



JUNIOR LEAGUE OF
DENVER

live the legacy
give • grow • get connected

Summer Issue

Volume 2324 — Issue 2

A publication of the Junior League of Denver. A 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.



Thank You for Your Ongoing Commitment, JLD Members!

Grow:

to increase in size, number or degree.



Claire Juneau

Message from the President

One of the best parts about Junior League of Denver membership is the connection to trailblazing women and historically significant places all around Colorado. Whether you're at a summer concert at Red Rocks or visiting the Children's Museum of Denver with your friends and family, you are enjoying a legacy brought to our community with the help of inspiring League women.

I was recently visiting the playground with my boys in my favorite JLD sweatshirt. Another woman stopped to ask me if I am a member of the League. We immediately jumped into a conversation about her invaluable membership, the leadership positions she held and the irreplaceable memories she holds dear. The opportunities for connection that the Junior League brings in your life are truly endless.

Our culture is to foster personal, professional and philanthropic growth. Here in Denver, we prioritize sharing this growth with fellow members so we can continually support the development of all women. I feel incredibly lucky to have experienced the full circle nature of the League firsthand.

In December 1988, my mother was the Finance VP for the Junior League of Lafayette in Louisiana and was tasked with counting ticket sales and preparing bank deposits every night over their two-week major fundraiser. She ended up coming down with a terrible respiratory virus involving a fever, which meant we had to stay separated for the first 24 hours after I was born. Flash forward to the last two years here in Denver, we've successfully navigated the path to a fantastic new Finance & Operations director on JLD Staff and introduced more efficient accounting software. I can hear a little chuckle from my mom right now reminding me that I was always destined to be involved in the Junior League finances.

Even more ironically, my mom had to testify in San Francisco many years ago because a man was trying to join the Junior League of Denver and leaders from several Leagues across the United States had to band together to ensure this organization remains a place for women to learn and grow together.

As a little girl, I got dressed up in my best outfits to watch my mom speak at fundraisers just like The Journey. It is League women that danced with me at my wedding and are always the first to comment on Facebook posts about the amazing things we tackle as community advocates. I hope this reminds you that your legacy and impact is vast, even to a little girl who never imagined she would live in Colorado, let alone lead such an incredible organization like this one. Junior League women are truly connected, impressive and inspiring. They are the glue that holds their families, friends and professional teams together.

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As the final days of the 2023–2024 League year dwindled down, our Board of Directors spent time reflecting on the seeds that our current membership has planted. What an honor it has been to lead such an incredible group of dedicated and supportive women.

A few of my favorite memories include:

- Settling into our new home at 1301 S. Washington St.
- An impactful L.U.V.S. day of service helping eight fellow nonprofit partners.
- Walking the green carpet at Mile High Holiday Mart to check out the amazing local vendors.
- Welcoming new branding guidelines from AJLI to elevate our communications.
- Learning at 19 trainings and hosting seven informative General Meetings for our members.
- Celebrating a record-breaking Colorado Gives Day.
- Dancing the night away at our 12th annual Journey fundraiser on International Women’s Day at Mile High Station.
- Cheering on Public Policy as they engaged League-wide support for four Level 1 bills.
- Wrapping up the 2019–2024 Strategic Plan and watching the hardworking Advisory Board as they thoughtfully crafted our newest plan.
- Honoring the work of so many wonderful members at our May General Meeting and graduating more than 100 New Members.
- Working with the most incredible staff! They are truly the backbone of all that we do and are the most supportive humans.

We have so much to celebrate after I take a little nap! Thank you all so much for your support of Junior League of Denver’s Mission and focus this year. It is truly the incredible organization it is because of YOU.

Gratefully,

Claire M. Juneau

Claire Juneau
2023–2024 JLD President
president@jld.org

2023–2024 Community Impact



740
Volunteers



2,454
Volunteer
Hours



1,728
Children
Served



2,701
Adults
Served



2,500
Books
Distributed



966
Meals
Served

Give:

*to present voluntarily and
without expecting compensation.*



Major Donor Coffee



*Sustainer Summer
Soirée*

10 JLD Foundation Fast Facts: Test Your Knowledge!

- 1 The JLDF exists only to financially support the JLD and does so by distributing funds from our corpus each year.
- 2 The distributions from JLDF to JLD underwrites more than one third of the JLD's annual operating budget.
- 3 \$70,000 invested at JLD's 70th anniversary has grown to \$9.5M today.
- 4 Founded in 1992, JLDF is the first foundation of all the Junior Leagues worldwide.
- 5 The JLDF has a 17-person Board of Directors composed of Active and Sustaining members who govern and manage the Foundation.
- 6 Since 2008, JLDF has distributed funds annually totaling more than \$5M.
- 7 Helen Daly Peale Society is a group of JLD members who have informed us that the JLDF is a beneficiary in a will or trust as part of the member's financial planning.
- 8 The Junior League of Denver, Inc. is the umbrella for the JLD and JLDF, so you have the option of giving to either part of our organizations. This is known as Donor Choice. Give to the JLD to support this year's efforts and give to the JLDF to support our legacy well into the future.
- 9 JLDF aims to raise \$100K annually to replenish our spending to earnings ratio and ensure the longevity and legacy of our Foundation.
- 10 In 2023–24, we raised \$75,000 of our \$100,000 goal through generous contributions from League members. We are so grateful for your support!

To learn more about the JLD Foundation and joining the Helen Daly Peale Society, visit JLD.org/about/foundation.

JLD Backs Free Menstrual Products for Students

The Public Policy Council was incredibly active during the 2023–2024 League year. Among other important work, they supported one ballot measure and three bills at our highest level of support, Level 1, or full-League engagement. This included HB24-1164: Free Menstrual Products for Students, for which **Emily Swisher**, Junior League of Denver member, Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor, and author of the book *STABLE: A Therapist and the Healing Nature of Horses*, testified on.

Emily shared her experience testifying on behalf of the League in her own words:

“On February 29, I was able to testify on House Bill 24-1164, which mandated that Colorado schools begin providing free menstrual products to students between grades 6th and 12th. These products will now be accessible in school restrooms, whereas previously students may have only had access through the school nurse or a generous teacher or friend. Reading about the impact of how many young women (statistically 4 in 5) have missed class or extracurricular activities due to their periods or not having period products was disheartening. I was also unaware that SNAP benefits do not cover menstrual products, so this issue disproportionately affects those women in low socioeconomic standings.

I knew those statistics would already be addressed by others testifying, so I chose to use my professional role as a mental health counselor to emphasize the massively growing rates of depression and anxiety amongst young women today. To me, this is a medical necessity and an issue of dignity. Anything that is a barrier to young women participating in school or school activities needs to be recognized, and this bill is a relatively straightforward solution to one barrier.

I was so incredibly fortunate to be placed on the Public Policy Council for the 2023–2024 League year. I wanted to lean into an area I had little to no experience with and was initially intimidated by the entire legal process and jargon. The women of Public Policy have been so approachable and encouraging and when they were asking for volunteers to testify, I knew it could be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. I have been working on my public speaking skills and Brenda Garcia, Melissa Boucher, and Julia Scanlan made sure I had all the materials necessary and supported me the day of. This experience to me really emphasized the notion that you get out as much as you put into the League, and I encourage anyone who is interested to volunteer!”



Emily Swisher testifies on HB24-1164



Supporting HB24-1164 at Capitol

Get connected:

join together to provide access and exchange.



2023–24 Award Winners & Grant Recipients

Everyone had a wonderful time at the last General Meeting of the year on May 14 at Rag + Bale! Congrats to all award winners, along with our outgoing/incoming Boards, as well as President Claire Juneau and President-Elect Carson Maczuzak. Thank you to everyone who attended to celebrate our collective success!

Shining Star Awards

- September: Paige Cohick & Laura Schwiesow
- November: Tori Divita, Barbara Fletcher & Jennifer Ingold
- February: Marissa Cannady
- May: Sonya Cameron & Jessica Fernandez

Outstanding New Member

Akrivi Liakopoulou

Outstanding Transfer

Lauren Lannen

Outstanding Sustainer

Mamie Ling

Outstanding Committee

Community Granting

Chairs: Allison Hall McGinnis & Lyndsey Whitton

Spirit of Service Award

Maryanne Flynn

Outstanding Volunteers

Dayna McLaughlin & Clarke Jackson

President's Cup

Maria Blakely & Katie Woslager

10 Years of Active Service

- Elizabeth Aviles
- Maryanne Flynn
- Claire Juneau
- Carson Maczuzak
- Caryne Mesquita
- Molly Nemer
- Elizabeth Peetz
- Lauren Perkins
- Lindsey Talafuse

Community Granting Recipients

- Growing Home: \$5,000
- Florence Crittenton Services: \$10,000
- Gateway Domestic Violence Services: \$10,000

Save the Dates!

June 23:

Drive for Change Golf Tournament

July 31:

New Member Application Deadline

September 14:

JLD L.U.V.S. Day of Service

September 26:

Libations for the League:
A Mile High Holiday Mart
Preview Party

November 15–17:

45th Annual Mile High
Holiday Mart



Spring Luncheon Demonstrates Enduring Power of Friendship

On Wednesday, May 8, about 90 Sustainer Emeritus members (80+ years young) and members of the Helen Daly Peale Society gathered for a luncheon at Denver Country Club. This annual tradition is testament to the power of League friendships and ongoing commitment to our Denver metro community. Thank you to Sustainer VP **Kathy Borgais** and Sustainer VP-E **Kim Tatsch** for handling event logistics and bringing us all together again this year!

JLD Members Honored at AJLI

The Association of Junior Leagues International, Inc. (AJLI) is our parent organization. AJLI supports and provides guidance to Junior Leagues around the world, encompassing 296 Leagues in five countries (USA, Canada, Mexico, UK and Kenya).

Our very own **Kristina Zwettler** was honored with an inaugural AJLI 40 Under 40 award at Annual Conference in May. Kristina has been a JLD member since 2011, holding numerous leadership positions, including multiple chair positions within Membership Council, past Membership VP and Fundraising VP-E for the 2024-25 League year. Congrats, Kristina! The award is very well-deserved. The AJLI 40 Under 40 awards will alternate with 40 Over 40, which is up in the 2024-25 year. We will communicate via eNews how to send in submissions.

Additionally, JLD Past President **Caryne Mesquita** will serve as POLL President-Elect 2024-25 for AJLI. POLL is an acronym for Presidents of Large Leagues, so she'll be leading this group in 2025-26, which includes Denver. Caryne served as JLD President in our 2021-22 year. She was our Mile High Holiday Mart Chair last year and is co-chair this year. Caryne, we are so proud of you! Congrats on receiving this position with our international organization.



*Kristina Zwettler,
Claire Juneau &
Caryne Mesquita at
May GM*



*The Journey 2024
Committee*

The Journey 2024 a Resounding Success

On Friday, March 8, members and friends gathered at Mile High Station to celebrate International Women's Day and raise funds for the League. Featuring a Bubbles & Bow Ties theme, the evening included dinner, an inspiring program and dancing. Our very own **Lauren Whitney** served as emcee, and Halie Behr was our auctioneer. 2023-24 President **Claire Juneau** gave a deeply heartfelt and personal speech about her own volunteer journey.

For our 12th annual event, we shifted away from a keynote speaker and focused on creating a fun, uplifting event. The committee also worked very hard to move the fundraiser from a hotel to a venue that served our needs. **We are proud to report we raised nearly \$60,000 after accounting for expenses.** Our deepest gratitude goes to The Journey 2024 Co-Chairs, **Maria Blakely** and **Katie Woslager**, for their tireless efforts to navigate the change and host such an incredible evening. We look forward to 2025!



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Mission

The Junior League of Denver, Inc. (founded in 1918), is an organization of women whose Mission is to advance women's leadership for meaningful community impact through volunteer action, collaboration, and training.



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