I feel it was a tremendous honor and privilege to be asked to be in that leadership position. My involvement with JLBC encompassed making great friends and becoming a trained volunteer. It also enabled me to lead and encourage others to be JLBC leaders and volunteers. We had great projects. The one that stands out the most is Rebuilding Together, which the JLBC started in 2001 and is directed by Gretchen Viggiano, a Past President, and Executive Director of Rebuilding Together. JLBC started it, and it is a huge success. Festival of Trees was always a wonderful event to raise the monies we needed to fund our projects. I will never forget my JLBC days and treasure them forever.



Barbara Leshner

1998 - 1999

My years as president-elect and president were a wonderful opportunity to participate in trainings, annual conference, and stretch myself as a person. One of the exciting things happening then was getting Rebuilding Together North Jersey off the ground. It was then

known as Christmas in April, and thanks to several very dedicated league members, Gretchen Viggiano and Mary Frazier especially come to mind, it became a reality and is still

serving our area today. Another fun thing that happened during that time (1997, I believe) was finding the office in Ridgewood after the decision to close the thrift shop in Englewood. I also set up the first email address for the League.

I made very deep connections within the JLBC by working on Festival. One year I co-chaired the auction with Chris Nunn and the basement of my home was overrun with donations, baskets and bid sheets, etc. We spent many, many hours together. The rest of our intrepid team included Gretchen Viggiano, Sally Merchant, Courtney Lisecki. My apologies if I am omitting a few. It was an amazing team effort and apparently good training to become president!

Here is a photo from my presidential year—I even have my JLBC pin on my lapel. I moved away from Bergen County to New Hampshire in 2009—but the JLBC remains a strong memory.

Mary Frazier
1997 - 1998

Colleen McIntyre
1996 - 1997

Sally Pruett Falck
1995 - 1996

Jeanne Kaufmann Manning

1994 - 1995

Joan Banks Mulcahy

1993 - 1994

I was at the first Festival and attended every year until we moved to Washington, DC in 1994. I remember all the work we did and fun we had planning these successful events. I want to thank the JLBC for all the valuable training I received. What I learned impacted every facet of my life in DC, both personally and professionally. As a Volunteer at the National Gallery and as an Arts Administrator at The Phillips Collection and the Federal Reserve Board, I used and taught others the skills I acquired.

Joanne Schoeph Reisser

1992 - 1993

Susan Carter Madden

1991 - 1992

It has been a delight and an honor to be a member of the JLBC for over 50 years! When I returned home from college, my mother urged me to join. Since at that time prospective members needed to be proposed for membership, her idea was that I should join and then resign immediately. That would leave me able to reinstate wherever I later moved. Well, oops... my home has remained in Bergen County ever since and I never did resign :)

I often told people that I learned more from the League conferences and trainings about setting goals and objectives, managing finances and people, than I did from my MBA.



Honoring Our Past Presidents



Dee Lange Kelly
1990 - 1991

Leslie Bennison
1984 - 1985

Melynda Bagley
1989 - 1990

Marilyn Perry
1983 - 1984

Sally Wilkins
1988 - 1989

Barbara Batcheler
1982 - 1983

Leslie Zelhof
1987 - 1988

Veronica Tacetta
1981 - 1982

Maria Macfarlan
1986 - 1987

Elena Vanderwoort
1980 - 1981

Catherine McMullen
1985 - 1986

Trudi Dial
1979 - 1980

Honoring Our Past Presidents



Miss Jean Bowie Dash (Mrs. James G. Webster, Jr.)

Mrs. Robert J. Hooven, Jr.

Miss Elizabeth Sherwood (Mrs. W. Spencer Palmer)

Mrs. Donald Sinclair

Mrs. Charles S. Moore (Mrs. J. F. Weber)

Mrs. F. Kenly Webster

Mrs. Charles O. Richardson

Mrs. H. Rowland Vermilye, Jr. (Mrs. James Dawes)

Mrs. Henry J. Whitson

Mrs. Fred W. Dieffenbach

Mrs. Gordon Kissam (Mrs. Phillip W. Schuster)

Mrs. Herbert T. Lorentzen

Mrs. Richard G. Powell

Mrs. Frank H. Bowles

Mrs. Peter W.G. McNeily

Mrs. James M. Relph

Mrs. Robert Coffin

Mrs. John Lee Couper

Mrs. Donald L. Gordon

Mrs. Henry W. Westphalen, Jr. (Mrs. William Waters)

Mrs. Craig E. Rossi

Mrs. Jack S. Morgan

Mrs. E. Granger Ottley (Mrs. David Heveran)

Mrs. James P. Logan

Mrs. Robert J. Davis

Mrs. Timothy Rogers

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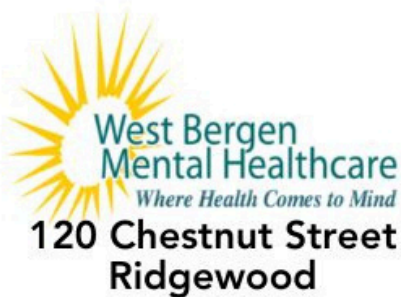
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In Loving Memory of Nadine Lisecki

Nadine was the kind of person whose warmth could light up a room, and nowhere was that more evident than at the Festival of Trees. Her presence brought joy, laughter, and a generous spirit to the event, making it one of her most beloved traditions.

We are deeply grateful for the many ways Nadine supported the JLBC. Her kindness and commitment left a lasting impression, and her contributions will always be remembered with appreciation and affection.

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