

Looking Back with Pride, Moving Forward with Purpose

From the Past President



With the 112th League Year behind us, we celebrate not just its completion, but the thriving community we've built and watched grow along the way. The Junior League of Philadelphia, Inc. (JLP)'s core is our members. Our members are the embodiment of the mission. It has been extremely rewarding to serve as your President over the past League year, and I hope that each member takes the opportunity to decompress and get excited for the upcoming events and opportunities to make an impact in the community in the next year. I've enjoyed every moment speaking with many of you at our events and look forward to seeing even more of you as we continue to host in-person meetings and events at Headquarters and in the city.

Over the past year, we have seen remarkable growth in many of our programs. First, our Kids in the Kitchen program was front and center on both KYW and Good Day Uncut, where we were able to spotlight our partners and youth at both Methodist Services and Mastery Schools. Second, we expanded our reach outside of our JLP community through new and engaging fundraising opportunities—partnering with Kendra Scott, Kremp Florist, and Rag & Bone, offering family photos, JLP swag, and hosting our first-ever JLP in Motion: a fitness fundraising series. We're thrilled to continue growing our impact in the community through expanded service opportunities and events that elevate our brand and mission. The journey never stops, and we're eager to

build on our momentum in the year ahead.

Finally, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude for the incredible work of our Thrift Shop staff and volunteers. We celebrated our 20th year in Ardmore this past year and are poised to reach the \$1M revenue mark for the first time this upcoming year. What an accomplishment! Our staff, both at the Thrift Shop and the office, are critical to our success, and we thank them dearly for all of their hard work. Also, to our members, I'm thankful for each volunteer so generously and contribute your knowledge, energy, and resources to making the JLP successful. Let's continue to work hard and dream big.

Participation in the JLP is a recognition of what each of us values. By continuing to reinvest each member's energy, we'll help shape the next generation of Board members and exceptional leaders—all while building new friendships, cherishing old ones, and creating lasting memories. I'm inspired by the direction we're taking and energized to put our new Strategic Plan into action as we continue to lead as the premier training organization for women in the Philadelphia community. It's been such a joy building community through service together, and I'm excited to see all that we'll accomplish under Pam Phojanakong's leadership in the year ahead.

Loyally and with gratitude,
Kate Hall
President 2024-2025

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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.

Strengthening Our Foundation for the Future

From the Current President



Photo by Sam Reed Photo

It is my sincere honor to serve as the President of The Junior League of Philadelphia, Inc. (JLP) as we embark on the 2025-2026 league year. Having worked closely with several past presidents, I know I have big shoes to fill, but I could not ask for a better group of leaders or a more dedicated team in all of you to serve alongside.

Anchored by our new 2025-2028 Strategic Plan, this year's theme, Grounded with Purpose, is both a call to keep our mission at the heart of all that we do and a reminder of what we have achieved and can continue to achieve together. This year, we lay the foundation for strengthening the membership experience, harnessing our efforts for targeted community impact, and ensuring that our League not only survives but continues to thrive.

Building on the progress we've made in just the last year, from establishing a new Community Impact Fund to doubling our programming reach with our partner schools for Kids in the Kitchen, we remain committed

to serving our partners in the fight against food insecurity. And while we are steadfast in our commitment, we must also be responsive to the evolving needs and challenges that lie ahead.

To that end, work that began last year to grow and enrich our partnerships and volunteer initiatives continues this year. Drawing on multiple years of input from our members, leaders from our community partners, and development research, we are piloting new initiatives that will allow us to be nimbler and more intentional in how we serve within a food insecurity landscape that increasingly requires organizations to adapt quickly. With a long history of "Junior League-ing it" and leaving our mark, from preparing women to vote, to restoring the Water Works, to building food stations and community farm programs, I am eager to see what we can accomplish next.

From the events I've attended and the members I've had the pleasure of speaking with over the summer, I am continually impressed by the passion, ideas, and thoughtfulness of our members. We've already enhanced fundraising through new events and expanded our presence through refreshed branding and media appearances, all before our first General Membership Meeting. I can't wait to connect and work with you all and to see what new milestones we reach together this year.

In faithful service,
Pam Phojanakong
President, 2025-2026

2025-2026 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Le Anne Ahern
Editor-at-Large: Jamila Robinson
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Nancy Scarlato (Lafferty)
Corresponding Secretary:
Elizabeth "Betsy" Mallon (Borton)
Treasurer: Barbara Gasper

JLP Works Chairs: Lindsay Jordan, Kimberly Jackson, & Serena Zelezny
JLP Works Submissions:
jlpworks@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:
Monday - Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Sunday 12 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Donation Hours:
Monday - Saturday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Consignment by Appointment:
Monday-Friday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

JLP WORKS SUBMISSIONS

Please contact the JLP Works Committee via email at jlpworks@jlphiladelphia.org with questions or comments. The JLP Works committee is eager to accept your articles and story suggestions. Please feel free to contact us with your articles and proposals to make this publication better. Or advertise in the JLP Works: Classified \$25, business card size \$115, quarter page \$200, half page \$300, full page \$525. The Junior League of Philadelphia, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) organization.

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About the Junior League of Philadelphia (JLP)

The Junior League of Philadelphia, Inc. (JLP) was founded in 1912 and, by 1915, our membership had reached 100 in number. World War I was upon the nation, so the JLP volunteered as nurses' aides and volunteered in hospitals. By 1920, the 19th Amendment became law, increased access to voting for women. Work with the blind also became the major focus area of the JLP.

In 1924, the proposition was made to the Fairmount Park Commission for the JLP to become guardian of the Park's Sweetbriar Mansion, and, by 1928, we had raised all the funds necessary to take possession of Sweetbriar, our new Headquarters.

In the fall of 1929, the JLP made Children's Heart Hospital our chief beneficiary and the League's main project until 1938. In the early 1940's, we renewed our efforts to support the country through the Second World War. The JLP played an advisory role in the Civilian Defense Office and helped organize the volunteer service of the University Hospital. We worked closely with the American Red Cross and the Home Defense Program.

In the mid 1950's, we began working with Lankenau Hospital, created the Junior Museum at

the Academy of Natural Sciences, and developed the "Wheels for Welfare" program. The beginning of the 1960's brought new projects, serving as tour guides at Independence Hall, participating in Art Goes to School, and teaching English to foreign-born women.

In 1983, the JLP sought and received \$1.8 million in grants for the restoration of the Old Mill House at the Water Works. During the 1988-1989 League Year, the JLP contributed more than 55,000 hours to projects and committees and raised more than \$265,000 to support programs and projects. Some of this funding was distributed to the City of Philadelphia for Phase III of the restoration of the Water Works and for the restoration of the Water Works Entrance Houses. After 15 years of JLP involvement, we were able to turn the Water Works Restoration Project over to the community as a Legacy Project.

In 2003, we purchased the former Harrison's department store in Ardmore to serve as our first-ever permanent Headquarters. Today, our Headquarters houses our office as well as our largest fundraiser, the JLP Thrift Shop. Revenue from our thrift shop exceeds \$500,000 per year and supports our efforts in the

community.

In 2012, the JLP celebrated its centennial anniversary, and our membership adopted the Apple a Day Healthy Living Initiative™, which is a multi-tiered community initiative with the goal of creating a positive impact on the health and wellness of adults and children in the Greater Philadelphia area.

In 2012-2013, the League commenced the silent phase of a historic fundraiser, the Capital Campaign for Building Community, which raised over \$1.4m to bolster our community impact by (1) creating and implementing valuable, innovative, and unique issue-based programming; (2) funding capital improvements necessary to create a state-of-the-art headquarters building that supports our membership and mission; and (3) showcasing our service to the community through the development and implementation of a public relations plan.

In June 2015, the JLP proudly hosted the grand re-opening of our Ardmore headquarters after the completion of a major \$1M renovation of the top two floors. In 2017-2018, the League completed extensive renovations of our Thrift Shop.

Mission

The Junior League of Philadelphia Incorporated (JLP) is an organization of women whose Mission is to advance women's leadership for meaningful community impact through volunteer action, collaboration, and training.

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Belonging

The Junior League welcomes all women who value our Mission. We are committed to inclusive environments of diverse individuals, organizations and communities.

Vision

Empowering and equipping women to be catalysts for lasting community change.

Values

- We value training and education that supports our mission and advances our personal and professional leadership skills for the betterment of the community.
- We value service, responsibility, and accountability and support each member's ability to affect change in our community through leadership and voluntarism.
- We value partnership and collaboration to enhance and strengthen our relationship with the community.
- We value inclusion through our members' diverse backgrounds, opinions, talents and skills.
- We value advocacy as a means for initiating change.
- We value the loyalty, personal commitment and dedication of

our members in furthering the mission of the JLP.

- We value our members' needs for flexibility in their League involvement.

Association of Junior Leagues International, Inc.

The Junior League of Philadelphia, Inc. (JLP) is a member of The Association of Junior Leagues International, Inc. (AJLI), an organization that brings together over 295 Leagues and more than 200,000 women volunteers in five countries (Canada, Great Britain, Kenya, Mexico, and the United States). AJLI provides members with access to invaluable training, from leadership and organizational development, to community program workshops, diversity

Annual Report

Introduction:

Reflecting on Our Growth: 2024-2025 Year in Review

A Year That Delivered

The 2024-2025 League year was one of significant progress for the Junior League of Philadelphia. With 698 committed members, including 85 new members, our community continues to grow stronger and more vibrant. Through 21 trainings and 43 socials, members came together to learn, lead, and connect in meaningful

ways that support both individual development and the League's mission.

Programs That Made a Difference

Our community initiatives made a measurable impact. Programs such as Food to Families and Kids in the Kitchen brought members together to serve families

and children across the region. Members packed or handled 1,235 boxes of food totaling 39,006 pounds and served 1,635 children. Volunteers contributed 16,020 hours of programming and 248 hours through Done in a Day projects, strengthening the League's visibility and engagement throughout Greater Philadelphia. Compared with the 2023-2024 League year, these results show continued growth in both the scale of our service and the depth of our community involvement.

Financial Health and Sustainability

The League remains financially strong. The Fundraising Council generated \$862,000 in total revenue, with the Thrift Shop continuing to serve as the cornerstone of our financial success. Building on the positive results of 2023-2024, when the League achieved a surplus of more than \$70,000, this year's performance demonstrates thoughtful stewardship and sustained donor and member support.

Amplifying Our Voice

The Marketing and Communications Council helped expand the League's visibility across the region. Social media impressions surpassed 230,000, with 1.5 million total community coverage views, ensuring our story of service and impact reaches a broader audience.

Looking Forward

The 2024-2025 League year demonstrates what we can achieve when members come together with purpose and passion. As we move into the year ahead, we are inspired by our accomplishments, energized by our members, and dedicated to continuing our legacy of leadership and community impact.



Around the League

Highlighting Our Transfers

Giving Back in a New Place: The Junior League Transfer Experience

By Margaret Thornton and Kathryn Dent

In the ever-evolving world of The Junior League, transferring from one city to another has become a seamless and rewarding experience for many members. Whether relocating for work, family, or personal reasons, transferring within the Junior League offers numerous opportunities for continued community service, personal growth, and connection with like-minded women. For those who may be hesitant about the transition, hearing the stories of the Junior League members who have transferred can be an encouraging and insightful way to understand the benefits of staying involved and continuing to serve no matter where life takes you.

A Look at Greer Johnson's Transfer Journey

Greer Johnson, a passionate Junior League member, provides a perfect example of how

transferring between cities can help expand both your personal and community service horizons. Greer joined the Junior League of Atlanta in 2016 and later transferred to the Junior League of Dallas in 2019. In 2024, she transferred to the Junior League of

Philadelphia.

For Greer, the transition between these Leagues was smooth and rewarding. In Dallas, she was deeply involved in committees like Kids in the Kitchen, Food to Families, and

the Little Black Dress Initiative—efforts aimed at combating food insecurity. These initiatives have become pillars of her community work, and she has been fortunate to continue her commitment to community service even as she moved to Philadelphia.

“The beauty of transferring is that it allows you to maintain a sense of belonging and continue giving back, even when you don’t know anyone in a new city,” Greer reflects. “When you transfer, the League already understands the value you bring, and you can jump straight into committees and projects without feeling like a new member.”

In Philadelphia, Greer has already become involved in impactful projects like Food to Families and participated in the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Summit. One thing she has appreciated about The Junior League of Philadelphia is the league’s ability to remove red tape and offer immediate opportunities to contribute.

The Ease of Transferring

The process of transferring may vary slightly from League to League but overall is relatively simple. This easy process only involves informing your current league and submitting a form to your new League, and then you can seamlessly become part of a new community. This simple process makes it easier to continue your work with minimal interruption. Unlike joining the Junior League as a fresh member, transferring allows you to bypass the traditional provisional period and immediately get involved in a committee. Transferring members have reduced membership requirements for their first year based on the time of the League year when they complete their transfer paperwork. For women like Greer, who were already active in their previous Leagues, this immediate integration

is crucial for staying committed to their community service goals.

Greer also reflects how her experiences in larger Leagues like Dallas shaped her involvement in the Junior League. Her participation in a larger organization allowed her to witness the bigger picture of how service impacts communities. Yet, she still values the smaller, more personal atmosphere of the Junior League of Philadelphia. Here, she feels her contributions have a direct and tangible impact on the community, a sentiment echoed by other members.

Anna Storch's Transfer Story

Anna Storch's transfer experience highlights how the Junior League can offer different

scales of impact depending on the size and structure of the League. Anna initially joined the Montclair/Newark, New Jersey League in 2022 before transferring to the JLP in 2024. Coming from a smaller League with about 30 members, Anna quickly noticed the difference in scale. As the Membership Vice President in Montclair, she saw how tight-knit and intimate the League could be, but also how limited the scope of influence could be.

Anna quickly saw the opportunities in Philadelphia, particularly with Food to Families, where she now works with the SHARE program. “In Montclair, we were rebuilding community partners after COVID, and it felt like we were starting over,” she reflects. “But in Philadelphia, I can see the immediate impact of our work with community partners, and the scale of the efforts is much larger.”

Like Greer, Anna praises the ease of transitioning into a new League, where the flexibility of the





Junior League allows members to plug into the projects that are most meaningful to them. “The Junior League is about finding your place and using your skills, and that’s something you can do no matter where you are,” she says.

The Importance of Giving Back

Transferring doesn’t just mean maintaining connections—it means continuing to serve a cause you care about. In both Greer’s and

Anna’s cases, food insecurity has been a key area of focus. Whether working with food banks in Dallas or contributing to Food to Families in Philadelphia, the need to fight food insecurity remains a consistent issue across the country.

The Junior League’s mission of empowering women and improving communities transcends geographic boundaries. Junior League members everywhere are united in their commitment to service.

How Transfers Enhance Personal Growth

The transfer process is also an incredible opportunity for personal growth. Moving from league to another often means adapting to new challenges, learning different ways of doing things, and meeting new people. While it can be daunting at first, it’s an opportunity to stretch your leadership muscles, expand your network, and refine your skills. It’s also an opportunity to make new friends in your new home.

Those who transfer often experience a new focus within the same mission—whether it’s working in a larger organization, serving in new committee roles, or

collaborating with diverse groups of women. Transferring provides a platform to try new things and take on more responsibilities—something that is highly encouraged in the Junior League community.

Transfer Today: Don’t Let Your Membership Lapse!

For anyone considering a move, remember that the Junior League is designed to adapt with you. The transfer process ensures that you can continue to serve, grow, and connect—regardless of where life takes you.

Greer Johnson and Anna Storch’s stories are just two examples of how transferring within the Junior League can deepen your impact and broaden your leadership skills. Whether you are new to Philadelphia or moving to another city, don’t let your membership lapse—stay connected and continue making a difference.

As Greer wisely says, “Making friends as an adult is hard, but the Junior League makes it easy. And when you transfer, you already have a built-in community waiting for you. It’s the best way to stay engaged, make a difference, and grow both personally and professionally.”

The JLP Has Gone to the Dogs (and We Couldn’t Be Happier!)

By Dalia Omran

The New Member Committee took recruitment to a whole new level. Co-hosted by President, Pam Phojanakong and Executive Vice President, Dalia Omran, The Junior League of Philadelphia (JLP) gathered for a recruitment and do-good social on August 20, 2025, at The Boozy Mutt, a spot where a dog park meets a bar and restaurant.

Pam and Dalia have often joked that they wished league events were dog friendly. The Boozy Mutt provided the perfect backdrop for members and prospects alike to mingle with their furry companions in tow.

However, the event wasn’t just about fun; it also reflected the JLP’s commitment to making a meaningful impact.

Attendees at the event were asked to bring pet food donations, and thanks to their generosity, the JLP collected 65 pounds of food!

The night was a resounding success: new friendships were formed, tails were wagged, and the spirit of service shone through. The JLP looks forward to hosting more dog-friendly gatherings throughout the year and continuing to build connections between our members and four-legged friends.



JLP Members Swing Toward Connection and Confidence at Walnut Lane Golf Club

By Lauren Smith

Under the warm mid-August sun, nine JLP members gathered at Walnut Lane Golf Club in the Roxborough section of Philadelphia for a golf clinic.

This was more than a golf outing. It was an afternoon of growth, camaraderie, and quiet confidence, led with patience by Director of Golf, Kyle Spaulding. The group, made up largely of beginners clad in fashionable golf attire, started with a relaxed meet and greet for an hour of conversation and connection on the clubhouse patio. The energy was light but purposeful, a blend of laughter and curiosity as members got to know each other beyond their LinkedIn bios and roles within the League.

With the foundations laid in conversation, the clinic portion began. Under Kyle's guidance, members learned how to grip a club with intention, how to stand with balance, and how to find rhythm in their swing—not unlike

finding their footing in boardrooms or community initiatives. Some swings sent balls sailing. Others skittered along the grass. But every moment was met with encouragement and thoughtful critiques before trying the skill again.

The afternoon culminated in a three-hole scramble, a low-pressure, team-based format that allowed the group to practice their newfound skills on the course. The tree-lined hills of Walnut Lane became a classroom in confidence; each shot a chance to try again, each putt a lesson in patience and mindfulness.

There were cheers for well-struck drives and laughter over wayward shots. The leaderboard didn't matter. What mattered was the shared experience of learning something new together.

As the sun dipped behind the fairways and the final putts dropped, one thing was clear: golf wasn't just a game that day. It was



a bridge between professional lives and personal growth, between individual ambition and collective joy. Members left with a few more golf tips, a handful of new connections, and a sense of anticipation for the next golf affinity group outing. Because when JLP women lead, even on the golf course, community follows.

JLP affinity groups offer members unique, tailored experiences centered around shared interests. To learn more or join the next golf outing, contact jlpgolffinitygroup@gmail.com.

Member Spotlight

Victoria Denaro, Co-Chair, Brand & Marketing

1. What inspired you to join the Junior League of Philadelphia?

After spending a few years in Boston, I moved back to Philadelphia and was looking for a way to reconnect with the community in a meaningful way. I was drawn to the Junior League of Philadelphia because it offered a unique combination of volunteerism, leadership development, and the opportunity to meet like-minded women. I've always

believed in the importance of leaving the world better than I found it, and the League felt like

the perfect place to channel that passion.

2. What are you involved with outside of the Junior League?

Outside of the League, I serve as a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA), which has been a gratifying experience. In that role, I support and advocate for children navigating the foster care system, helping ensure their voices are heard in court and that they receive the services they need. It's a deeply personal way to make a difference in a child's life.

3. What activities have you enjoyed the most within the League?

I've enjoyed the social aspects of the League, from networking events to casual gatherings. I love

meeting new people, building connections, and learning from the diverse group of talented women who are part of this organization. The relationships I've formed have been just as valuable as the volunteer work we do.

4. Out of all the contributions you've made to the League, what are you proudest of?

One of my proudest contributions has been creating the League's blog. It's become a great tool for sharing real-time updates and engaging members with relevant and timely content. I'm also proud of leading the initiative to rename The Hotline to The Works, giving our communications a fresh, modern identity that better reflects who we are today.

President's Tea



New Member Kick-Off

Photos by Beau Monde Originals



THE LEAGUE

ff Brunch



Women's Empowerment Tea



Did You Know?

The Story of The Junior League of Philadelphia's Headquarters

By Natalie Kay

A Historic Beginning

In 1924, the Junior League of Philadelphia (JLP) set out to preserve history by becoming the guardian of Sweetbriar Mansion in Fairmount Park. By 1928, the League had raised the necessary funds to restore and establish the mansion as its headquarters, marking the beginning of its legacy in historic preservation.

The Birth of a Legacy

While Sweetbriar served as the League's home, JLP's impact extended far beyond its walls. In 1945, members launched the Children's Outgrown Shop, a small

its headquarters to Ardmore, Pennsylvania, to create a more accessible and functional space for its members.

Major Investment in the Future

In 2014, JLP launched a \$1.4 million Centennial Campaign for Building Community. This initiative, funded primarily by members, led to a complete renovation of the Ardmore headquarters, ensuring it could serve as a modern hub for collaboration, leadership, and community engagement.

A Space Designed for Impact

Today, the headquarters at 27 Lancaster Avenue is more than just a Thrift Shop and office—it is a central gathering place where members come together for training sessions, committee meetings, and planning initiatives that drive JLP's mission forward.

Empowering Members

The headquarters offers dedicated workspaces, a members' lounge, and access to organizational

archives, providing resources that support both leadership development and meaningful volunteer efforts.

Strengthening Community Connections

Located in the heart of Ardmore, the JLP headquarters serves as a bridge between the organization and the greater Philadelphia area, fostering partnerships and ensuring the League's continued impact for years to come.

resale initiative that would later grow into the JLP Thrift Shop, the organization's largest asset and primary fundraiser.

A Move Toward Growth

As JLP expanded its mission and membership, it became clear that Sweetbriar, while historic, no longer met the organization's evolving needs. In 1937, the League moved to the Warwick Hotel in Rittenhouse Square, then to the Free Quaker Meeting House in 1965 near Independence Hall, and finally in 1998, the League moved



Q&A

with Le Anne Ahern, Vice President of Membership



Photo by Sam Reed Photo

1. What inspired you to get involved with The Junior League of Philadelphia, and how has your journey evolved since then?

After graduating from the University of Alabama in 2018, I moved to New York City knowing only a handful of people. I went from sharing every meal in a bustling sorority house to eating microwave dinners alone in a tiny apartment. I joined the New York Junior League to find a sense of community and, honestly, to make friends while navigating post-grad life in the city.

When I moved back to the Philadelphia area for grad school, I transferred to the JLP and immediately found a home on the Project Research & Development Committee. I served on PR&D for three League years and chaired for two, which gave me a deep appreciation for the thoughtful, behind-the-scenes work that keeps our League running and evolving. That experience ultimately inspired me to step into the VP of Membership role. Supporting our members is truly the best part of being in this organization.

2. As the Vice President of Membership, what are your top priorities for strengthening member engagement and community?

My biggest priority is creating meaningful connection points for every kind of member, whether you've been here for years or are just starting out. I know how impactful it can be to feel like you truly belong, so I want to make sure there are opportunities for connection that feel natural, inclusive, and fun.

That means strengthening communication between committees and leadership, offering events and trainings that people actually look forward to, and making sure placements feel like the right fit. I also want us to celebrate our members more, whether it's recognizing a big achievement or simply saying thank you. Everyone deserves to feel seen, valued, and genuinely excited to be part of this community.

3. What key piece of advice would you like to pass along to new members as they begin their first year with the JLP?

Don't be afraid to show up, even if you don't know a single soul. Some of the most meaningful friendships and unforgettable experiences start at the events you almost skipped. Say yes, ask questions, and give yourself plenty of grace as you get settled.

It's more than okay to be new. We've all been there, and we know how overwhelming those early moments can feel. This is a genuinely welcoming space filled with smart, kind, and passionate women who are not only excited to meet you but who have stood in your shoes and want to help you feel at home.

4. What upcoming member initiatives or events are you most excited about this year?

I'm especially excited about the momentum growing around our Affinity Groups and Member Engagement. We have some great new ideas in progress, and it's been so rewarding to see members connect through shared interests beyond committee work. I'm also really looking forward to our Mingle & Brunch this fall, as well as some refreshed training event concepts from the Training Events team.

LEAGUE SNAPSHOTS

Behind The Scenes with the EVT Committee: How the JLP Events Come to Life

By Natalie Kay

Every engaging workshop, insightful panel, and well-orchestrated virtual or in-person event at The Junior League of Philadelphia, Inc. (JLP) has one thing in common—the Education & Volunteer Training Committee (EVT). While their work often happens behind the scenes, their impact is front and center in shaping the learning experiences and connections that define our organization.

But what does it really take to bring an event to life? Here's a behind-the-scenes look at how the EVT Committee makes it all happen—from the first spark of an idea to the final follow-up.

Step 1: Brainstorm and Plan

It all starts with a conversation. The EVT Committee meets regularly to discuss trends, member interests, and professional development opportunities. Whether it's a workshop, panel discussion, or networking event, they brainstorm topics, identify potential speakers, and shape the event's goals.

Step 2: Logistics and Execution

Once the idea is set, it's all about execution. The committee handles outreach to speakers, schedules venues (or virtual platforms), manages registrations, and ensures every detail is covered. They also coordinate with the Brand & Marketing Committee to promote events on social media so members know what's coming up and why they should attend.



Photos by Beau Monde Originals

Step 3: The Event

On the big day, the EVT Committee is behind the scenes making sure everything runs smoothly. They manage check-ins, support speakers, troubleshoot last-minute issues, and create a welcoming environment for attendees to engage and connect.

Step 4: Follow-Up and Impact

Even after the event ends, the work isn't done. The EVT Committee gathers feedback, tracks attendance and engagement, and looks for ways to improve future events. They also send thank-you notes to speakers and share key takeaways with members who couldn't attend.

Every EVT event at the JLP is the result of this methodical process. Thanks to the EVT Committee's dedication, the League's training events aren't just well-organized—they're meaningful, relevant, and impactful.

Have an idea for an event? The EVT Committee is always looking for fresh perspectives!

The Power of Participation: How the Annual Fund Drives Our Mission

By Margaret Thornton

The Junior League of Philadelphia's (JLP) Annual Fund plays a vital role in fueling our mission each year. By helping to cover project operating costs, the Annual Fund allows us to do more — supporting both our community partners and our member programming.

In fact, everything the JLP accomplishes is backed by the Annual Fund. It strengthens our budget and ensures we can carry out meaningful, strategic work that directly aligns with our mission to train our members to improve lives in the Greater Philadelphia area.

For those who lead the effort, working on the Annual Fund is especially worthwhile. Meaningful philanthropy is a hallmark of the

JLP, and being able to encourage members to give — at any level — reflects the collective confidence in our mission. Whether it's a small or large contribution, every gift makes a difference.

If you're considering a donation this year, why not start with a gift that works for you? Even a contribution of \$35 or more comes with the added benefit of earning a Ways & Means credit.

This year, our goal is to increase member participation. By joining



your fellow members in giving, you'll not only strengthen our community impact this year but also help us continue to do so for many years to come.

Spotlighting The JLP's Entrepreneurship and Small Business Affinity Group

By Grace Schmidt

Background on ESBAG and Its Creation

The Entrepreneurship and Small Business Affinity Group (ESBAG) aims to support entrepreneurs and small business owners in The Junior League of Philadelphia, Inc. (JLP) by creating a community where members can share information and resources and find support from other people tackling similar business challenges.

JLP members Jane Nevins, Kimberly Jackson, and Emily Brown founded the ESBAG during the 2024-2025 League year. Jane Nevins, a marketing consultant who started a small business in the summer of 2024, felt isolated because most of her friends and larger network worked for big companies. One night, Nevins met with fellow League member Kimberly Jackson, a therapist, and they discussed the realities of being self-employed and running

small businesses. Following that conversation, Nevins and Jackson reached out to Emily Brown, who runs a digital agency for small businesses, to discuss launching an affinity group within the League to connect members with similar experiences.

ESBAG Meetings

ESBAG holds monthly coffee meetings, which are held on the 4th Thursday of the month at 9:00 a.m. at Wissahickon Brewing in East Falls. According to Nevins, "some folks are just thinking about a business, others have a side-hustle, and some are inheriting family businesses, so there are business owners at a range of stages." The meetings begin with introductions, and transitions into members sharing a challenge they are experiencing. This open format allows members to receive feedback and ideas from the other attendees. In addition, ESBAG has

an online repository of information and resources on Google Drive where members have shared training, government resources for small business owners, information on social media tools, and more.

ESBAG members also co-work at the JLP Headquarters in Ardmore occasionally and eat lunch together. Nevins states, "Folks who are working from home, job searching, students, or just want dedicated time to focus on a project would get value from joining, too!"

JLP Members' Favorite Aspects of ESBAG and the Group's Impact on Their Small Businesses and Careers

As a new entrepreneur in her first year of business, ESBAG has been essential to Nevins's success and provided a source of professional support and

mentoring. Through ESBAG, Nevins learned crucial information for business, such as information about city taxes for businesses, business bank accounts, and found a website developer (Small Business Startup Solutions). Nevins also notes how exciting it has been to bear witness to each member's journey and celebrate their successes. Over the past several months with her time in ESBAG she has seen other members quit their day jobs, change their pricing models, publish books, start companies, and launch blogs.

Brown enjoys the group's monthly meetings and "tackling the hardest challenges of our businesses together." Brown notes she always leaves feeling motivated and appreciates the group's assistance navigating her decisions for her business. Brown also enjoys being able to support other women-owned businesses.

Jackson's favorite aspect of ESBAG "has been connecting with other women in business and having open conversations

about both our challenges and successes." Jackson notes, "being an entrepreneur can sometimes feel isolating, but this group has been a great morale booster. It has not only provided me with valuable resources and strategies but also given me the support and encouragement I need. I look forward to our meetings each month."

How ESBAG Has Enhanced JLP Members' League Experiences

ESBAG has made Nevins's membership in the League "feel more meaningful and rewarding" introducing her to new members, actives, and sustainers she would not have otherwise connected with. Nevins adds, "We've created a real community where I think people feel like they can be vulnerable and authentic. Entrepreneurship can be lonely and it's easy for self-doubt to creep in. So, I feel very grateful to be part of this community within the Junior League."

Brown feels similarly, expressing that ESBAG enhanced her JLP experience by introducing her to incredible women she had never met before, even though she has been a League member for ten years. Brown states, "As a solo entrepreneur, I don't have coworkers or a boss, but these women hold me accountable and push me to be my best for myself and the community I serve."

Jackson, a second-year Active Member, emphasized the "pivotal role" ESBAG has played in defining her JLP experience, providing her with an opportunity to build relationships with others, developing a sense of belonging, and feeling more integrated into the community.

Starting a JLP Affinity Group

Nevins recommends starting (or joining) an affinity group to enhance the JLP experience. Nevins's advice "is to find at least two other people and just put it out there on [JLP's] Facebook [page] and invite folks to join!"

My Personal Tips, Tricks, and Lessons Learned for Completing Thrift Shop Quota

By Corienne Myslinski

I joined The Junior League of Philadelphia, Inc. (JLP) in 2021, and since then, I've been working to streamline my quota process. Since I live about 45 minutes from Headquarters, I always try to make the most of my trips. For example, last August, The JLP Works Committee had brunch in Ardmore. I went to brunch, had my quota in my car, and completed my Thrift Shop shift—all in the same day.

I enjoy completing quota and my Thrift Shop shift in the summer before the League year really gets into full swing. For me, this makes it easier to focus on committee work later in the year. However, if you prefer to wait until later in the League year to do your quota (March/April), you can opt to have your excess quota applied to next year's requirement.

I wanted to share my process in case it helps someone else make the quota process more enjoyable—or at the very least, as quick as possible. So, let's get started!

1. Gather and Document Items at Home

At home, I go through my items and create a handwritten copy of the Thrift Shop Quota Sheet before heading to the Shop.

JLP Members can access this form in Digital Cheetah by following these steps:

- Log into Digital Cheetah from the JLP homepage.
- Hover over "Calendars & Sign-Ups" until a drop-down menu appears.
- Click on "JLP Quota Sign-Up."
- Click on "JLP Quota Sheet" in the left-hand menu.

In short, you'll need to write down the number of items you're bringing along with a general

Upcoming Events

Please check the calendar on Digital Cheetah for additional details and a full list of events.

DIAD & F2F SHARE:

Packing Day-

Saturday, Dec. 6

Cookie Exchange-

Sunday, Dec. 7

Philadelphia Christmas Market-

Saturday, Dec. 13

January GMM-

Sunday, Jan. 11

Know Your Rights: Understanding the Collective Rights of Immigrants and Citizens-

Thursday, Jan. 15

Galentine's Social Gathering-

Friday, Feb. 13

LEAGUE SNAPSHOTS

description of the items (e.g., tops, pants, dresses, etc.) and the number of items you're bringing from each category. Bonus points for getting more descriptive!

My entries typically look like this:

Tops (4)

2 Madewell sweaters

2 Athleta racerback tops

Bottoms (3)

1 Gap skirt

2 Lululemon running shorts

Other things I do at this stage:

- Write down the number and type of hangers I need (e.g., four skirt/pant hangers and 11 regular hangers);
- Use this time to decide if I really want to keep or donate an item;
- Check for holes, rips, or stains before donating;
- Look through pockets or book pages to make sure I haven't left anything inside.

2. Separate Items Before Leaving Home

Before heading to the Thrift Shop, I separate out what needs to go on a hanger and what can go into a basket. This makes everything more efficient once I arrive.

3. Make Sure I Have Quarters for the Parking Meters

I always remind myself to bring quarters for the parking meters at the Thrift Shop lot. (This has saved me from parking stress more than once!)

4. Double-Check My Headquarters Door Code

I try to remind myself of my Headquarters code before I leave. If I forget, here's how to find it in Digital Cheetah:

- Log into Digital Cheetah from the JLP homepage.
- Hover over "My Membership" until a drop-down menu appears.
- Click on "My Profile."
- Find your AJLI Member ID—the last four digits are your Headquarters door code.



5. Unload and Organize in the Basement

Once inside, I find a clothing rack for my items and, if necessary, make additional trips to my car. Once I'm in the basement of the Thrift Shop, I staple my handwritten list to the carbon copy form and take a picture of my list for personal documentation.

Note: I don't use quota donations for tax purposes, so I only take a photo to ensure I receive credit for my JLP quota obligation.

6. Get Hangers and Hang Clothes

I collect the right number of hangers before hanging my clothes.

7. Collect and Prepare Tags

At this point, I:

- Grab the correct number of tags.
- Rip them apart along the perforation (all at once if possible).
- Write the size and clothing type on each tag in the order that I hung the items.

This keeps things efficient and makes it easier to stay organized.

8. Tag Items

Using the tagging gun, I attach price tags to clothing.

- I try to use clothing labels when possible, to avoid damaging the fabric.
- If there isn't a clothing tag, I find a discreet but secure place to attach it.

9. Optional: Check the Angel Donation Pile

If I want to tag extra items or make sure I've met my quota, I look through the Angel Donation Pile.

Tip: If you have extra items, you can put them in the Angel Donation Pile for another Member to use toward their quota!

10. Success! Time to Browse or Complete My Shift

Once I'm done, I:

- Take a few minutes to look around the Shop (I almost always find something good!).
- Complete my Thrift Shop shift (if I scheduled one).
- Check the meter to avoid a ticket.

I hope this has been helpful in streamlining your quota process! I'd love to hear how other Members complete their quota—what are your tips and tricks?

Letter from the Sustainer Chair:



Welcome to the 2025-2026 Junior League of Philadelphia calendar year! It's another year of opportunity for us to make an impact in our community and with our members.

Have you ever wondered about the legacy that brought YOU to the Junior League? The six degrees of separation between you and a member you thought you didn't know—but later discovered you were somehow connected to? And how about the legacy of members you've brought to the League? It's one of our most important "jobs." We are the link that brings in a new member, the stronger the link, the stronger the chain. I hope you'll keep your friends and associates in mind this summer as we continue our recruiting efforts!

I came to the JLP through several friends and associates and have been the beneficiary of years of opportunities to learn, network, and lead. I'm a past president of the JLP and a returning Sustainer Chair. I said yes to this year's commitment because the women of the Sustainer Leadership Council make my job easy; their years of experience make planning and execution part of their daily work.

Sustainers have already been busy planning fall events, including our Sustainer Fall Meeting on October 9, featuring Penn Professor of Cardiology Helene Glassberg, MD. On October 8, we'll also visit the Philadelphia historic landmark, the Masonic Temple. Sustainers have many more things in motion for the 2025-2026 year. We'll be partnering with the Actives, working on strategic planning, supporting our Thrift Shop, and enjoying events like trips to NYC for a show, neighborhood teas, and many others. We hope you take some time to join us!

Kindest regards,
Margie

The JLP Sustainer Day Trip – April 10, 2025

By Annamarie Hellebusch



The Sustainers visited the John Wind Studio and Dina Wind Art Foundation in South Philadelphia on April 10. The studio and foundation are housed in a recently renovated historic firehouse stable. It is truly a hidden gem in the city of Philadelphia. Annamarie Hellebusch and Debbie Vozzo co-chaired the event.

John Wind is a mixed media artist and jewelry designer. He

has works in the permanent collections of the Victoria and Albert Museum in London, the Museum of Decorative Arts in Paris, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, and the Museum of the American Revolution, which is also in Philadelphia.

His mother, Dina Wind, was a trailblazing artist and arts advocate who created bold, abstract welded sculptures.

During the tour, the Sustainers were able to see both John's and Dina's art. John graciously donated 25% of jewelry sales from the visit to the Junior League of Philadelphia. After the tour, the Sustainers enjoyed a delicious lunch at Miles Table located in the BOK Building.

"Join Savoy, Meet a Boy": A Theatrical Tradition with JLP Roots

By Natalie Kay

Did you know that one of Philadelphia's oldest and most beloved theatre traditions has deep ties to The Junior League of Philadelphia, Inc. (JLP)?

Since the 1950s, many of the JLP members have taken their talents beyond community service and into the spotlight—joining The Savoy Company, the nation's oldest amateur theater company dedicated to performing the comic operas of Gilbert and Sullivan. For decades, it wasn't uncommon to see Active Members performing on stage or working behind the scenes, with several finding more than just artistic expression—many met their future spouses there, giving rise to the playful phrase coined by League Members: "Join Savoy, meet a boy!"

Fast forward to today, and the legacy continues.

This past year's production of *The Mikado* featured five outstanding JLP Members:

- Shelly McMackin – Past Active President, Sustainer



- Bertina Whytehead – Sustainer
- Elizabeth "Betsy" Nelsen – Active Member
- Misty Palmer – Active Member
- Carolyn Hoehle – Active Member and New Member Advisor, who will also take on a lead role in the production

The *Mikado* performances were held at both the Suzanne Robers Theatre, and Longwood Gardens, and their involvement is a beautiful reminder of the ways League Members continue to enrich the cultural fabric of Philadelphia—not just through service, but also through the arts.



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Milestones & Celebrations



Congratulations to Sarah Hoang (co-chair, Brand & Marketing) and her husband! The pair just purchased a brand-new home in Plymouth Meeting and are excited to embark on their home ownership journey.

A celebration is in order for Jesy Brackett, who welcomed Rex Michael Jones into the world on August, 13, 2025 at 10:31am

Congratulations to Beth Hysick, who welcomed a baby girl Chelsey Eileen Hysick, in June 2025.



Please celebrate Catherine Huang (Brand & Marketing)! She and her husband were recently married in New Hope, PA after 6 years of being together.

Congratulations to Alexis Piazza (New Member)! Alexis created and organized the inaugural Sisterhood Summit, a first-of-its-kind event that united more than 13 professional and civic organizations serving women across the Philadelphia region. Hosted at City Winery, the event welcomed over 140 attendees and featured support from six sponsors. Following its success, there's already interest in making the Sisterhood Summit an annual event, and Alexis hopes to involve the Junior League of Philadelphia as it continues to grow.



Jacqui Rothera (Headquarters) has an exciting new job as a Community and Student Services Supervisor in the Tredyffrin/Easttown School District! She is also starting her 26th year serving in this district. She was previously a teacher and coach at Conestoga High School and an assistant principal at Tredyffrin/Easttown and Valley Forge Middle Schools.

Celebrating a milestone?

New Job • Birth of a Baby • Wedding Celebration
Anniversary • Awards

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

jlpworks@jlpphiladelphia.com