



JUNIOR LEAGUE OF  
**DENVER**

**Fall Issue**  
Volume 2122 — Issue 1

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



*We Proudly Welcomed  
119 New Members  
at the 2021  
Provisional Retreat!*



# Grow:

*to increase in size, number or degree.*



*Caryne Mesquita*

## Message from the President

Dear Members,

For more than 100 years, the Junior League of Denver has weathered a rollercoaster of historical events including The Great Depression, world wars, social upheaval and many others. All the while, we continue to persevere because League members possess an innate desire to make a difference. We have lived a century-long legacy of making an impact in our Denver community by working with women, families and, most notably, children. Year 103 is no different. I am humbled to be a part of such an amazing member-centric, Mission-focused organization.

The legacy we've inherited is to create the opportunity for change both in the League and our community. Leading that charge has always

come directly from member action, Sustainer support and our Board of Directors answering the call. First, I must thank Past President Melanie Lewis Dickerson and the 2020–2021 Board of Directors for their passion, strength and unwavering faith in the knowledge that together we can handle anything that comes our way. Along with that, I thank YOU — our Active, Sustainer and Provisional members for deciding that at this moment in history, the League and our Mission are a high priority in your life.

As always, there is a lot of work to be done and we have accepted the challenge to make our 103rd year productive, rewarding, adventurous and fun!

### **Our current initiatives include:**

- Continued elevation of our Diversity, Equity & Inclusion work within the League as a key part of our 2021–2022 Annual Plan.
- Implementation of our expanded focus, starting with the creation of clear, concise messaging, followed by intentional execution.
- Continual emphasis on measuring our impact internally and externally through a data-driven culture grounded in our Strategic Plan.
- Completion of an in-depth review of our JLD Bylaws and Policies to ensure our guiding documents are current and accurate.
- Continuing our culture of philanthropy, realizing the expansion of our fundraising efforts is key to ensure that we meet our members and community supporters where they are by offering ample options to give back to the League and Foundation.
- Finding a new JLD Headquarters where we can continue our vital work.

Welcoming 119 NEW Provisional members, the success of our Leadership Kickoff and training events, and the excitement and participation in our Fifth Annual JLD L.U.V.S. day of service give me the chills! Your teamwork, collaboration and dynamic ability to connect are the glue needed to navigate the year ahead. My dream is that this year we embody one of my favorite quotes by Henry David Thoreau: “Go confidently in the direction of your dreams! Live the life you’ve imagined.”

Let's live the legacy that was imagined for us and build on that together in our 103rd year!

With gratitude,

*Caryne Mesquita*

**Caryne Mesquita**  
2021–2022 JLD President  
president@jld.org

## Welcome to our 2021–2022 Board of Directors & Advisory Board



### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**President:** Caryne Mesquita  
**President-Elect:** Lindsey Talafuse  
**Treasurer:** Carrie Kufta  
**Secretary:** Calley Wright Renz  
**Communications VP:** Midori Clark  
**Community VP:** Lisa Weatherbie  
**Finance & Ops VP:** Isabelle Vargas  
**Fundraising VP:** Jacklyn VanOoyik  
**Membership VP:** Claire Juneau  
**Public Policy VP:** Lindsay Johnson  
**Sustainer VP:** Amy Johnson  
**Training VP:** Elizabeth Aviles

### ADVISORY BOARD

**Communications VP-Elect:** Drew Elsey  
**Community VP-Elect:** Carson Maczuzak  
**Fundraising VP-Elect:** Bridget D'Angelo  
**Membership VP-Elect:** Kristina Zwettler  
**Public Policy VP-Elect:** Angela Visser  
**Sustainer VP-Elect:** Rebecca Stark  
**Training VP-Elect:** Maryanne Flynn  
**Board Manager:** Kate Percival  
**DE&I Chair:** Stephanie Sterling  
**Immediate Past President:**  
Melanie Lewis Dickerson  
**Little Black Dress Chair:** Courtney Schimschock  
**New Building Chair:** Megan Johnson  
**Nominating Chair:** Mamie Ling  
**Sustaining Advisor:** Cissie Busch



# Give:

*to present voluntarily and  
without expecting compensation.*



*JLD Members contributed 550 volunteer hours to the community in one day.*

## **Fifth Annual JLD L.U.V.S. Day of Service a Success!**

On Saturday, Sept. 18, JLD members donated time and supplies during our Fifth Annual JLD L.U.V.S. day of service. The L.U.V.S. Committee partnered with 13 wonderful nonprofits, planning 11 in-person volunteer opportunities and two drop-off sites.

Service projects included creating safe, clean, fun spaces for children, preparing food, planting flowers, packaging self-care items and outdoor beautification. Lisa Weatherbie, Community VP, visited several sites throughout the day, and commented, “It’s been really great to see the impact that groups of JLD members have had today. We have prepared spaces, made lunches, landscaped and much more. It’s really powerful to see the collective impact when we come together for our community partners.”

At SafeHouse Denver, seven members converted a storage space into a cozy, engaging sensory play area for children. Sarah Budisavljevic, Domestic Violence Advocate at SafeHouse Denver, reflected on the day’s work, saying, “JLD totally transformed our space to make it more welcoming for children. This will help when we have women’s support groups so the children are in a safe environment and childcare is provided. We could even use this space to host kid’s groups in the future.”

At the drop-off events, members provided much-needed items for our community partners. Site collections included hygiene and sanitizing products, handbags, baby care items and over-the-counter medications.

Finally, JLD granted \$12,000 to our community partners to cover materials and supplies. Thank you to our L.U.V.S. Co-Chairs, Stephanie Baker and Brittany Gill, along with their entire committee, for planning and coordinating a fun, safe event that made a difference in the Denver community!

# Sustainer Giving Project to Benefit The Gathering Place



**The Gathering Place®**  
*a refuge for rebuilding lives*

The Sustainer Group is excited to start an ongoing supply collection for long-time JLD partner, The Gathering Place ([www.tgpdenver.org](http://www.tgpdenver.org)). Sustainers (and all JLD members!) are encouraged to collect these much-needed items and drop off at the locations below on an ongoing basis. Please

keep this list of items handy so that next time you are at the store you can grab something. It's that easy!

## Items needed:

- Women's underwear (especially sizes 5, 6 and 8)
- Deodorant
- Travel-sized toothpaste
- Travel-sized conditioner
- Lotion
- Disposable razors
- Gently-used towels and bed sheets
- New or gently-used sports bras

## We have several drop-off points for these items:

- **JLD HQ** — please coordinate with [sustainers@jld.org](mailto:sustainers@jld.org) if dropping off after office hours
- **Amy Johnson's house (front porch)** — 10144 Bluffmont Lane, Lone Tree
- **Megan Whelan's house (front porch)** — 10 Cottonwood Lane, Greenwood Village
- **Rebecca Stark's house (front porch)** — 11099 E. 25th Drive, Aurora
- **Melly Kinnard's house (garage)** — 300 Spruce Street, Denver (garage is at 5th and Trenton; please email [denvermelly@msn.com](mailto:denvermelly@msn.com) before drop-off)
- **All Sustainer Council meetings** (please see calendar)

The Sustainer group will meet quarterly at one of the drop-off homes to organize the supplies and select someone to take to The Gathering Place. Please check the member calendar and Sustainer monthly emails for ongoing project information. It's also a great way to meet new people and socialize!

Thank you for your help supporting this beloved partner. If you have any questions, please email [sustainers@jld.org](mailto:sustainers@jld.org).

JUNIOR LEAGUE OF DENVER



**LEADERS UNITED IN  
VOLUNTEER SERVICE**

## Thank You to JLD L.U.V.S. Partners

For this year's L.U.V.S. event, JLD worked with 13 community partners that serve children and young adults in Denver. A huge thank you to these wonderful nonprofits!

- ACCESS Housing
- Anchor Center for Blind Children
- Denver Rescue Mission
- El Sistema Colorado
- Family Tree
- Florence Crittenton Services
- Girls Inc. of Metro Denver
- Hope House Colorado
- Illuminate Colorado
- Kenzi's Causes
- SafeHouse Denver
- Shiloh House
- Thriving Families Colorado



*Hummingbird Cake with Cream Cheese Icing, a favorite of JLD President Caryne Mesquita*

## Hummingbird Cake with Cream Cheese Icing, from *Centennial Celebrations*

### **SERVES 8 to 10**

3 cups all-purpose flour  
2 cups sugar  
1 teaspoon baking soda  
1 teaspoon salt  
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon  
1 (8-ounce) can crushed pineapple  
3 ripe medium bananas, mashed  
1 cup chopped pecans, toasted  
1 cup vegetable oil  
3 eggs, beaten  
2 teaspoons vanilla extract  
Cream cheese icing (recipe below)

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Grease 3 round 9-inch cake pans. Whisk or sift the flour, sugar, baking soda, salt and cinnamon in a large bowl. Combine the undrained pineapple, bananas, pecans, vegetable oil, eggs and vanilla extract in a medium bowl and mix well. Add to the flour mixture and stir just until mixed; do not overmix. Divide the batter evenly among the prepared cake pans. Bake for 30 minutes or until a wooden pick inserted near the center comes out clean. Remove to wire racks to cool completely. Spread the cream cheese icing between the layers and over the top and side of the cake. Garnish with edible flowers.

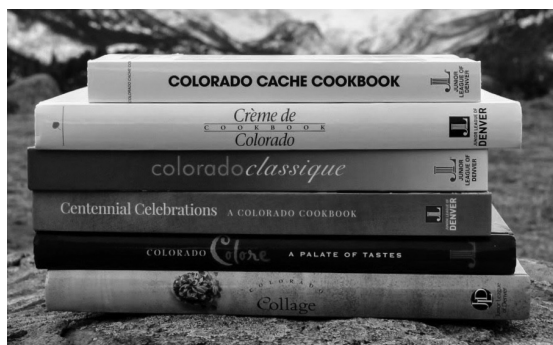
### **CREAM CHEESE ICING**

16 ounces cream cheese, softened  
1 cup butter, softened  
1 teaspoon vanilla extract  
32 ounces powdered sugar

Beat the cream cheese and butter in a mixing bowl until blended. Beat in the vanilla extract. Add the powdered sugar 1 cup at a time, beating constantly at low speed and scraping the side of the bowl occasionally.

## Members receive special pricing for JLD's six award-winning cookbooks!

Please call 303.692.0270 (press zero) or email [info@jld.org](mailto:info@jld.org) if you would like to place an order and arrange a curbside or after-hours pick-up at the office. *Colorado Cache* is \$15 and the other five books are \$20 each. Prices include tax.



# Grow:

*to increase in size, number or degree.*

## JLD's 2021 Legislator of the Year

JLD's 2021 Legislator of the Year is Representative Leslie Herod! She represents District 8, serves as the Appropriations Chair and is a member of the Joint Budget Committee. She sponsored a number of bills supported by the JLD in the past year, notably SB 21-194 Maternal Health Providers and SB21-255 Free Menstrual Hygiene Products To Students, among others. Rep. Herod has been a wonderful advocate for the communities we support.



*Representative Leslie Herod*

## League Training Program: Get on Board



Get on Board is an intensive training program designed to prepare participants to serve on nonprofit boards. Since its inception in 2018, 54 women have been trained!

JLD leverages both its experience in developing civic leaders and the expertise of community leaders to provide this comprehensive training for our members. Graduates of the Get on Board program are then matched with nonprofits in need of trained board members.

### Topics covered include:

- Board of Directors Overview
- BOD & Executive Director Relationship
- Types of Boards
- Aligning Your Interest with an Organization
- Governance
- Legal Considerations
- Crisis Management
- Fundraising
- Finance
- Branding & Marketing
- Strategic Planning
- Getting the Most from Your Board

For additional information, visit [Resources/Training Council](#) [Resources/Get on Board](#) after logging in. If you have Board expertise and would like to engage with training or your nonprofit board has placement needs, please email [getonboard@jld.org](mailto:getonboard@jld.org).

## Save the Dates!

**November 3:**  
General Meeting (virtual)

**November 13:**  
Fall Lottery Registration closes

**November 12 – 14:**  
42nd Annual Mile High Holiday Mart

**November 19:**  
JLD Board of Directors nominations close

**December 1:**  
JLD Board of Directors applications close

**December 7:**  
Colorado Gives Day

**January 2 – 9:**  
JLD Board of Directors interviews and slating

**March 11:**  
The Journey (10th Annual!)



### **ink Committee**

Shannon LaBay, Editor  
Erin Erhardt, Assistant Editor

### **JLD Staff**

Karen Mayo, *Finance & Operations Director, ext. 109*  
Vanessa Banker, *Communications Director, ext. 114*  
Celeste Sims, *Business Support Specialist, ext. 100*  
Ellen Spangler, *Development Consultant*

### **JLD Headquarters**

Junior League of Denver  
1140 Delaware Street, Denver, CO 80204  
phone: 303.692.0270  
email: [info@jld.org](mailto:info@jld.org)  
web: [JLD.org](http://JLD.org)  
hours: Monday—Friday 9 am–4 pm

### **Mission**

Junior League of Denver, Incorporated, founded in 1918, is an organization of women committed to promoting volunteerism, developing the potential of women and improving the community through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. Our purpose is exclusively educational and charitable.



JUNIOR LEAGUE OF  
**DENVER**

1140 Delaware Street  
Denver, CO 80204



[@juniorleaguedenver](https://www.facebook.com/juniorleaguedenver)



[@jlddenver](https://twitter.com/jlddenver)



[@juniorleaguedenver](https://www.instagram.com/juniorleaguedenver)

#JLD

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Denver, Colorado  
Permit No. 134