



LINK

February 2015

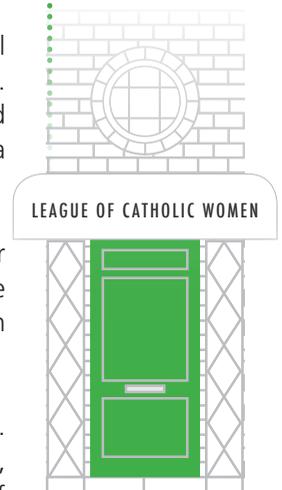
A New Era Begins—The Sale Of Our Building

On January 14, the League of Catholic Women sold our building to St. Paul Development Company, who will renovate extensively for prospective tenants. We are grateful for the \$700,000 received. Our 100 year-old building, appraised in “fair” condition, visited by many and blessed by a good buyer, was sold in a little over one year.

This brings to an end our decades-long tenure at 207, but does not erase our memories and their importance in our lives. However, the ancient boiler, the roof in need of great repair, the monthly expenses—we leave those gladly in order to serve others more generously.

Three weeks before closing, the main water line outside the building ruptured. Water poured into the lower level. We worked 3 weeks with the City, contractors, remediation specialists amid the wet and cold. Insurance will pay for much of the claim, but by City ordinance, we are required to pay for the new water line and any City-incurred costs, possibly \$40,000.

We move forward with the resolve to help others, nurture friendships and find new ways to serve the community. Our future is bright. Thank you for your support during these months of transition!



An Eyewitness Account of the Last 15 Months

By Mary Ritten



I was there.

I have seen Julie Ann working in the 207 office in her parka and gloves for months on end when there was little heat in the building. I have seen her deal in an extremely skillful and diligent way with service personnel of every kind, getting the best deals possible in every kind of situation she was faced with. I have listened to her heartfelt prayers

before meetings and marveled at her skill at handling whatever comes her way. I have watched her lug a load of stuff up the stairs in a worn-out sweater and appear at a League party two hours later looking like she just stepped out of a fashion magazine. The woman is amazing! **I am in awe.**

I have seen Fran take control of situations that would make most of us weak in the knees. I have marveled at her knowledge of budgets and non-profits and contracts and whatever else she had to deal with. I have applauded her ability to somehow convince a lawyer, an accountant, a printer and God knows who else to provide the League

continued 

Dear League of Catholic Women and Friends

We soon begin the MIA tours for 2015.
As always, we meet under the STARBURST.
A.M. tours are 10:30 a.m. until noon.
P.M. tours are 1:00 p.m. until 2:30 p.m.
Admission to the museum is free.

enjoy!

Our docents are wonderful.
And, they like us!
Hope to see you at the MIA.

Pat Vagnoni



Tuesday, February 17 | A.M. & P.M.

Docent Fran Megarry will conduct a very special "TOUCH EXHIBIT." This tour is usually available for low or no vision museum visitors.

We will be touching extremely rare objects. The tours will be limited to twelve for the morning and the afternoon tours. Reservations will be necessary. Please call or e-mail Pat Vagnoni for reservations. 952-975-9749 or patvagnoni@comcast.net

Thursday, March 26 | A.M. tour only

Docent Pat Wuest "THE NATURE OF NATURE"

This theme is centered around the Natural World. We will explore various artists interpretations of nature's impact on our lives. It will be exciting, innovative, and surprising. No reservations necessary.

Thursday, April 16 | A.M. & P.M.

Docent Merritt Nequette
"THE MIA CENTURY TOUR"

The Minneapolis Institute of Arts is celebrating it's 100 year anniversary in 2015. The museum opened on January 7, 1915. At that time the Society of Fine Arts (still the official name of MIA) owned eight objects. A number of those art pieces remain within the museum. This tour will feature works that have been at the museum since the 1920s and before. There might even be one to touch!

with pro-bono services. She also managed the sale of the building without having to pay a realtor. The woman is amazing! **I am in awe.**

I have seen the two of them struggling through many very difficult situations together—none more difficult than the incident with the Christmas water leak. It was not a leak—it was a gush—that required an army of municipal and company experts to fix—finally! Fran and Julie Ann spent the majority of their Christmas holidays in a cold, wet building waiting for workmen to arrive and consulting with city officials. Once again, **I am in awe.**

Link articles usually are run by the LCW president(s) before they appear. Not this one! They undoubtedly would not have approved it. But I am convinced that every one of the members who voted this team into office should get the chance to understand what a great favor you did for our beloved League.

We have weathered an extraordinary challenge, dear sisters. We have chosen wisely. We have all done our part. We answered the call to "Save Our League." Of course, we all realize that it never could have happened if the Holy Spirit had not made the impossible, possible. Deo gratias!





February/March calendar

February 3	2:00 p.m.	Executive Committee Meeting. The Woman's Club
February 10	10:00 a.m.	Tuesday Club. St. Olaf Church
February 12	9:15 a.m.	Daytime Book Club: "The Goldfinch"
February 17	10:30 a.m. & 1:00 p.m.	MIA Art Tours
February 17	7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	Evening Book Club: "Ordinary Grace"
February 24	6:45 p.m.	Presentation by Fr. Michael Joncas. The Woman's Club
March 3	2:00 p.m.	LCW Board of Directors Meeting. The Woman's Club
March 7	9:30 a.m.	Lenten Retreat. St. Patrick Church in Edina
March 10	10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	Tuesday Club. St. Olaf Church
March 12	7:00 p.m.	Evening Book Club: "Burgess Brothers"
March 26	10:30 a.m. & 1:00 p.m.	MIA Art Tours



In Memoriam

In loving memory of:

Jane Clifford

Jane Pedelty
Mary Ritten

Jim Gooley

Jane Pedelty
Kay Student
Mary Winum

Eileen Hamilton**Regina Knowles**

Jane Pedelty

Fred Lang

Jane Pedelty
Frank Tirone

Bob Lannan

Patricia Gries
Fran Rusciano Murnane
Donna Ramsay
Mary Ritten

Joan Lapensky

First Impression Volunteers

Patty Maas

Jane Pedelty

Bob Ollman

Jane Pedelty

Coming Attraction!



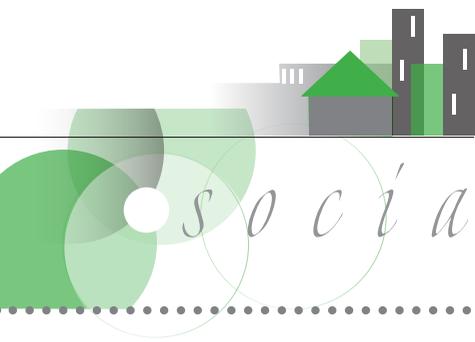
R.T. Rybak, former mayor of Minneapolis and director of "Generation Next," will be speaking to the League this spring. Details listed in the April Link.

New League Members in 2014

We are very excited to announce the following women as new members of the League. Welcome!

- Mary Black
- Patty Connelly
- Mary Estlick
- Rebecca Fallon
- Mary Jubenville
- Bridget Klosterman
- Kathleen Werthmann
- Katie Wick

membership



social services

John Paul II Catholic Grade School

In the early winter months of 2014, friends of Rita Fox gathered to celebrate her birthday. Instead of gifts, we were encouraged to donate funds to purchase books for John Paul II School Library.

This little library in northeast Minneapolis has been an important social service project for the League since 2011. Ginny Vizard and other volunteers have worked hard to bring the school library up to date. Discovering that the materials at hand were limited, the League and other groups have endeavored to build the collections. The children love to have books to read and to take home. Having the books in their homes is important because it encourages them to read and often helps other family members for whom English is a second language.

Volunteers at the school library are needed. Contact Ginny Vizard (763-544-1178), Jean Dunn (952-545-1099) or the League office (612-813-5321) to learn more about this very worthwhile and do-able service opportunity.

At a gathering a few weeks ago, attended by Rita, Ginny and other LCW library and Tuesday Club volunteers, a total of 30 books were presented to the principal and the parent volunteers. The wonderful collection included books in



both English and Spanish for ages preschool to adult. According to Ginny, the students are thrilled with the new books, and they are "flying off the shelves."

First Impression

First Impression (FI), founded in 1998 to offer free clothing for women entering or returning to the work force, operated out of the lower level of the League's 207 headquarters until 2013. Since the building was going to be sold, this space was no longer available. But, a dedicated corps of FI volunteers, spearheaded by Annette Meyers and Judy Dawes, were determined to find an alternative way to provide clothing for those who needed it.

Annette approached St. Olaf Church outreach coordinator, Jean Thoresen, director of the St. Olaf Samaritan Ministry, and together they came up with the idea of having three joint



All are welcome. Please call Annette Meyer **763-712-1882** for more information.

clothing drives a year. The blanket drive in the fall was very successful, and the January drive gave clients a chance to provide warm clothing for themselves or for their families who need it.

Every League member has a chance to donate items to these drives. Watch for notices about these drives in e-blasts and in the Link and do your part to assure their success.

Faithful former First Impression members also enjoy this tri-annual social service because it gives them a chance to continue close friendships made through FI while enjoying a tasty lunch at the Hen House (formerly Peter's Grill) after working on the drive together.



Nobody can do everything, but everyone can do something. –Gil Scott-Heron

Tuesday Club

Begun in 1974, Tuesday Club is the oldest current social service and is ever thriving at its new home in the St.Olaf Church gathering room.

Developed to answer the needs of older, sometimes isolated, residents living in high-rise senior housing being built in the 70's, Tuesday Club now attracts close to 80 guests at each monthly Tuesday luncheon.

A kind of love affair exists, not only between the League volunteers and their honored guests, but also among the bunch of cheery women who plan, cook and serve the meals, joke with their clientel, call out the bingo numbers and often treat their group to lively entertainment. Together they form a mighty band!

New volunteers are always welcome to bring a meal occasionally or to join the crew on a full-time basis.

Want to know more?
Please call
Kathleen Kennedy

651-457-8141

or e-mail her
at krkennedy@comcast.net.

Who Benefits from LCW Social Services?

Here is a small sampling :

- The 100 persons who received the St. Nicholas Tote bags stuffed with warm items donated and packed by League members over the holidays. The totes are carried in the volunteers' cars and distributed to those living without shelter during our cold Minnesota winters.
- The 150 children at Northside Child Development Center who received colorful books from League members as part of our December Mitten Tree Project.
- The scores of men, women and children who benefit from the clothing and other practical items contributed by LCW members and given out by League volunteers during their joint First Impression-St.Olaf drives three times a year.
- The hundreds of older citizens whose lives are made a little brighter on the second Tuesday of the month because of loyal League volunteers.

The list goes on and on. Thank you for being part of our many ministries.

Risen Christ Catholic School Connection

In 1997, The League of Catholic Women provided the first tutoring volunteers for Risen Christ Catholic Grade School. In addition to that, they realized what the school really needed was a volunteer coordinator, so the LCW Board of Directors offered to help defray the expense of this person for the first few years. At that time, LCW board member and volunteer specialist, Mary Wisner, strongly recommended Maggie McCarrick as the best person for this job. Fifteen years later Maggie and Risen Christ are still going strong!

At the present time, Pat Vagnoni and Eileen Barbe are weekly tutors. LCW member Maureen Soller has been very involved for years, and Lynn Winnegar is also active, both in other capacities.

Please call
Maggie McCarrick

763-712-1882 ext. 106

or contact her
at mmccarrick@risenchristschool.

Interested in volunteer
opportunities
at this successful
inner-city school?

The opportunities are varied
and flexible.

upcoming events

Loyola Lenten Retreat and LCW:

A Collaboration

We are happy to announce that our Lenten Retreat this year will be in collaboration with Loyola Spirituality Center. It will be an all day retreat with a very special Jesuit, Larry Gillick. This is his third retreat for Loyola, and he is back by popular demand. Father Gillick is an Ignatian scholar and retreat leader with Creighton University.

The subject is *Human Nature: Divine Nurture*:

What Jesus understood about the human condition in John's Gospel "This day will be for imperfect humans whom Jesus knew very well." There will be four presentations by Father Gillick leading to times of silence and prayer.

This will be a wonderful opportunity for us to join together with Loyola, for a Lenten day of devotion with Larry Gillick.

Saturday, March 7, 2015
St. Patrick's Church, Edina
9:00 a.m. - 3:30 pm

Continental breakfast
and check-in at 8:30 a.m.

Cost:
\$50 before Feb. 13,
\$60 after Feb. 13
includes continental breakfast
and catered lunch



For more information,
and/or to register online,
go to: loyolaspiritualitycenter.org
or call (651) 641-0008.
Brochures and posters for the event
will be available at the League office
upon request.

Call LCW members
Mary Estlick (952) 926-2272
or Donna Ramsay (952) 920-2351.

To register by mail, make checks payable
to Loyola and mail to:

Loyola Spirituality Center
389 North Oxford Street
St. Paul, Minnesota 55140



LCW Office Hours: 9:00 a.m. to noon: Wednesdays and Thursdays
LCW Office Phone: 612-813-5321
LCW Office E-mail: lcwmpis@gmail.com
LCW Office Address: 410 Oak Grove Street, Minneapolis, MN 55403

**Back By
Popular
Demand:**



Father Michael Joncas

Last February Father Michael Joncas inspired League members with his presentation on "Keeping Hope Alive in a Time of Crisis and Change." Those in the audience urged him to come again this year so they could learn more and bring along their friends and relatives.

That wish has been granted—now spread the good word!

On Tuesday evening, February 24, Father Mike will be presenting a talk entitled, "Many Places at the Table: The Contemporary Roman Catholic Church is the USA." It will touch on some of these themes:

What are the major church, national and international events that help to shape the different faith styles of contemporary Catholics?

What are the central loyalties of each group?

What are the obstacles to, and the opportunities for, conversations within and across the boundaries surrounding these different understandings of our shared Catholic faith?

When we recite the Nicene Creed, we profess our belief in "one catholic church." We should come away from this evening with a deeper understanding of just what that means in today's world.

registration

"Many Places at the Table: The Contemporary Roman Catholic Church is the USA."

Fr. Michael Joncas Tuesday, February 24
"Keeping Hope Alive in a Time of Crisis and Change."

Name _____

Guest Names _____

Address _____

City, state, zip _____

Home phone _____ Cell _____

E-mail _____

- Event:** Program by Father Mike Joncas on "Many Places at the Table"
- Place:** The Woman's Club, 410 Oak Grove Street
Free parking in the adjacent lot and in the lot across the street
- Date:** Tuesday, February 24
- Time:** Gather by 6:45 p.m.
Program begins promptly at 7:00 p.m.
- Cost:** \$15.00
Reservation checks due by February 20 to the League office



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*The League of Catholic Women
is an independent service
organization, founded in 1911,
that partners with women and
families in need to affect positive
change in their lives and that seeks
to enrich the lives of its members.*

A Prayer of Thanksgiving



February 2015

We are grateful to you, dear Lord, for our founders who proved themselves brave enough to accept your invitation to serve their community with innovative programs in 1911.

We are grateful for generations of faith-filled women who confidently faced the challenges of their times and found ways to meet them.

We are grateful for the mentors you have given us; for the lasting friendships you have engendered; for the creativity you have stirred in our leaders, and for the generosity you have inspired in the hearts of our volunteers and donors throughout our 104- year-old history.

We are especially grateful for all the times when you have come to our rescue in stormy seas. Thank you for being willing to get into the boat with us, steering us in the right direction and calming our fears.

We pray that we are not delusional or prideful in believing that, for some reason, you want us to go on. The immensity of your grace in these last 16 months cannot be accidental. May we strive always to know your will for us and to pursue it with humility, mutual respect, wisdom, courage and immense good cheer.

Together we pray that you will continue to bless the League of Catholic Women and all the women and families we serve.