



THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF
PHILADELPHIA

HOTLINE

WINTER/SPRING 2023

A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT



It is my great honor to serve as President of The Junior League of Philadelphia, Inc. (JLP), and continue our organization's remarkable 110-year legacy of service. The foundation of JLP's history is rooted in a network of leaders who empower each other to create lasting community change - with our current focus being reducing food insecurity.

The Junior League of Philadelphia is an organization of women whose Mission is to advance women's leadership for meaningful community impact through volunteer action, collaboration, and training. Some of our members have become some of our city's most dynamic leaders and have helped to found some of our city's most celebrated institutions, including Philadelphia Water Works, Wheels for Wellness, Children's Orchestra and Children's Theatre.

We believe in diversity, equity and inclusion and strive to be an organization where all women feel welcome. We value diverse perspectives and seek to create a safe environment that encourages members to engage in difficult conversations. It is only by listening, learning and participating in authentic dialogue that we will create change and growth. Now more than ever it is important to have a network of supportive women, and every woman has a place with us!

We are 800 volunteers strong (Active and Sustainer), who are passionate and united, to improve the lives of our most vulnerable citizens. Despite the ongoing challenges faced during the pandemic, members have engaged in countless trainings, volunteered untold hours with our community partner organizations. We've been able to evolve, be agile, and diversify our membership. Realizing the need is great and the time is now, our League is even more committed to reducing hunger, and impacting health equity gaps many Philadelphians face.

This year we updated our strategic plan, and our Issue Based Community Impact (IBCI) Committee conducted extensive research and provided a targeted plan to fight food insecurity in the zip codes that need support the most. Over the next three - five years JLP will lean into a national strategy, partner with food-focused community organizations and food distributors, to make food more accessible and increase the region's capacity to supply and distribute healthy food, and be ambassadors against food insecurity by providing education and resources to our Philadelphia neighbors.

Through inclusive and purposeful training and empowerment of women, Junior League Members are community leaders making an impact. We are CHANGE AGENTS. Thank you for your commitment to the JLP and the Philadelphia community to live longer, healthier lives. Join me in celebrating over a century of achievement and a future full of promise.

Yours in service,
Kimberley Brown, President 2022-2023

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Recruiting Round Up

The Junior League of Philadelphia, Inc. is an organization of women whose shared mission is to advance women's leadership for meaningful community impact through volunteer action, collaboration, and training.

JLP NEW MISSION STATEMENT



We are thrilled to announce today the rollout of a refreshed Mission statement for the Junior League of Philadelphia. The revitalized language reads, "An organization of women whose shared mission is to advance women's leadership for meaningful community impact through volunteer action, collaboration, and training."

While we are not changing who we are or what we do, our updated Mission clarifies our collective purpose and propels our work forward. Since 1912, The Junior League of Philadelphia has been the place for women in the Philadelphia community to come together to learn, share, and grow. We remain steadfast in our commitment to our dual mission of providing women with leadership skills while offering opportunities to do important community work.

NEW

JUNIOR LEAGUE MISSION

The Association of Junior Leagues International is an organization of women whose mission is to advance women's leadership for meaningful community impact through volunteer action, collaboration, and training.

UPCOMING JANUARY EVENTS

Submitted By: the Hotline Staff

Please check the JLP calendar to register for the events below.

- Evening Sustainers White Elephant on January 4 at 6:30 p.m.
- LinkedIn Best Practices on January 10 at 6:30 p.m.
- How to Apply to Graduate School on January 11 at 7 p.m.
- January GMM at Headquarters on January 12 at 5:30 p.m.
- New Member Social at Art Museum on January 13 at 6:30 p.m.
- DIAD with Face to Face on January 14 at 9:30 a.m.
- Angels in Motion Snack Drive at Center City Location on January 14 at 12 p.m.
- Angels in Motion Snack Drive at Headquarters through January 28, 2023

HOTLINE DEADLINES

Spring Issue: April 30

Please contact the *Hotline* Committee via email at hotline@jlphiladelphia.org with questions or comments.

The *Hotline* is eager to accept your articles and story suggestions. Please feel free to contact us with your articles and proposals to make this newsletter better. To publish the *Hotline* in a timely manner, articles are to be submitted via email at hotline@jlphiladelphia.org. Each article must have a byline and a headline. Remember *Hotline* also accepts advertising: \$25 for classified ads, \$200 for 1/2 page ads (4" x 5"), \$300 for 1/2 page (7.5" x 5") and \$525 for full page ads (7.5" x 10"). Discounts are available for recurring ads. The Junior League of Philadelphia, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) organization.

2022-2023

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Kimberley Brown
President-Elect: Stephanie Lippincott
Assistant to the President: Anne McAndrew
Secretary: Kate Hall
Director of Development: Adrienne Taylor
Parliamentarian: Katie Wooters
Nominating Chair: Megan Shaw
Treasurer: Stef Robinson
Chief Operating Officer: Katharine Koob
Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, & Belonging Chair: Maima Radcliffe

2022-2023

MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

VP of Marketing & Communications: Erin Nanovic
VP of Fundraising: Olivia Scheyd
VP of Community: Megan Speight
VP of Membership Development: Colleen Mita
Editor-at-Large: Natalie Kay
House Chair: Nyree Ellison
Treasurer-Elect: Carrie Scheitrum
Chief Operating Officer-Elect: Pam Phojanakong
Assistant to the COO: Kathryn Young Galla
Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, & Belonging Chair-Elect: Laurel Mangini

2022-2023

SUSTAINER LEADERSHIP COUNCIL OFFICERS

Sustainer Chair: Jodi Kerr
Sustainer Chair-Elect: Mary Kate LoConte
Recording Secretary: Jeanne Andronowitz
Corresponding Secretary: Deedie O'Donnell
Treasurer: Kate Forester

Hotline Chairs: Jamila Robinson, Linda Nitsche, Victoria Denaro

Hotline Submissions:

hotline@jlphiladelphia.org
Office: 610-645-9696 | **Fax:** 610-645-0996
www.jlphiladelphia.org

JLP Thrift Shop:

25 West Lancaster Ave., Ardmore, PA 19003
Open 7 days a week.
Phone: 610-896-8828 | **Fax:** 610-896-8924

Shopping Hours:

Mon. - Sat., 10 am to 5 pm, Sun. 12 pm to 4 pm

Donation Hours:

Monday - Sunday, 10 am to 3 pm

Consignment by Appointment:

Monday-Friday, 10am to 3pm



JuniorLeaguePhiladelphia



jl_philadelphia



@JL_Philadelphia



the-junior-league-of-philadelphia-inc

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING (GMM) SEPTEMBER

Submitted By: the Hotline Staff

Who's ready to get this JLP year started!? We began the year with the celebration of our 110-year anniversary and kickoff on Sunday, September 25, 2022, at the Fitler Club Philadelphia! During this meeting, we learned about food insecurity statistics and the SNAP program, additionally how we will make an impact on our community, and

found out more about future events! Our GMM started promptly at 9 a.m., followed by a mix & mingle social, with live musical performances, as well as a chance to interact with the Nominating Committee members. A new addition this year also included prospective members who were welcomed to join the event prior to the New Member

Session that began at 11:15 a.m. There was also a diverse panel of JLP speakers presented to provide an in-depth 360 chat and chew on their respective experiences being in the league. Those that were not able to make this event were provided with a virtual session, including some recordings from this event.

Welcome to the 2022-23 League Year!
Celebrating 110 Years!



96 New Members to JLP!

ONE LEAGUE

By the Numbers:
96 New Members, 253 Active,
369 Sustainers

PHILADELPHIA

www.jlphiladelphia.org

JLP Speak Up Platform

To enhance communication and community impact, we need to create a safe platform for idea sharing.

Enable members to ask why, share new possibilities, suggest new ways of thinking and support taking calculated risks.

Speak Up Suggestion Box
Online form available 24/7



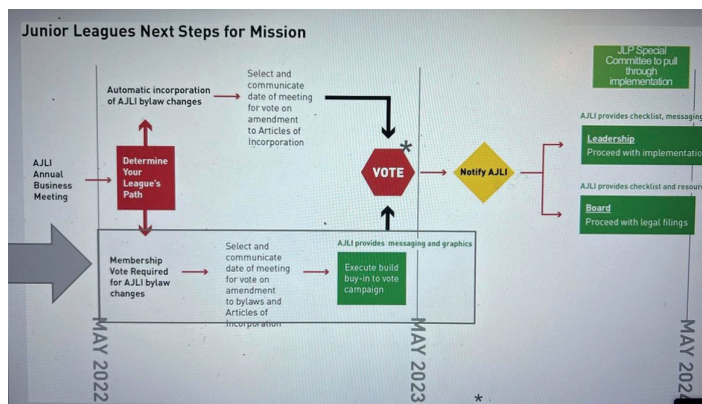
Speak Up Ambassadors
Area Leads collect feedback from members
• Leads will summarize & share feedback with leadership

2022-23 Goals: Leaning Into Our Strategic Plan
Strategic Plan 2020-25

Civic and Community Impact  PENNSYLVANIA FARM BILL Action: Educate members and create JLP signature projects to end food insecurity, and thus improve health equity in Philadelphia and surrounding areas	Membership Growth and Engagement 3Rs Action: Recruit, Retain, Reclaim members to strengthen and sustain the JLP; build efficiencies to aid in committee work and meeting requirements	Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging  Action: Demonstrate commitment to DEI by creating a plan for education, recruitment, and partnerships
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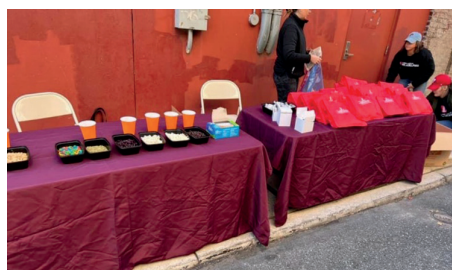
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HEALTH FAIR COMMITTEE

Submitted By: the Hotline Staff

Thanks to our wonderful Health Fair committee for helping at the Community Center at Visitation's Harvest Fest that took place on Saturday, October 29, 2022. They provided health bags with hand sanitizers, tissues, wipes, and other health-conscious items. Additionally, the volunteers assisted with a trail mix-making station and activities with the kids that day, a special thanks also to Kids in the Kitchen (KITK), for the invitation and support.



JLP FOOD DRIVE

Submitted By: Jennifer Lynn

Thank you to all who donated to the Holiday Food Drive for Garden of Health Food Bank, located in North Wales, PA. They were very grateful and we will be feeding many families due to our donations this holiday season!



PURPLE FIG AWARD

Submitted by Hotline Staff

In 2022, it was time to commemorate POP's 15th year at our annual Orchard Celebration to honor and recognize the contributions of POP supporters who have helped advance their mission over the last year. This year's event was held on Saturday, September 17, 2022, at the POP Learning Orchard at The Woodlands in West Philadelphia.



This year's Purple Fig honoree was the Junior League of Philadelphia, which was given due to our support and partnership which made the infrastructure of the Philadelphia Orchard Project (POP) possible. The Junior League of Philadelphia's (JLP) partnership with POP stems from more than 10 years when the JLP sponsored two orchard plantings at Hunting Park and Carousel house and later supported the infrastructure of Woodlands Park. Since then, the two groups have planted 50 orchards in partnership with other community groups across the city including schools, community gardens, houses of worship, and non-profit organizations. We've also completed "Done-In-A-Day" volunteer opportunities, Apple Harvest Festivals, the Little Black Dress Initiative, and support through Board Service from several JLP members. The women of the Junior League of Philadelphia are grateful for this partnership and the ability to provide fresh fruits and vegetables, as well as education to those in need.



"It's wonderful to see and experience how an idea and partnership have come to life to have such an impact on the community. Providing not only fresh fruits and vegetables but also education will benefit members of our community for years to come...."

Additional activities that afternoon included: orchard-based art projects with Ampersand Textile & friends; live music from Martronimous, and fresh apple cider pressing with the POP team. Plus there were samples of seasonal produce donated by POP partners and Philly Foodworks. The Refreshments were provided by Golden Dragon, Weckerly's Ice Cream, Riverwards Produce, Ploughman Cider, Philly Foodworks, and Camuna Cellars.



DICED!!!

Submitted By: The Hotline Staff

Vetri Community Partners participated in Diced, a culinary and fundraising challenge inspired by the Food Network's TV game show, Chopped, that showcased teams of up to five competitors facing off in a piping hot competition to create a nutritious, delicious dish from a basket of mystery ingredients. The event took place on Thursday, October 20, 2022, at 5:30 p.m. at Verti Community Partnership's headquarters, located at 915 Spring Garden Street in Philadelphia, PA.

Teams had 45 minutes to use their ingredients to chop, mince, sear, and stir culminating in a dish that was graded for taste, presentation, fundraising amount, and creativity by a panel of celebrity judges. In addition to the culinary challenge, teams had the opportunity to fundraise to unlock bonuses and team advantages.

The JLP and its members were given the opportunity to participate! We had two teams of five members and each with a combination of New Members / Actives and Sustainers. Additionally, we also had 5 spectators per team.

What a night!!!! Thank you all for your participation in the first edition of "DICED" with VCP!



Your thoughtfulness, creativity, and energy were awesome. Our "ONE TEAM" approach, coupled with strategy resulted in wonderful dishes and the coveted DICED award!

Thank you all for taking the time to come out on a "school night" and participate in this great event



JLP THRIFT SHOP

Submitted By: Jen Dever



The Thrift Store Committee had a successful fall! With renewed enthusiasm for in-person events the committee participated in a side-walk sale, quota parties, and a holiday decorating event. Ardmore's Annual Open House took place in October. The event featured live music, a dog costume parade, and crafts for children. The Thrift store joined in the fun with a sidewalk sale. The store saw increased foot traffic as a result.

The New Member Committee and Thrift Store Committee jointly hosted a thrift store event. There was a great turnout with sixty new members present. The ladies toured the store, learned all things thrift store, and even got to tag their own items as they made their first donations to the shop. The Placement Committee and Thrift Store came together and held a quota tagging event in Headquarters. This event allowed members to tag their items early in the league year. Current members got a chance to tag their quota while socializing with other league members.

The season ended with decorating the store for the holiday season. Members of the league spent a Friday night bringing holiday cheer to the store by decorating trees for the window displays. Be on the lookout this spring for the Thrift Shop committee International Women's Day fundraiser this March 2023. Details to follow.

THE LARKS

Submitted By: The Hotline Staff

If you have been a member of the league for the last several years you might not be too familiar with our very own singing group. As an "active" member I have to say that I was not familiar with them at all and was given a very quick history of them by our very own Sustainer, Mary Hinds, who spoke about the group on September 24, 2022, General Membership Meeting, I was enthralled and very curious to find out more, and she was more than happy to help me along in this journey of discovery about The Larks. Mary put me in touch with Mrs. Shirley Messina, Sustainer, and Mrs. Jill Franks (Friend of the League), close friends since college where they both attended Allegheny College, located in Meadville, PA, in (2004) Mrs. Franks joined the Larks.

A brief history about the group itself, every Junior League group of this nature is named "The Larks" they are an all-female acapella singing group that initially went to nursing and retirement homes in the local and surrounding areas of Ardmore and Philadelphia, PA; sharing the sound of music with their voices, to the residents and staffs of the facilities. This was primarily done at a time when many of these places had no real "funds for entertainment.

Many of the residents in these facilities were older and disabled and the music was a welcomed interaction. As we know, music as, as we know, yes



we all feel relaxed and calms us, the melodious sounds at times also brings joy and comfort to many.

If they were not personally contacted for a singing appearance, they would write a letter of introduction to the facility, explaining they were a 501 (c) (3) who they were and how the process worked for them to appear, and how payment if any would be rendered, but a payment was not required.

Why a capella; it's versatile. You can sing things from Bach to Bartok, from do-op to pop, and really anything else! A cappella is a way to sing, so it can be easily transferred to any genre of music. However, The Larks sang a capella due to the fact that some of the facilities' pianos had not been properly tuned or they had no piano at all, in turn, leaving only the sound of their voices or instruments they carried to be shared. The group is also non-profit, so any funds given or donated to them are turned over to the JLP, only the Choir Director is paid for their time and the music purchased.

The JLP Larks initially began in the 1970's, and were comprised of JLP members only, who were retiree's they not only sang but also dressed in unison, they were at one time so large they had a day and evening group, however, life has a way of making us all adjust, and they did eventually have to combine; and sadly in 1978, the group disbanded.

And for a brief moment, there was silence, however, that was short-lived, for, in the 1990's Marge Develin, Sustainer Chair at that time requested

the group be reactivated. The call was put out and the ball was rolling, a Choir director was chosen, and funds were allocated and the group was back up and rolling. The group was also provided with some original songs and purchased additional ones, as needed. There have been several directors over the years due to the years changing times and audiences.



Currently, the Larks are comprised of (12) members, (6) are actual JLP members, they are always seeking new members, and they meet regularly during the day, and many of their engagements are also during the day. They have a great connection with the Sustainers of the JLP and have been invited to many events with them, additionally, they used to sing at the Sustainer Spring Annual Meeting luncheon. The current slate of officers includes the following;

- Choir Director – Ms. Jane Baumgardener
- Assistant Director –
- President – Mrs. Jill Franks
- Members (12)
- Former Choir Director – Ms. Iris BU



At this time, they have a very packed calendar of engagements, in May 2021

they were one of many featured groups to sing at Haverford High School, and recently In September 2022, at Porch Fest in Wayne, PA. Additionally, they sang for a memorial service taking place at the Germantown Cricket Club, on October 20, 2022, and on October 26, 2022, performed at Active Day in Halloween attire, in Exton, PA. They are also the longest-serving community outreach program within the JLP today.

As we see, the Larks is way more than a singing group, it is also a support group, many of the members have become lifelong friends and the connections have lasted far longer than the ever-changing years. Even those that are no longer active still connect. Sadly, the Larks have never been invited to sing at one of our “active” events so we all can have a piece of this great history and hear the soothing sounds of The Larks of the JLP.

CELEBRATING PHILADELPHIA SPORTS TEAMS

Submitted By: Hotline Staff

The Philadelphia Eagles, were undefeated, the Philadelphia Phillies were in the World Series, and The Philadelphia Union headed to MLS Cup Finals. The Philadelphia Flyers decided to make some noise and are 5-2-1 while sitting at third in the Metro area when the season ended.

They have a new coach, lots of new faces, and are doing better than most of the hockey “experts’ expected. Some of the members of the JLP wanted to share in the various celebrations and hosted smaller gatherings with each other, enjoying the wins and mingling at the Mural Mingle at Yards Brewing Company in Philadelphia.



KIDS IN THE KITCHEN (KITK)

Submitted By: Sarah Marino Levin

Kids in Kitchen Committee is excited to share that they are having a great semester! Despite working with fewer partners, they are actually reaching more students and having a greater overall impact. This fall, they are supporting the Kids in the Kitchen programming at Methodist Services in the Belmont/Fairmount Park neighborhood as well as at Mastery Molina Elementary School in Camden, NJ.

Marcie Tanner, the program contact at Mastery Molina, told the committee that Kids in the Kitchen is their most popular program by far. Her quote from a recent email: “I have been asked if Kids in the Kitchen can go longer than 6 weeks at a time, and if students can send recipes to [the committee] to buy the items because they don’t want a break unless the school is closed.” What an amazing impact this committee is having, teaching children healthy recipes, providing snacks, and most importantly, making food fun. That is something for us all to be proud about!

FOOD TO FAMILIES COMMITTEE

Submitted By: Sarah Marino Levin

As the end of the year fast approaches, the work that we do in our community is more important than ever. Between inflation, job layoffs, and the pressure of the holidays, there are greater demands on people, especially those with limited resources.

The Food to Families Committee, in partnership with SHARE, continues to support the local community by packing food items to be delivered directly to Philadelphia residents in need. The boxes packed by the Food to Families Committee are delivered to seniors in the community through their Commodity Supplemental Food Program, also known as their Senior Program. SHARE also provides food to children and families through school lunches, food pantries, and various community programs. They have more than tripled their impact since the start of the Covid pandemic. According to their website, they reach over 300,000 people each month.

Food to Families is proud to represent the Junior League of Philadelphia as they contribute to the fight against food



The photo is from one of the November packing days. The committee members present were Amy Yudiski, Lindsay Wood, Kathryn Harkins, Rochelle Shearlds, Elizabeth Brogan, Maddy Walton, and Stephanie Nickerson.

insecurity in our region. In the month of November, the Food to Families Committee packed a total of 775 boxes of food! At an average of 30lbs per box, they helped pack over 23,000 pounds of food to support our neighbors in need!

In other Food to Families news, they are excited to be having their first in-person committee meeting (since the start of the pandemic!!) and will be celebrating with an end of the year holiday party as well. Food to Families will continue with bi-monthly packing days, and are getting to work on setting up the spring packing dates at the SHARE warehouse for the Junior League calendar!

CELEBRATE 110 YEARS OF THE JLP- DONATE TO THE ANNUAL FUND!

Submitted By: JLP Annual Fund Committee

The Junior League of Philadelphia, Inc. is proud of its 110 year legacy of service to the Philadelphia area. We have doubled down on our commitment to community service and the development of women, even in a continually shifting landscape. Our members' ability to be agile, resilient, and innovative during challenging times has undoubtedly played a huge role in our ability to serve our community since 1912.

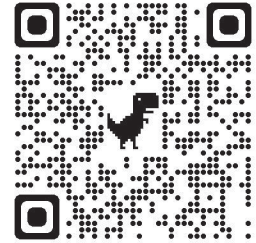
Another key component to our success is financial support. Since a portion of our membership dues is paid to AJLI, the League relies heavily on the

Annual Fund, Thrift Shop and other fundraising efforts to generate the funds needed for our community outreach, training, headquarters, and other expenses.

As we make effort to return to our previous levels of training and community engagement, we need your support. We encourage you to make a donation the Annual Fund and hope you will consider donating \$110 in honor of our 110th year!! Though \$110 is our ask, we understand this may not be possible for all members. Your participation is what matters most. No gift is too small.

As a reminder, a \$35 donation will qualify for a Ways & Means credit, and those who donate for three consecutive years will be inducted into the 1912 Society. Additionally, you can consider asking your employer to match your gift!

As of December, we are thrilled to announce that we were halfway to our goal. Help us reach (or exceed!) our goal and scan the QR code to donate today!



JLP GIVING BACK

Submitted By: Jennifer Lauren

The on Dec., 23, 2022 we participated in the final night with CCV as they hosted their polar express event sending (101) families home with presents. The members of the JLP played elves for the night, serving hot chocolate and other refreshments to one and all in attendance. It was such a special event and great way to give back and celebrate the holidays.



JANUARY 2023 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING (GMM)

Submitted By: Hotline Staff

We're going to keep rocking our 110-year anniversary and celebrate the new year with our fellow JLP members on Thursday, January 12th at JLP Headquarters!

Come hear exciting information from our Placement Committee, learn more about your JLP requirements, check out updates on future events, and to top it all off- discover who will be our new President-Elect Elect!

Doors will open at 5:30 p.m. Meeting will start at 6:30 p.m. Light snacks will be provided. Headshots originally planned for the November GMM will be rescheduled for this date. Any open spots available will be communicated closer to the event.

BOOKMARKS

Submitted By: Hotline Staff

When you think of bookmarks, you instantly think of books! And for good reason, books have a way of connecting us to various people, places and things of interest. They help shape our ideas and ways of thinking, and our lives. This is why Bookmarks, as yet another long-standing club (30 years) within the Junior League of Philadelphia (JLP), has secured its status within our ranks as a place for any and many to gather, connect and bond over a good book or two.

What is a book club? Well, a book club is a reading group, usually consisting of a number of people who read and talk about books based on a topic or an agreed-upon reading list. They meet on a regular basis at a location to discuss and dissect what they have been reading. It is an exchange of perspectives, with some eye-opening fact finding and/or life changing discoveries shared with like-minded individuals. Normally, they are fun; you get to meet others who share a common hobby, reading, and are truly worth a try.

When I sat down, virtually that is, to chat with Sustainer Elizabeth Ramsey, who is an attorney, married with (2) children, (3) grandchildren, an alum of University of Richmond, and was a transfer into the JLP, I wanted to discuss in greater detail what Bookmarks was all about. Needless to say, I was greatly impressed by the vast array of how organized and intricate the structure of the club was. Additionally, sustainers Karen Nagel and Karen Miller provided historical content and information as well. Yes, they do in fact meet regularly, have an impressive reading library, and have shared exchanges that have been enlightening, engaging and fun. The membership has developed to not only include active and sustainer members of the JLP, but it is also open to nonleague members.

Bookmarks began in 1991, meeting regularly on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 7:00pm at various members homes, sharing the interest of a good

book, conversation and refreshment. Additionally, (1) member hosts the gathering, and another member leads the book discussion. There is (1) book a month chosen, dissected and discussed. However, there is also a formula to this as well. The group usually reads (1) biography, (1) non-fiction and (1) classic book per year, as well as fiction books. I bet you were thinking this was your run of the mill classic reading group; not at all. There have been several more contemporary titles chosen, topics ranging from true crime to political intrigue. And there used to be (2) club dinners held each year, one taking place in January and the other in June. Sometimes, the meetings were also held at the JLP headquarters with a more consistent location being chosen for easier accessibility. However, things changed during COVID, as we are all aware, and the adjustment was made to virtual meetings. This in turn allowed for greater participation from the members and it had worked greatly in their favor. No matter what they are reading or have read, they never if rarely ever read the same book twice.

- Over the years the club has hosted and met a few authors of books they have read. Additionally, they have attended events where some of the authors of the books were in attendance, making completing the book even more rewarding. Some of these occurrences include the following:
- In 2019, Catherine Kerrison, the author of *Jefferson's Daughters: Three Sisters, White and Black, in Young America*, and a professor at Villanova University, came to a Bookmarks meeting to talk with the group about the process of writing her book and to sign their copies of the book for them.
- In 2016, Bookmarks members met local author Cordelia Frances Biddle when she spoke in Philadelphia about the inspiration and the writing of her book, *Saint Katharine: the Life of Katherine Drexel*. Later, some of them visited the Katharine Drexel shrine in Bensalem.

- In 2016, Susan Vreeland, the author of *Clara and Mr. Tiffany*, Skyped into a Bookmarks meeting and talked with the group about her book. After that, to learn more about all things Tiffany, the members had the opportunity to tour a fabulous collection of Tiffany lamps, windows and chandeliers in a private local home.

- In 2004, the group communicated with Alan Brennart while they were reading his book *Molochai*, and he provided each member with a personalized bookplate that he signed for them.

Sometimes, the group has special food at the meetings that brings to life the books they are reading. One time after they read *The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane* by Lisa See, the hostess gave a special talk about teas and served different types of delicious teas. Another time, when the group read *Lady Almina and the Real Downton Abbey*, they enjoyed an English tea. Some of the titles they have chosen have not always been easy reads, and they tend to be the books that stick within your memory the most. It does not mean they are bad books; but it does mean that at times the subject matter can be a bit heavy and a lighter topic is normally chosen afterwards. Some of these titles included the following;

- *Educated* by Tara Westover
- *Hillbilly Elegy* by J. D. Vance
- *A Man Called Ove* by Fredrik Backman
- *A Gentleman in Moscow* by Amor Towles
- *When Breath Becomes Air* by Paul Kalanithi
- *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens
- *Defending Jacob* by William Landay

Currently the club is reading *The Personal Librarian* by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray and in January will be reading *The Lincoln Highway* by Amor Towles (1/19/23). Bookmarks is always open to having new members join them and if you should feel so moved, please try to make their next meeting or join them in January. Their events are always posted on the event calendar on the website. They would welcome your presence.

JLP RECOGNIZES PRIDE MONTH

Submitted by: Hotline Staff

As our new League year began, we were thrilled to work with other Junior Leagues across the world as we prepared our members to serve in our communities. We welcomed all who value our Mission, and we are committed to inclusive environments of diverse individuals, organizations, and communities.

Together, we will serve as the undeterred voices for action, justice, and change.



Pride month is an opportunity to advocate for inclusion and equity for the LGBTQ+ within our league and our communities. It is also a reminder to practice our commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion, and create opportunities for engagement wherever and whenever we can.



DIAD & EYHF COMMITTEE

Submitted by: Hotline Staff



BIG THANKS to everyone in the league from all of the DIAD & EYHF team for FILLING ALL OF OUR EVENTS SO FAR THIS YEAR. We know that the last two years have been challenging on so many levels and we're so proud of our league!

By popular demand, we will have more Face 2 Face dates opening up on the calendar soon. These events involve prepping & serving hot meals in the dining room.



2023 MONTHLY DAYS OF OBSERVANCES

JANUARY

- **January 1** – Emancipation Proclamation: President Lincoln declared all individuals held in slavery free on this day in 1863
- **January 4** – Louis Braille's birthday: he was a French educator who created a reading and writing system known as "braille" for the visually impaired
- **January 6** – Feast of the Epiphany: this Christian feast day celebrates the star leading the three wise men to baby Jesus closing the Christmas season
- **January 15** – Makar Sankranti: Hindu festival dedicated to the god of the sun, Surya
- **January 16** – Martin Luther King Jr. Day: celebrates one of the best-known civil rights activists, MLK Jr.
- **January 22** – Lunar New Year: this festival marks the start of the new year in the lunar calendar used in East Asia, Southeast Asia and elsewhere
- **January 27** – International Day of Commemoration in Memory of Victims of the Holocaust:

FEBRUARY

Black History Month: February was chosen to celebrate African American History because it holds the birthdays of two men who helped eliminate slavery: Frederick Douglass and President Abraham Lincoln

- **February 11** – Tammy Baldwin's Birthday: the birthday of the first openly LGBT woman elected to both houses of Congress
- **February 14** – Frederick Douglass' birthday (observed): this day celebrates the birth of abolitionist and social reformer
- **February 15** – Nirvana Day: an annual festival that remembers the death of the Buddha after reaching nirvana; also called Parinirvana
- **February 15** – Susan B. Anthony's Birthday: a leader of the women's suffrage movement, she advocated for abolition, temperance, labor rights, and equal pay for equal work
- **February 22** – Ash Wednesday: a day of prayer and fasting that begins the Christian season of Lent

MARCH

Women's History Month: honors the role of women in American history

- **March 8** – International Women's Day: A day highlighting the political, social, cultural, and economic achievements of women
- **March 8** – Holi: Hindu holiday that celebrates the winter harvest and onset of spring
- **March 10** – Harriet Tubman's birthday (observed): American abolitionist who is well-known for her key role in the Underground Railroad
- **March 17** – St. Patrick's Day: feast day of a Catholic saint who inspires cultural and religious celebrations around the world
- **March 21** – International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
- **March 22 to April 21** – Ramadan: the start of Islam's sacred month — during this time Muslims abstain from eating and drinking from dawn until dusk

APRIL

- **April 2** – World Autism Awareness Day: raises awareness for those with autism that seeking to improve their lives and the acceptance of them in society
- **April 5 to April 13** – Passover: major Jewish festival that celebrates the freeing of Israeli slaves
- **April 9** – Easter: Christian holiday, which celebrates Jesus' resurrection
- **April 22** – Earth Day: holiday that applauds the planet we live on and all it does for us; Earth Day is observed by more than 192 nations.

MAY

Mental Health Awareness Month: raises awareness for those living with mental and behavioral issues. This month also seeks to support families or communities who are impacted by mental illness. Additionally, during this month we recognize; Jewish American Heritage where we honor American Jews and their contributions to the United States throughout history, Asian American and Pacific Island Heritage where we commemorate people with Asian and Pacific Island ancestry and their contribution to the United States.

- **May 5** – Cinco de Mayo: Mexican-American holiday that celebrates Mexico's defeat of the French Army
- **May 17** – International Day against Homophobia, Transphobia, and Biphobia: this event seeks to raise awareness for the rights of LGBTQ+ individuals.
- **May 19** – Malcolm X's Birthday: well-known Muslim minister and civil rights activist, who was assassinated in 1965
- **May 26** – Buddha's Birthday: celebrates the Buddha, who founded one of the world's most practiced faiths
- **May 29** – Memorial Day: honors U.S. military personnel who have fought and died while serving in the United States armed forces

JUNE

LGBT Pride Month: Pride Month recognizes LGBT people and the effect they've had on the world. June was selected to commemorate the Stonewall Riots; additionally recognized this month is **Caribbean American Heritage Month**; where those of Caribbean descent and the impact their accomplishments have had throughout American history.

- **June 2** – Indian Citizenship Act of 1924: This act granted Native Americans born in the U.S. citizenship. However, they were not given the right to vote until 1957
- **June 12** – Loving Day: This day is the anniversary of the court decision that legalizes interracial marriage
- **Puerto Rican Day Parade:** This parade is a demonstration of cultural pride that seeks to raise awareness of issues in the Puerto Rican community
- **June 19** – Juneteenth: This day commemorates when the last African Americans learned of the Emancipation Proclamation (over two years after it was originally issued)
- **June 26 to July 1** – The Hajj: This day begins the annual pilgrimage to Mecca that all Muslims must take once in their lives
- **June 27** – Helen Keller's Birthday: This day celebrates the birth of Helen Keller, an individual who was both blind and deaf. She was a leading humanitarian in the 20th century as well as one of the co-founders of the ACLU

RECRUITING ROUNDUP

Submitted by: Victoria Lynch Mullane

We are recruiting in a new landscape post covid! New Member Program Committee and Advisors were hard at work from June through October of 2022 planning and recruiting our newest Junior League member class. With the impacts of Covid-19 over the past couple years, we were very excited to hit the ground running. Covid impacted the League overall, and changed the way we as individuals engage in our community and events. The New Member Committee had to try new things and make many adjustments to fit into the current environment and re-engage with today's busy local women. We hit the streets posting flyers with staple guns, chat with our networks, blasted out an email campaign, and re-posted on social media until the message got out! New Member hosted 17 drop-in style Info Sessions at cafes, parks, public spaces, and restaurants across the region allowing us to expand the League's geographic reach by adding less represented neighborhoods to our recruiting efforts.

As a result, the 2022/23 New Member class is 118 fabulous women. This class has brought some great additions to the Membership, we have seen the addition of 21 new zip-codes that amazing breadth of age in this year's class, spanning 38 years of age from the youngest to oldest. City versus

suburbs you may ask - this year's class is almost a perfect split between city and suburbs, we have 5 small groups in the city, 4 in the suburbs and 1 in New Jersey. Lastly, we gained 118 unique women that are interested in serving the community and strengthening our common JLP Mission!

New Member Committee couldn't have been successful without our exceptional team of 11 advisors, our VP of Membership, the assistance of the Marketing and Website Committees, and the support of the numerous Active Members who joined our recruiting efforts. Special recognition to Advisor Kate McKelvey for her extra effort over the summer. Thank you all, your continued support is greatly appreciated!



EVT COMMITTEE

Submitted by: Ashley L. Thomas

The Education and Volunteer committee and league members from other committees collaborated to host 11 area meetings between 10/12/22 - 10/27/2022 (9 hosted in-person and 2 hosted virtually). Area meetings were hosted both in person and virtually. Some meetings had an affinity theme. These themes included; GRITS (Girls Raised In the South, ROCKtober (celebrating members who had birthdays in October), FALLing in Love with JLP & Fall Cocktails, Drake Lied- New Friends Only, and Philly Area Transplants. Area Meetings were hosted in Ardmore, Fishtown, Roxborough, Wynnewood, Manayunk, New Jersey, and Wayne. There were approximately 83 member who attended the October Area Meetings total, not including the host(s). We received great feedback from both the host and attending member. Attached are the brand and marketing photos that were posted on social media to increase the number of registrants as well as a photo shared from the FALLing in Love with JLP & Fall Cocktails area meeting hosted by Lauren Grant.



L to R: Afia Lewis (New Member),
Maima Radcliffe (Active),
Judi Wright (Active),
Lauren Grant (Active),
Cailin Lillis (New Member),
Carolyn Zaccagni (New Member),
LaCoya Pace (New Member),
Jenna Olszak (New Member),
Emily Forte (Active),
Sade Taylor (New Member)
Not pictured: Elizabeth Stirba (New Member)

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Submitted By: Hotline Staff

After two years of guarded social interactions, doors are finally swinging open again and we are reacclimating to a life of dining out, going to events, and networking with peers. As Aliina Ross and I stepped into the Social Chair positions this summer we identified this would be a year of both opportunity and challenge. For an organization like the Junior League, which is founded on bringing women together with shared interests and goals, socializing isn't solely some happy-fun activity. It is where our membership develops its creative ideas, interpersonal trust, and relationships that stretch beyond our work as volunteers. And despite having personally led countless virtual happy hours during the pandemic era, I think we can agree, the computer screen doesn't connect people in quite the same way. But our question was, 'would we be able to return to business as usual once we started putting more in-

person social events on the calendar, or would we witness some social attrition?

Here's what we have gleaned so far: A beautiful day in the neighborhood. Over the summer we saw a number of organic regional gatherings coming together on the members' Facebook group, so we figured we'd keep a good thing going. Our Social Committee started the season by committing to have two of these neighborhood social events per month on a rotating basis – from Center City to New Jersey, Bryn Mawr to King of Prussia. These have typically been smaller gatherings, but they are also intimate and meaningful. So, we will continue this effort through the end of the year.

The standing date, we also felt it was important to set some standing dates each month – something our membership could always count on. We started by carrying over Sip & Stitch, which is held at headquarters the first Sunday of every month and is open time to work on a project or craft

of any kind. Though the attendance varies each month, we have taken some positive feedback and decided to explore adding additional series to our lineup in the new year. We've even looked at having rotating networking events based on professional industry or general interests.

Bringing it back to the mission. These first few months we saw a lot of excitement around in-person events. Sometimes that meant a full registration list week out, but a lot of cancellations day-of. We gleaned a few things from this, but one of the important lessons was, though life happens, our membership is interested – even eager – to get together again. So we thought about how best to harness that interest. Since serving the community is what brought us all together in the first place, in the new year we look forward to partnering with more of our service-focused committees to co-host socials that also bring us back to this mission.

NEW MEMBERS FILLING UP THE CALENDAR

Submitted by: Victoria Lynch Mullane

New Members are making a strong comeback and filling up the calendar!!! We are very excited about the level of engagement we are seeing from new members, and active members helping to build excitement for JLP while we transition to being back in person. This year's newest members have been very fast at signing up for events, in many cases filling all kinds of League-wide events, volunteer opportunities, trainings, and socials. There is so much enthusiasm and positivity we are excited to keep the momentum going through 2023.

Beyond League events, New Members have a whole range of training and social events which have included: Thrift Shop orientation, haunted house social, ugly sweater party with Community Council, yoga class, winter cookie exchange, Art Museum visit, and Galentine's potluck. We are very excited about our collaboration with DIAD for a New Member Volunteer event at JRA in February for 50 members, and all the other events to come! Advisors have been busy hosting monthly neighborhood small group events like candle making, picnics, Paint Nite, coffee chats, Friendsgiving dinners, quota tagging, hikes, meditation



sessions, holiday markets, taco nights, concerts, and so many more.

It's been a very exciting year so far and we want to keep the energy going! You are bound to run into a New Member at almost any league event you attend. Please help us to make them feel welcome by introducing yourself



COMBINING FORCES FOR GOOD: DONE IN A DAY (DIAD) AND EMPOWERING YOU HEALTH FAIR (EYHF) COMMITTEE

Submitted by: Victoria Lynch Mullane

This year, the Done in a Day (DIAD) and Empowering You Health Fair (EYHF) committees are working together as one to provide meaningful volunteer opportunities for our members and best serve our partner organizations to better our community.

Throughout the fall, several events were held with our partner organizations—This includes on-site events with the Jewish Relief Agency, Face to Face, the Community Center at Visitation, and the Philadelphia Orchard Project as well as two on-going donation drives for the Garden of Health and Angels in Motion. Additionally, a packing party

was held in advance of the Community Center at Visitation's annual fall health fair and over 100 bags were packed full of essential items to be distributed in the community.

At a glance, our member's support of these events have helped to provide the following services for our community:

- provide meal prep and service
- improve orchards that provide nutritious food
- pack and distribute food

Furthermore, participation in all of these events has been outstanding and we are so grateful for our member's eagerness to be out in the community as a force for good. Looking forward to the spring, we are excited for a larger event for new members with the Jewish Relief Agency. As we continue to schedule events with our community partners, please continue to keep an eye on the calendar for more upcoming events and opportunities to get involved.

Save the Date:

January 9 - DIAD with Manna

January 14 - DIAD with Face to Face

February 12 - Spring New Member Event with JRA

EVT COMMITTEE – UPCOMING EVENTS

THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF
PHILADELPHIA
EDUCATION & VOLUNTEER TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

APPLYING TO GRADUATE SCHOOL

Tips from inside the
Admissions Office

WEDNESDAY, JAN 11
7:00PM - 8:00PM
VIRTUAL

ONE MISSION CREDIT

ASHLEY LEAMON
DIRECTOR OF GRADUATE STUDIES
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS &
SCIENCES AT VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY



SPECIAL DIAD IN FEBRUARY

Submitted by: Victoria Lynch Mullane

Join the Done in a Day Committee (DIAD) for a very exciting New Member Volunteer Opportunity with community partner Jewish Relief Agency (JRA) on February 12. Join us in packing and delivering food boxes for families in need. We're opening up 50 spots for this event. This will be a great way to meet some new faces, learn about JRA, and make a difference in your local community! New Member Advisors are welcomed and please email Valentina D'Anna to sign up!

JRA's work is fueled by volunteers who serve in a variety of ways, including packing and delivering food boxes to the community. The agency provides services to over 6,200 diverse low-income individuals throughout Greater Philadelphia



SUSTAINER FALL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Submitted by: Susan Mease

Sustainers have only two full membership meetings a year – Spring and Fall, so they are always loud and fun with people greeting friends they haven't seen in quite a while. Since the advent of COVID, that excitement when we can meet in person has ramped up several notches. The attached picture of everyone sitting and eating their meal doesn't do justice to the atmosphere. The mingling time before dinner would have to be shown as a video with sound to give full justice.

Anne Hopkins and Beth McCarthy chaired the event and invited the Head of Jewelry and a silver appraiser from

Freeman's to talk about the history of jewelers and silver in Philadelphia. Many attendees wore family pieces that had been purchased at Caldwell's "back in the day" or one of the other old-time fine jewelers that used to be in Philadelphia. Beth McCarthy even got out and polished (!) the lovely silver tea service the JLP owns and some serving pieces and the appraisers told us a little about them.

Stay alert for announcements after the first of the year for the Spring Sustainer Membership Luncheon. You don't want to miss it.



SPECIAL SUSTAINERS HONORED

Submitted by: Susan Mease

This year's class of Special Sustainers was honored at the Spring Luncheon at Teca – Newtown Square on May 1, 2022. Those honored (not all were in attendance) were Deborah Chiles, Pamela Crutchfield, Kathleen Guenther, Katherine Hutchinson, Judy MacGregor, Shirley Messina, Marilyn Sprague, Judith Whalen, Mary Wherry, Caroline Wilford, and Joan Yannesss.



ENJOYING SOME SOUTHERN HOSPITALITY

Submitted by: Mary Kate Lo Conte, *Sustainer Chair*

In September, My husband and I were visiting the Florida Panhandle to do some research for retirement. During my trip planning, I reached out to the Junior League of the Emerald Coast and the Junior League of Panama City to get recommendations on communities and areas I should check out. Members from both leagues sent me great insights about the different towns and neighborhoods to visit.

The Junior League of the Emerald Coast also happened to be having area meetings while I was in town so the President Elect, Waverly Garnand, invited me to join one. I decided to attend the meeting being held at Ivy & Ale, a boutique plant nursery and beer garden, in Fort Walton Beach. I had a great time meeting the ladies



Sustainer Chair, Mary Kate Lo Conte (far left) with members of the Junior League of the Emerald Coast

and learning about their lives and their league in such a unique location.

This experience was a good reminder of the wonderful resources we have beyond our own league and how easy it is to take advantage of them.

SUSTAINER THEATER GROUP

Submitted by: Susan Mease

The Sustainer Theater Group made their first trip back to NYC since COVID, to kick off the holiday season with The Radio City Rockette's Christmas Spectacular show which included a new opening, acts, set designs, 3D scenes, and choreography and the Snow Fairies. After the show the group set out to explore the city (The Met,

Broadway Shows, Truck Show, and exploring Central Park and more). Thank you Sustainers, Active, and New Members (Provisional) for making this a great trip.





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MILESTONES/CELEBRATIONS/ANNIVERSARIES (YOU NAME IT!!)

Congratulations – New Baby!!!

Congratulations to Kelli Brown and her husband Ryan, welcomed a baby boy, Cam Friedrich on January 1, 2022. His siblings Carter and Kendall are loving their new baby brother.



Congratulations – New Baby!!!

Junior League Member Tara Runkle and her husband Trey welcomed identical twin girls on 11/2/22. Their names are Kennedy Olivia and Sloane Josephine. They are all home from the hospital and doing well



Celebrating a fabulous member milestone?

New Job* Birth of a Baby* Wedding Celebration/ Anniversary* Awards

We want to celebrate with you!
Publish an announcement in the next Hotline.

Please email: hotline@jlphiladelphia.org

Congratulations – Honored!!!

Congratulations to Pam Phojanakong, who was recently honored at the 50th Anniversary of Coeducation ceremony at her alma mater Dartmouth College

Congratulations – Engagement!!!

Outside of the Phillies stadium, Cara Swetsky said “yes!” to her now-fiancé, Anthony! The happy couple will exchange “I Do’s” in September 2024 in Cape May, NJ.

