



JUNIOR LEAGUE OF WILMINGTON, DE

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The Lantern





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The Junior League of Wilmington, DE (JLW) would like to thank all of our sponsors, donors, partners, and supporters. With your help, the JLW is able to continue our Mission to advance women's leadership for meaningful community impact through volunteer action, collaboration, and training.

Thank you!

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& Share!**



Junior League of Wilmington



@jlwilmingtonde



Junior League of Wilmington, DE

Letter from the Outgoing President



Dear Members, Donors, and Community Partners,

Since its inception in 1918, the Junior League of Wilmington, DE, has not only strived to create change in the Wilmington community but be a catalyst for women volunteers to become leaders and reach their full potential. The 2023-2024 League has been a pivotal year filled with transformation as we reflected on our past accomplishments, our current setbacks, and the future of our League as it stands today.

This year, the JLW Board of Directors and myself set out to bring more structure back to our League via the newly adopted Member Credit system, reach our Annual Fund goal of \$10,600, bring back our Whale of a Sale fundraiser in its full capacity, all while staying committed to our diversity, equity, inclusion and

belonging efforts. The Member Credit system showed us that we can have flexible accountability allowing Members to choose their own League experience while helping to push our Mission forward. We exceeded our Annual Fund as we reached over \$15,000 for the year. Bringing back Whale in its full capacity brought in \$21,000 to our League. We worked hard to ensure that our Members felt that the League is an inclusive environment as we held 2 DEIB events and asked committees to think about how to implement diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging in their JLW work.

The past 18-months as JLW President has been one filled with excitement, successes, near misses/could've done it better and pure joy as I watched our Membership grow and evolve like never before. I thank each and every one of you for your dedication and commitment to the League. You all truly helped me succeed in my presidency and I would not have wanted this experience to be any different. I look forward to watching our League continue to flourish in an ever-changing landscape that we call our new "normal".

Throughout our 105 years of history, the League has continued to be a powerhouse of women striving to make a difference - in the smallest and biggest ways. Like I said last year, together - we can truly do more - and this year was a testament to that. I hope that you continue to share your talents with our League and help make lasting, impactful change in the Wilmington community and the state of Delaware.

All my love,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Taylor Drainer".

Taylor Drainer
President

January 2023 - June 2024

Building Bonds and Celebrating Connections



Our year began with what have become League traditions: our July Iced Tea at Sustainer, Stephanie Cory Gorris' home and the August BBQ at the League House with catering from The Well. Members connected and enjoyed each other's company at the Wilmington Blue Rocks game, Torbert Street Social, and the JLW Book Club in late summer and fall. In December, our Sustainer Committee hosted their Annual Holiday Party at the Greenville Country Club, and our Actives shared many laughs at our holiday potluck and gift exchange, two fun events to end the year. In February, we gathered at the Delaware Art Museum to celebrate Galentine's Day in the Kaffeina Cafe, and, in March, our Sustainers graciously hosted us for coffee at their homes. These Sustainer-hosted Coffees have become valuable to our League as we can build relationships with our Sustainers and partake in small group discussions. Thank you to Amy Hughes and Mary Crowley for opening up their homes and to Mary Paige Bailey for hosting the virtual Coffee. We ended the year with more traditions: our Annual Red Party in March and our Annual Dinner at the Copeland Maritime Center in May.

Thank you to all of our Members who joined us for our various social events this year. Whether you were able to make it one event or many, your attendance is appreciated and essential; it enables our Members to continue making valuable connections and friendships with their fellow League Members.



Message from the JWS Sustainers

We have had another fun year of connecting and getting together! One of our favorite activities is “Sustainers Dining Out”. With excellent attendance, there has been no shortage of lively conversation, laughter, and fine food as we explore a variety of local restaurants for lunch and dinner. We have enjoyed delicious lunches and dinners at: Vita Nova Fine Dining (University of Delaware), Harry’s Savoy Grill, Feby’s, Backburner, and Antica Italian Restaurant. The servers provide top-notch service and enjoy our company as well.

November brought sixteen Sustainers to The Mercury Café and Teahouse, New Castle, DE, for *Lunch and Tea 101*. Following a delicious vegetarian lunch (after all this time, we still can’t believe those devilled eggs did not contain eggs), co-owner Aaron Verderman, world traveler studying tea, presented Tea 101. In March, twenty Sustainers and friends enjoyed afternoon tea at Centreville Place. We did not leave hungry.

Pictured is a group of Sustainers having fun at the Plumpton Zoo in Rising Sun, MD, in April. Those who attended enjoyed seeing and learning about over 200 exotic animals. In May, sixteen Sustainers enjoyed fine dining at Vita Nova, University of Delaware. The exquisite four-course meal included lively conversation and laughter. This same month, Sustainers and friends visited the Barnes Foundation in Philadelphia. The day included roundtrip transportation and a private tour. Our lovely driver, Charles, went above and beyond to ensure we had a safe and wonderful day. Our docent, Barbara, led a one-hour tour that gave new meaning to the word ensemble. A delicious lunch in The Garden was a perfect ending to our rain-free day.

Along with our Sustainer events, we joined Actives and New Members in several different ways. We participated in Community Impact events, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging events and Fundraising events. One of the highlights for us was joining Actives and New Members in a DEIB event where we visited the Ann Lowe American Couturier exhibit at the Winterthur Museum, Garden and Library in December for a DEIB event. We helped make period packs, volunteered with DIAD events, gardened at Headquarters and helped bring back Whale of a Sale. Participating in these events helps us stay in contact with the Active Membership.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Jill Confer, Jessica Grabowski, Kinsey Lenahan, Emily Mathisen, Megan Pettyjohn & Erin Williams who achieved Sustainer status this League Year

CONGRATULATIONS!

Mary Ball Morton, Barbara Holmes and Judith Lau who achieved Sustainer Emeritus status this League Year



IN MEMORIAM

We are deeply saddened to report the recent passing of nine Sustainers: Anne (Nancy) Berl, Signy Carson, Margaret (Peggy) Hughes, Ruth Joslin, Matilda Maassen, Barbara Mitchell, Barbara Scanlan, Katherine Sherman, Sarah Wolf



2023-2024 Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Belonging Working Group

The Junior League of Wilmington, DE is committed to fostering a more diverse, equitable and inclusive environment for all Members. Though the League has made great strides in our DEI journey - there's still more work to be done!

This year's Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB) Working Group worked hard to put on programming and events such as the Gallery walk of the "Ann Lowe: American Couturier" Exhibition at Winterthur and the League-wide training at the January General Membership Meeting.



The DEIB Working Group will continue its work of championing diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging within the League. The Group is hoping to take a more active role in working with committees to provide guidance on how to implement DEIB into their work, ongoing programs for all Members and more DEIB focused events.

A huge thank you to our DEIB Working Group Members!



The DEIB Working Group is looking for more Members!

The DEIB Working Group is looking for more Members! If you are interested in helping the League continue its Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging journey, please email Taylor Drainer, DEIB Chair at taylordenisedav@gmail.com

Fall 2023 & Spring 2024 New Members

The League welcomed two amazing groups of New Members to our ranks this League Year. Each Member brings unique skills and talents that will be great additions to the JLW. We are so excited to have you as part of the League and can't wait to see what we can accomplish together!

Welcome to the League!

Fall 2023 New Member Class

Karen Baird	Johnita "Nita" Davis	Renee Leverette
Laura Banks	Sarah Fruehauf	Kathy Patier
Jen Burke	Lisa Hariegel	Cindy Perilli
Kerigan Butt	Anna Jansen	Marna Schmidt
Christie Chapman	Jen Kelly	Monica Shockley-Porter
Chris Daniels	Stephanie Larson	Jill Szymanski

Spring 2024 New Member Class

Tiffany Allman	Kay Fitzgerald	Pam Moore
Lauren Colby	Michelle Mack-Williams	Shannon Walden
	Danielle Midgyett	

**HELP RECRUIT THE NEXT
PROVISIONAL CLASS!**



VOLUNTEER | LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT | MAKE A DIFFERENCE
www.jlwilmington.org/join

Community Impact

149,442

Period Supplies Distributed
This League Year



5,679

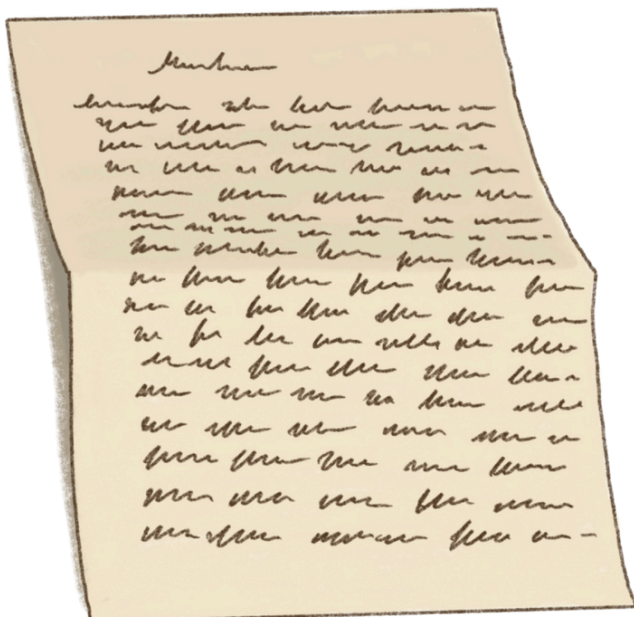
Number of People Helped
This League Year



Public Policy and Advocacy

Members are coordinating a Virtual Letter Writing for the Menstrual Equity for All Act and the Period PROUD Act via APS website.

The PP&A Committee drafted a letter and flyer of stats and resources for all High Schools in NCC informing them of the importance of period supplies for their bathrooms and how to obtain them.



More to come...

PP&A Committee is developing plans to influence period equity legislation in future League years

Done In A Day Events

JLW has been hard at work in the community:

- 8 events producing 91 volunteer hours
- Ladybug Music Festival
- 2 events at Sunday Breakfast Mission building food boxes for a total of 160
- We held 3 Period Product collection drives at ShopRite where we collected a total of 3,384 products. Those products will help 131 people.
- Participated in community clean up event for MLK Day of Service with West Side Grows
- Volunteered at a Delaware Down Syndrome Association Holiday Dance

Events to create period packs took place throughout the year.



Members attended the Ladybug Music Festival and shared the Stand Up. Period. Initiative.



In May 2024, Members provided training to BlackRock employees.

Members attended the NCCCC Women's Leadership Conference as a vendor to share and to recruit.





2024-2025 State of Leadership

Board of Directors

President - Tiffany Shrenk

President-Elect - Merrie Goodlander

Treasurer - Christine Lowery

Asst. Treasurer - Susan Cicala

Secretary - Kelly Slabicki

VP Communications - Heidi Williams

VP Community Programs - Megan Pettyjohn

VP Membership - Merrie Goodlander

VP Ways & Means - Anita Grant

Sustainer Director - Susan Coulby

Chairs

Member Engagement Co-Chairs - Ciara Seal & Kelsey Thompson

Member Engagement Members - Anna Jansen, Amanda Hapgood, Colleen Heyel & Cindy Perilli

New Member Chair - Open

Nominating Chair - Melissa Marlin

Nominating Members - Colleen Maull & Heather Rafail

DEIB Chair - Taylor Drainer

Community Impact Co-Chairs - Annelise Chayka & Aravinda Ayyagari

Training & Education Chair - Stephanie Cory Gorris

Annual Fund & Grants - Open

Kitchen Tour - Tiffany Shrenk, Tara Wheeler & Angela Gustavsen

Congrats



2024-2025 Emily Dickinson Awards

Amanda Hapgood - Member Engagement Committee

Adwoa Okyere - Communications Committee

Sarah Fruehauf - Community Impact Committee

Jen Burke - Annual Funds & Grants Committee

Stephanie Larson - Annual Funds & Grants Committee

Lauren Gibson - Recruiting Committee

Janice Viamonte - Community Impact Committee

The Emily Dickinson Outstanding Volunteer Service Award was established in 2005 to honor JLW Members whose service to the League and their fellow Members has gone above and beyond their normal placement responsibilities.

Year in Review: Reflecting on the Impactful Fundraisers of the League Year

After a successful year of mini fundraisers last League year, we decided to continue them for this year! We kicked off our mini fundraiser series with our Guest Bartending fundraiser event at The Quoin Hotel's Rooftop Bar in August. League Members stepped behind the bar to man the taps for friends, family and the community. We were able to raise \$1,860, making it our most successful mini fundraiser of the year!



In December, New Members, Actives, Sustainers and their friends gathered at Kendra Scott Jewelry's brand new store in the Christiana Mall to shop and raise money for our League. A portion of all sales went to JLW, and we were able to raise \$923!

We kicked off the new calendar year by hopping on over to Huxley & Hiro Bookstore in January. Members purchased books with 20% of the proceeds going to JLW and a donation bar for hot cider, soda and wine drinks was setup. Huxley & Hiro is proud to support our Stand Up. Period. mission by providing our free period products in their restroom. We raised \$378!



Entering the month of love, we had a paint night at the Mill in February. Member tapped into their creativity by painting a rendition of our league house! We raised \$112!

For our last fundraiser, we hosted a shopping event at at Heart and Home boutique in the Pike Creek Shopping Center. Sustainer, Actives and even little ones enjoyed a great shopping event. What was special to our League is that one of the owners, Catherine "Cat" Wilkins, is a Sustainer! We raised \$442!



**We thank our Fund Development Committee for planning these wonderful, creative fundraisers!
In total, we raised \$3715 from all of these fundraisers!**

VP Ways and Means: Anita Grant



Whale of a Sale 2023

The welcome return of our classic event!



After many years of uncertainty during the global pandemic, Delaware's Largest Garage Sale, Whale of a Sale, returned with a bang on November 4, 2023. This event serves as one of the Junior League of Wilmington's biggest fundraisers, and the 38th iteration of the event was a tremendous success. More than 75 League Members and Sustainers volunteered over 600 hours of their time to ensure the sale went smoothly. By the end of the five-hour sale, and the preview party sales held earlier in the week, over \$20,700 had been raised in support of the League!



For the first time, the sale was hosted at the Concord mall, utilizing two empty storefronts rather than the warehouse spaces that have been used in the past. Since the two stores were not connected, the Whale committee had to get creative with how to manage this minor challenge. Items were sorted into various categories, and shoppers were guided to the appropriate storefronts, as necessary. Hundreds of members of the community turned out for the event, with one individual camping out in front of the mall overnight to be the first person in the door!



Special thanks go out to: Lynn Danner for helping to organize the set-up shift calendar, organizing items at the sale location, and pricing and re-pricing the merchandise; Kelsey Thompson & Lorraine Avery for their time spent setting up the Preview Party with committee co-chair, Tiffany Shrenk, and designing the JLW-themed photo back drop for the Preview Party; all of the Sustainers who volunteered their time for both set-up and sale-day shifts in to support the sale; and Angela Gustavsen, Diane Lawson, Laura Fontana, Jill Jablonski, Jennifer McKelvey, and MaryPage Bailey, all prior Whale chairs who offered their wisdom and insight in helping this year's Whale Chairs develop their plan for the event.

Whale Committee

Anita Grant, VP Ways & Means
 Taylor Drainer, Co-Chair
 Tiffany Shrenk, Co-Chair
 Amelia Carte
 Annelise Chayka

Susan Cicala
 Colleen Clancy Maull
 Jill Confer
 Lynn Danner
 Emily Hockenberger

Caitlyn Martin
 Lindsey Mason
 Kelsey Thompson
 Eleeseia Wells



Benefactors Circle

Donations of \$1,000+

Bank of America (matching gift through Amanda Hapgood)
Christiana Care
State of Delaware
The Quoin Hotel & Restaurant
Trolley Square Market
Wilmington Flower Market
WSFS Bank

Patrons

Donations of \$500 - \$999

Clifton Liquors
Meg Erskine
Alison Frost
Amanda Hapgood
Jeanie Hayes
Kendra Scott LLC

Mohan Pandit in honor of Sonali Pandit

Fellows

Donations of \$250 - \$499

Adaugo Botchway
Sylvia Coslow
Sarah D'Alonzo
Ashley Harris
Heart & Home
Huxley and Hiro

Partners

Donations of \$100 - \$249

American Solutions for Business
Mary Page Bailey
Carol Beck
Debbie Behling
Charlene Bertheaud
Pamela Bonsib
Booths Corner Shoes
Sandra Borrer
Lynn Bouscaren
Allison Brokaw
Jessica Chapple
Annelise Chayka
Johanna Chehi
Joan Connolly
Pam Cornforth
Susan Coulby
Kate Cowperthwait
Mary Anne Crowley
Vernita Dorsey
Patricia Forbes

Sarah Fruehauf
Margaret Fuller
Joan Gehrke
GlaxoSmithKline (matching gift through Ciara Seal)
Maude Glore
Merrie Goodlander
Jessica Grabowski
Grain Trolley Square
Anita Grant
Nancy Graves
Margaret Rose Henry
Susan Herrmann
Mary Hirschbiel
Emily Hockenberger
Barbara Hoy
Amy Hughes
Suzy Johnson
Elizabeth Lachowicz
Diane Lawson
Virginia Lee Leonard

Kay Marioni
Morgan Miller
Margaret Morton
Nancy Naeve
Lynn Newsom
Megan Pettyjohn
Lisa Pomraning
Jamie Rivero
Ciara Seal
Tiffany Shrenk
Denise Spence
Susan Stafford
Susan Stith
Jacqie Thompson
Kelsey Thompson
Suzanne Veasey
Gail Walukonis
Carla Westerman
Heidi Williams
Susan Woolworth

Rinku Banerji in honor of Sonali Pandit
Veronica Gallagher in honor of Sonali Pandit
Mary Hanley in memory of Karen Doherty
Susan Scofield in honor of Susan Bennett Scofield
Rohini Sharma in honor of Sonali Pandit

Melissa Marlin in honor of Taylor Drainer in celebration of her leadership as President

Thank you to all of our 2023-2024 Donors!



Members

Donations of \$50 - \$99

Mary Bowler
 Jennifer Callahan
 Jeanne Checkel
 Gaylan Crumley
 Susan Davies
 Alice Donaghy
 Cynthia Dunn
 East Coast Sweets
 Mary Lyde Esposito

Catherine Flynn
 Olivia Fokas
 Kimberly Gessner
 Mary Hickok
 Janeen Hill
 Paul Kelner
 Michael Kurth
 Maureen McCollom
 Jennifer McKelvey

Shelby Meyerhoff
 Joseph Neary
 Michael Rosen
 Peggy Sacher
 Erin Sharp
 The Sallie Mae Fund (matching gift
 through Lorraine Avery-Easterwood)
 Erin Williams

Stacy Friedland in honor of Sonali Pandit
 Brigitte Garcia in honor of Sonali Pandit
 Preeti Mehta in honor of Sonali Pandit
 Marian Simpson in honor of Barry R. Brooks

Friends

Donations of \$1 - \$49

Elizabeth Abbott
 Maddie Achackzad
 Nicole Alcivar
 Eliza Andrew
 Jaimie Arocho-Kelly
 Richard Bach
 Tana and Bill Bailey
 Ashley Becker
 Isabella Bonvicin
 Paige Brakeley
 Madison Brawley
 Jordan Briskman
 Jennifer Burke
 Kate Carter
 Ellie Cheek
 Susan Cicala
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 Alyssa Comley
 Brooke Cooney
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 Addie Daley
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 Vanessa Darreff
 Gabrielle Delahunt

Giana Dimarco
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 Julia Hull
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 Hannah Lacoboulos
 Emma LaRosa
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 Noreena Lewis
 Christine Lowery
 Traci Madison
 Julia Manson
 Lauren Marci
 Emily Mathisen
 Grace McKenna
 Vivian McLaughlin
 Nyla Millar
 Angela Miltenberger
 Laura Minor
 Theresa Mitchell

Danielle Monaco
 Adwoa Okyere
 Faith O'Neil
 Emily Ostrowski
 Samantha Palagiano
 Adrianna Palumbo
 Alisha Patel
 Lauren Peters
 Jenna Petronio
 Sidney Purnell
 Sarah Rhodunda
 Hannah Rinn
 Lucy Smith
 Samantha Sobocinski
 Louis Spinelli
 Sloka Subbasani
 Alex Swanik
 Linda Tabeling
 Nancy Tieste
 Mirabella Troncoso
 Ashley Warren
 Francie Warther
 Erika Wasserman
 W.L. Gore & Associates
 Kamila Zevallos

Terry Renee Gaines-Browne in honor of Florence Terry Gaines

Special Thanks to our Giving Tuesday and DoMore24 Donors!

Letter from the Incoming President



Junior League Members:

As Members of the Junior League of Wilmington, we are guided by our mission to “to advance women’s leadership for meaningful community impact through volunteer action, collaboration, and training.” Our mission statement defines who we are as an organization and reminds us of why we have made the commitment to be League Members and dedicate our time and energy to supporting our League.

As we move into a new League year, let’s be guided by the importance of “collaboration”. As a League Member, we have the unique opportunity to work and connect with women from a diverse set of backgrounds and professions. For the League, collaboration means not only collaboration with our Community Partners,

but also internally amongst our Members. For our current Active Members, in the upcoming year, we will look for new ways to collaborate not only within our own Committees but with other Committees as well. By working together, we will not only expand our knowledge about the League, but we will also build our relationships with each other.

When looking back on this past League year, I am reminded of the importance of collaboration between our Active Members and Sustainers. This year we met the challenge of bringing back Whale of a Sale in its full capacity for the first time since the pandemic. Our success was a product of collaboration with our Sustainers and past-Whale Chairs. We learned their “do’s and don’ts”, and they shared their wisdom and experience with us so that we could not only bring Whale back, but also introduce it to a group of Active Members who had never experienced it. We were guided by the experiences and wisdom of our Sustainers, but also made changes where necessary to adapt to our current surroundings and Membership.

This year, we will again face the challenge of bringing back a signature fundraiser that many of our Active Members have never experienced by working together with our Sustainers. As we prepare to bring back our Kitchen Tour signature fundraiser for the first time in-person since the COVID pandemic, collaboration will again lead us to success. For many of us Active Members, this will be our first experience with Kitchen Tour. We will again work with our Sustainers to learn the “ins and outs” of this JLW tradition and build on the experiences of the many League leaders who have lead Kitchen Tour successfully in the past.

I am honored to serve as your 95th President. As I look forward to starting our League’s 106th year, I am excited about the differences we can make, learning from each other and working together to advance women as civic leaders while also improving the communities where we live.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tiffany M. Shrenk". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tiffany M. Shrenk
President 2024-2025



**JUNIOR LEAGUE OF
WILMINGTON, DE**

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**EVERY JUNIOR LEAGUE STORY STARTS WITH A WOMAN, READY TO
DISRUPT CONVENTION, AND BUILD A BETTER COMMUNITY. ARE YOU THAT
WOMAN?**

The Junior League of Wilmington, Inc. is an organization of women whose mission is to advance women's leadership for meaningful community impact through volunteer action, collaboration, and training. The Junior League of Wilmington welcomes all women who value our Mission. We are committed to inclusive environments of diverse individuals, organizations, and communities.

