



JUNIOR LEAGUE 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,

As we approach the end of the 2024-25 League year, I am filled with a sense of pride when reflecting on all that we have accomplished over the past eleven months. When we began this League year, we were focused on the importance of collaboration - both internally amongst our Members and externally with our community partners. Through collaboration, we have been able to successfully meet our goals, while also strengthening the bonds with each other, the League, and our community.

This year, we were tasked with the challenge of bringing back our Kitchen Tour signature fundraiser in-person again for the first time since 2018. This year's Tour was a labor of love and dedication from our devoted Kitchen Tour Committee, which included Active Members as well as Sustainers. On Tour Day, our Kitchen Tour Committee was joined by many of our Active and Sustaining Members to provide vital Tour Day support. Thanks to the collective efforts of all our Members - and our generous sponsors - the return of Kitchen Tour was a success and raised over \$24,000 to support the League and our mission!

Other milestones reached this League year include launching a new JLW Boutique and hosting our first Bingo fundraiser. We also continued to provide our Membership with varied training opportunities that included grant writing and overcoming imposter syndrome. Our Community Impact Community continued to progress our Stand Up. Period initiative by distributing over 105,000 period products that benefited approximately 4,000 people. Through these initiatives, we advanced our mission of enhancing our Members' leadership skills while fostering stronger connections among them.

I am grateful for the experience of serving as your 95th League President. I enjoyed my time leading our League during this 106th League year and tackling the challenges we met this League year with our hardworking Board Members and Committee Chairs. I look forward to facing new challenges together next League year with you and achieving new successes together!

With gratitude,

Tiffany M. Shrenk

Tiffany M. Shrenk, Esq.

2024-25 JLW President & Kitchen Tour Co-Chair

Message from the JWS Sustainers

The Sustainers filled the year with delightful and educational events that brought out new faces at each event. Most gatherings reached capacity, and Members enjoyed reconnecting with old friends and making new ones. We shared delicious meals at Sovana Bistro, Vita Nova Fine Dining (University of Delaware), Not Your Average Joe's, and Capers & Lemons.

We ventured out to Hangry Bear Creamery, where we learned how to make ice cream and created custom recipes that made our taste buds dance. From the comfort of a private hayride, we admired the beautiful scenery at Coverdale Farm Preserve, conserved by the Delaware Nature Society. We learned some fascinating history - and pearls of wisdom - at our Lunch and Learn: "What You Never Knew About Nancy Drew." Many thanks to the Food Bank of Delaware, which generously provided the venue and catered lunch.

Based on Member feedback, we switched our holiday event from a cocktail party to a luncheon at Greenville County Club. The food was beautifully presented, and the private room offered a sunny view of the bucolic property. The event was such a success that we're planning another holiday luncheon in 2025. We also took in the holiday sights at Longwood Gardens, where twinkling lights greeted Members in this fun, free way to enjoy the gardens; thanks to Members who shared their passes. In February, we toured the wines of Italy at Total Wine in Claymont. Later, we hosted a movie at Room 1313, Wilmington's new independent film theatre. *I'm Still Here* was the featured film, and after our event, it went on to win an Oscar for Best International Film.

Spring took us to Andalusia House and Gardens, a hidden treasure outside Philadelphia and the ancestral home of the Biddle family. We also visited the Mutter Museum, with its fascinating collection of rare books, historic objects, and biological specimens. Finally, we explored Bartram's Garden in southwest Philadelphia, the oldest surviving botanical garden in North America. Throughout the year, it was important for us to join Actives and New Members in various ways, from Community Impact events to fundraisers. It was certainly a highlight year!

CONGRATULATIONS! (Actives that have turned Sustainer)

Melissa Marlin, Colleen Clancy Maull and Heather Rafail who achieved Sustainer status this League year

CONGRATULATIONS!

Debbie Behling, Patricia Bussard, Marcia Frederick, Mary Hickok, Sandra Schneider and Marsha Zilch who achieved Sustainer Emeritus status this League year



IN MEMORIAM

We will miss these Sustainers. We are grateful for their years of friendship and service: Nancy Boden, Joan Connolly, Margot Kuniholm, Julia McKay, Katherine Mell, Catherine Sanders and Suzonne Taylor.



Celebrating Community and Connection



What a year it's been for the Junior League of Wilmington! We kicked things off with beloved summer traditions: sipping sweet tea at our July Iced Tea hosted by Sustainer Stephanie Cory Gorris, and enjoying the annual August BBQ at League House catered by The Well. We spent a night under the stars at Mt. Cuba Center's "Twilight on the Terrance" and joined a midweek mingle at the Copper Dram. The JLW Book Club kept conversations lively and inspiring all year long.

In December, our Sustainer Committee hosted a lovely Ladies' Holiday Luncheon at the Greenville Country Club, while Actives gathered for a Merry Mixer at League House. February's Galentine's Day celebration was sweet in every sense, featuring cookie decorating, a chocolate fondue, and lots of love at our Wear Red Party. March featured our treasured Sustainer Coffees, graciously hosted in the homes of Sandi Schneider, Mary Crowley, and Pamela Bonsib, as well as virtually with Susan Coulby. Spring outings saw Members visit Winterthur Museum and Penns Woods Winery Mother's Day Market. We wrapped up our League year in style with our Annual Dinner at the Delaware Center for Horticulture in May.

To all our Members: thank you for making time to connect. Your presence made our events warmer, our bonds stronger, and our League better. Here's to another year of friendship, fun, and impact!

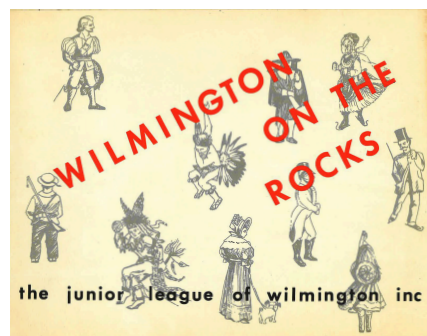


Donation from the Estate of Ruth A. Joslin

In the summer of 2024, the Junior League of Wilmington received a generous donation of two oil paintings from the Estate of a former JLW Member, Ruth A. Joslin. The oil paintings were created by the Bayard T. Berndt, a Wilmington native known for painting historical Delaware landscapes. One of the oil paintings donated depicts George Washington on horseback looking onto the Market Street Bridge. The second painting is an aerial view of the Brandywine Valley area in the 1800s with the building that is now the League House included in the background.



In addition to the paintings, the Estate also donated Ruth's archive of photos and documents commemorating her time as a Member of the Junior League of Wilmington. The collection showcases Ruth's Junior League years throughout the 1960s and 1970s. Included are photographs of Ruth and her fellow Junior League Members who served on the "Flower Market Board of Managers" in the 1970s. They also highlight Ruth's time serving as a Co-Chairman for the 1965 Musical Revue. In addition to photographs, Ruth's collection includes the programs from the Flower Market Fashion Show and the musical she helped organize on behalf of the League. We are grateful to Ruth's Estate for sharing these archives with us!



Fall 2024 & Spring 2025 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 2024 New Member Class

Annemarie Alden
Robyn Candy

Megan Henry
Nikki Kershner
Kim Morton

Ashley Ridler
Shannon Walden



Spring 2025 New Member Class

Tara Brady
Makaila Davis
Lisa Downs

Grace Jennings
Claudine Jensen
Sarah Long

Hanna McCarthy
Caroline Mooney
Susan Salter



Community Impact

84,397

Period Supplies Distributed
This League Year

3,678

Number of People Helped
This League Year

Public Policy and Advocacy

The PP&A Committee drafted a letter to local food banks and pantries to educate them on the importance of having equitable access and asked them to add period supplies to their list of donation items needed. The Food Bank of Delaware agreed to include period supplies and start an Amazon wishlist!

The PP&A Committee also organized the Period Poverty Awareness Week Panel event to educate the community about period poverty and the effects it can have on one's mental, physical, and financial well-being.



Committee Highlights

During the League year, the CI committee joined forces with Days for Girls, another organization in Delaware working to help menstruators around the world get the supplies they need to stay healthy and feel confident. The group needs monthly volunteers, and JLW Members are welcome to aid them at any time. CI is looking forward to participating in another Days for Girls event in February 2026!

CI Co-Chairs Megan & Aravinda would like to spotlight the following Committee Members for going above and beyond this League year:

Sarah, for finding an event at which JLW could speak about Stand Up. Period., volunteering to create and present a slide deck with little oversight, and coordinating a collection drive at the event.

Lauren, for attending every event, volunteering to learn the electronic inventory system, and cleaning out over 100 toothpaste kits to be donated to a local school.

Monica, for volunteering to pick up donations and help with multiple events, and for giving great referrals for the Period Poverty Awareness Week event.

Done In A Day Events

JLW has been hard at work in the community:

League Members participated in 9 Done-In-A-Day Events:

- 2 period packing events where League Members were able to connect while giving back to the community through the creation of over 400 period packs for distribution
- 4 distribution events where the League distributed more than 200 packs into the community
- 3 other volunteer events in the community including a day of packing food boxes at the Sunday Breakfast Mission, assisting at the Kingswood Community Center's Coat & Toy Giveaway, and packing reusable period kits to be shipped to Africa with the Days for Girls organization



Kingswood
Community
Center Coat &
Toy Giveaway



Period Packing Days at the League House

Our Period Packing events were the most popular and well-attended events of the League year. During the events, JLW Members worked side-by-side, sharing stories and laughter, and creating a strong sense of teamwork & satisfaction, while giving back to the community.





2025 - 2026 State of Leadership

Board of Directors

President - Merrie Goodlander
 President-Elect - Ciara Seal
 Treasurer - Susan Cicala
 Asst. Treasurer - Kelly Slabicki
 Secretary - Annemarie Alden
 VP Communications - Renee Leverette
 VP Membership - Aravinda Ayyagari
 VP Ways & Means - Rachael Michels
 Sustainer Director - Susan Coulby

Chairs

Member Engagement Co-Chairs -
 Cindy Perilli & Kelsey Thompson
 Member Engagement Members -
 Anita Grant & Heidi Williams
 New Member Chair - Kay Fitzgerald
 Nominating Members -
 Colleen Heyel, Tiffany Shrenk, & Coleen Maull
 Community Impact Chair - Lauren Coulby
 Training & Education Chair - Lindsay Neary
 Annual Fund & Grants - Megan Henry
 Whale of a Sale Co-Chairs -
 Lynn Danner & Tiffany Shrenk

Congrats



2024-2025 Emily Dickinson Awards

Lindsey Neary - Ways & Means Committee
 Rachael Michels - Communications Committee
 Cindy Perilli - Community Impact Committee
 Kim Morton - New Member Fall Class
 Lauren Coulby - Community Impact Committee
 Sarah Fruehauf - Community Impact Committee
 Monica Shockley-Porter - Community Impact Committee
 Rachael Michels - Communications 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 Fun Fundraisers of the League Year



Bougie BINGO



In January, the League hosted it's first ever Bougie Bingo at the Raymour & Flanigan on Route 202. The nearly sold-out event raised **\$2,492**.

In the fall, we hosted a Kendra Scott fundraiser, where 20% of that evenings sales went to the League. The staff took such great care of us and supplied sips and sweets while helping us pick out the perfect pieces for our purchases. This fun evening raised **\$371.53**.



We thank our Ways and Means Committee for planning these wonderful fundraisers!

In total, we raised just over \$2,863.

VP Ways and Means: Anita Grant

The Junior League of Wilmington

KITCHEN TOUR

Our First In-Person Tour Since 2018



This year we were proud to once again host our Kitchen Tour signature fundraiser! For the past twenty years, this fundraiser has showcased some of the most beautifully designed kitchens in Wilmington, Greater Wilmington, and Southern Chester County while also allowing attendees to sample some of the region's tastiest cuisine. The team secured **13 houses**, **7 corporate sponsorships**, and **16 demonstrations**, including 2 custom candle shops. We welcomed **425 guests** and raised **\$24,475** in total.



Many thanks to our wonderful Sustainers who assisted with this years tour: MaryPage Bailey, Stephanie Cory Gorris, Conci Rosa, Jeanie Hayes, Mary Kay Haden, Mary Warburton, Mary Crowley, Emily Mathisen, Lynn Bouscaren, Rebecca Farabaugh, Laura Fontana, Erin Williams, Lindsay Lancaster, Kate Cowperthwait, Cheryl Heiks, Sandra Borrer, Pam Cornforth, and Natalie Kozlowski. Additionally, thank you to Non-Committee Members who stepped up on tour day: Ciara Seal, Megan Pettyjohn, Mary Page Bailey, and Anita Grant.

Kitchen Tour Committee

Tiffany Shrenk, Co-Chair
Angela Gustavsen, Co-Chair
Tara Wheeler, Co-Chair
Jennifer Burke

Robyn Candy
Lynn Danner
Jillian Hoffman
Stephanie Larson

Lindsey Mason
Pamela Moore
Katherine Patier
Ashley Ridler



Annual Fund Donors

Benefactors Circle

Donations of \$1,000+

Laffey McHugh Foundation
State of Delaware

Patrons

Donations of \$500 - \$999

Meg Erskine
Alison Frost
Joan Gehrke
Ashley Harris
Jeanie Hayes
Raymour & Flanigan

Fellows

Donations of \$250 - \$499

Sylvia Coslow
Amanda Hapgood
Dinah Kirby
Lisa Pomraning
Goldey-Beacom College

Partners

Donations of \$100 - \$249

Tara Agne
Annemarie Alden
Carol Beck
Charlene Bertheaud
Pamela Bonsib
Sandra Borrer
Adaugo Botchway
Lynn Bouscaren
Mary Bowler
Allison Brokaw
Jen Burke
Robyn Candy
Jess Chapple
Susan Cicala
Karen Ciotti
Pam Cornforth
Kate Cowperthwait
Mary Crowley

Sarah D'Alonzo
Patricia Deverell
Alice Donaghy
Mary Lyde Esposito
Kay Fitzgerald
Patricia Forbes
Lynn Fuller
Merrie Goodlander
Anita Grant
Angela Gustavsen
Amanda Heberton
Megan Henry
Margaret Henry
Susan Herrmann
Mary Hickok
Mary Hirschbiel
Amy Hughes

Suzy Johnson
Jamie Johnstone
Virginia Lee Leonard
Rachael Michels
Morgan Miller
Margaret Morton
Nancy Naeve
Lindsey Neary
Megan Pettyjohn
Peggy Sacher
Susan Scofield
Ciara Seal
Tiffany Shrenk
Susan Stith
Kelsey Thompson
Jacqie Thompson
Suzanne Veasey
Carla Westerman

Mary Haney in memory of Joan Connolly

Thank you to all of our 2024-2025 Donors!



Members

Donations of \$50 - \$99

Jeanne Checkel
Johanna Chehi
Susan Coulby
Susan Davies

Catherine Flynn
Jessica Grabowski
Cathy Julian
Nikki Kershner

Ellen Kurtz
Melissa Marlin
Marian Simpson
Heidi Williams

Vernita Dorsey in memory of Peg Tigie

Friends

Donations of \$1 - \$49

Madison Brawley
Patsy Bussard
Pamela Dietz
Aimee Elson
Sara Greevy
Claudine Jensen

Diane Keighley
Kinsey Lenehan
Noreena Lewis
Christine Lowery
Michelle Mack-Williams

Traci Madison
Lexie Massey
Laura Minor
Deborah Reusch
Nancy Tieste
Gail Walukonis

Kitchen Tour Corporate Sponsors

Waterbury Kitchens & Bath, Inc.
Out & About
Wheeler Home Concepts
Giorgi Kitchens & Designs, Inc.
Buckanavage Home Improvements, LLC
Somethings Unique
Rothbury Design

Kitchen Tour Food & Demo Sponsors

BBC Tavern & Grill
Blessed Hex Candle Company
Caffé Gelato
Cupkate's
Desserts by Dana
Forever Freeze Co.
Infusion Blends
Ken-Do Spice

Make & Mellow
Mission BBQ
Nick's Pizza
Pampered Chef Wendy Stam
Phillips Mushroom Farms
The Post
Spark'd
Unique-Li Vegan

Special Thanks to our Giving Tuesday and DoMore24 Donors!

Letter from the Incoming President



Junior League Members:

At the Junior League of Wilmington, we seek women who share in a commitment to voluntarism and improving our communities; the very foundation of our founder, Mary Harriman's vision. Out of the settlements of New York City in 1901, we have grown to nearly 300 chapters spanning the globe in the United States, Canada, Mexico, the United Kingdom, and Kenya. Our global impact is undeniable. So too is the local impact of our League.

For over a century, The Junior League of Wilmington has strengthened our community by anticipating, identifying, and addressing the needs of our friends and neighbors. From the Wilmington Senior Center to the Ronald McDonald House, the Woodlawn Library to the Delaware Children's Theatre, our handprint is evident. Perhaps even more powerful is the "invisible" work, which includes the passage of Erin's Law, the Foster Care Review Act, and most recently, House Bill 20, a key component of our Stand Up. Period. initiative.

We are truly the changemakers of our community, strengthened by our diverse talents, insights, and backgrounds. While we come from different paths, we share the common ground of our mission "...to advance women's leadership for meaningful community impact through volunteer action, collaboration, and training." As we step into this year of transformation, sunsetting Stand Up. Period. and adopting a new focus area, let us remember that it is the mission that brings us together, it is the mission that guides our work.

As 96th President of the Junior League of Wilmington, it will be the mission that guides my hand too. Thank you for entrusting me with the privilege of leading us in our 107th League year. I am honored to serve you and look forward to the year of transformation ahead.

Humbly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Merrie L. Goodlander". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid and legible.

Merrie L. Goodlander
President 2025-2026



JUNIOR LEAGUE 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.

