

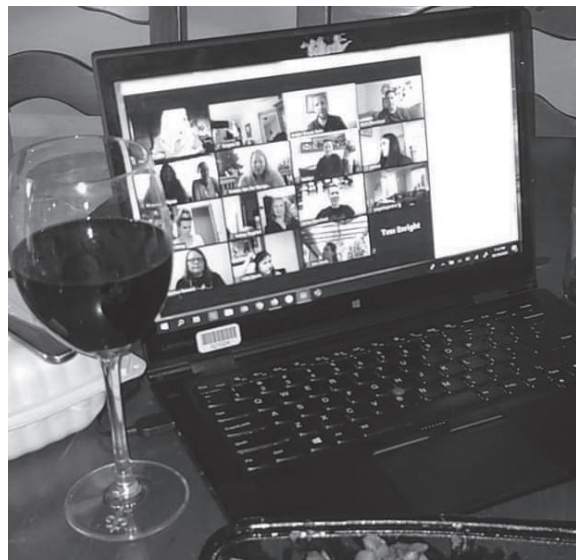
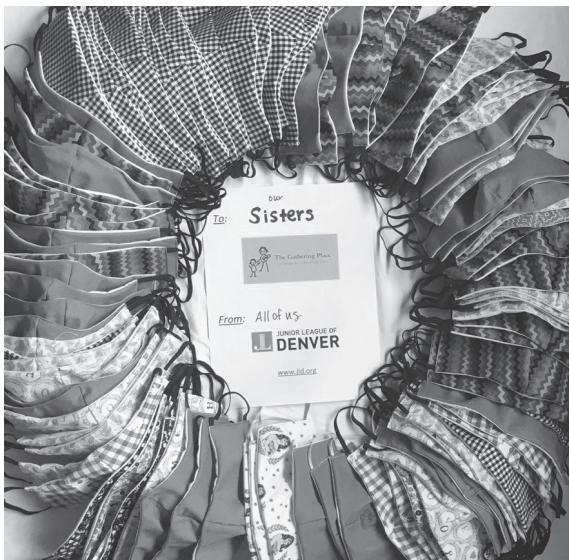
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JUNIOR LEAGUE OF
DENVER

Summer Issue
Volume 1920 — Issue 3

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



Grow:

to increase in size, number or degree.



Julia Lazure

Message from the President

Dear Members,

Thank you for your dedication and commitment to the Junior League of Denver in the 2019–2020 year! As you know, the JLD is a Mission-driven organization focused on increasing the potential of women and improving our community through the use of our trained volunteers. We made incredible strides to further this Mission, both prior to the COVID-19 crisis and now during the crisis. We implemented the newest version of our JLD Strategic Plan, researched the possibility of expanding our Community Focus area and rolled out a robust COVID-19 response. We also elevated our Diversity & Inclusion efforts, which is now more important than ever as we stand ready to listen to, learn from and support our members of color to help create a more just and equitable community.

We experienced significant joys and large steps in progress this year, as well as overwhelming sadness for our community and our world. Through it all, I was continuously lifted up by JLD women, as well as the work that our organization engages in on a daily basis.

Below are a few highlights on how we continue to Give, Grow and Get Connected.

GIVE...

We've donated meals, masks, dollars, books and other supplies to community partners as part of our concerted COVID-19 community response.

We've donated:

- 312 meals to our neighbors experiencing homelessness through our partnership with Footer's Catering and Homeless Leadership Council,
- 292 masks to The Gathering Place, Denver Health NICU and Synergy Village,
- \$2500 to the Help Colorado Now fund to assist those most impacted by COVID-19, and
- Countless books and toiletries to fulfill community partner requests.

Additionally, we:

- Granted \$30,000 through our Collaborative Impact Grants program, along with providing two new placement options for members to We Don't Waste, providing access to food, and International Rescue Committee, working with refugees.
- Completed our third annual JLD L.U.V.S. day of service, in which 200 of our members volunteered with 13 community nonprofits working with children and young adults to donate more than 900 hours of community service and \$10,000 in grants in one day.
- Established a Scholarship Fund for members who may not be able to afford to pay dues, so that all of our members can continue to enjoy the multitude of benefits that the JLD provides.

GROW...

- Trained members both in person and virtually through General Meetings, Leadership Institute, Get on Board, and other robust programming on important issues like Diversity & Inclusion, ballot initiatives, the experience of children in our community, advocacy, professional development and nonprofit leadership.
- Released our sixth award-winning cookbook, *Centennial Celebrations*.
- Celebrated the 40th Anniversary of Mile High Holiday Mart.
- Welcomed 197 Provisionals to our Active ranks.
- Elevated our Diversity & Inclusion Committee to a permanent placement within the Membership Council, so that we can more readily build, learn, grow and stand shoulder-to-shoulder with all members of our community in the shared quest for real and meaningful community dialogue and change.

GET CONNECTED...

- Conducted 468 calls to contact all JLD members over the age of 70 to check-in and have wonderful conversations, as well as assess any needs our members might have. The team of Active and Sustaining members conducting these calls will also contact all members between the ages of 55–69 and will continue to follow-up with our members.
- Engaged with our members by hosting virtual cooking demonstrations with House & Howell Social to continue our sense of community and highlight recipes out of our cookbooks.
- Continued our robust and close partnership with the JLD Foundation, which has been steadfast in supporting the League.

I offer my sincerest thank you to our 2019–2020 Board of Directors, all JLD members and our staff for working tirelessly to further the Mission of the Junior League of Denver. Your ongoing commitment to the JLD has helped us thrive for over a century. Thank you for giving back to the community, growing the potential of women and getting connected with our organization.

It has been an absolute honor and privilege to serve as your President this year. Take care and stay healthy.

Sincerely,



Julia Lazure

2019–2020 JLD President

Save the Dates! Upcoming JLD Events

June 30: Deadline to pay 2020-2021 JLD dues

June 30: Archive forms for JLD Historians are due

September 13: 2020-2021 Provisional Retreat

September 19: Fourth Annual JLD L.U.V.S. day of service

Grow:

to increase in size, number or degree.

2019–2020 JLD Award Winners

Shining Star Award

Michelle Yi Alexander,
*Community Action Team
Co-Chair*

Erica Van Voast,
Public Policy Events Chair

Megan Whelan,
Sustainer Council

Outstanding Volunteer Award

Rosio Wallen, *Membership
Council Coordinator*

Outstanding Committee Award

Communications Council

Spirit of Service Award

Kelsey Rogstad, *Diversity &
Inclusion Chair*

Outstanding Transfer Award

Kellie Littrell

President's Cup Award

Katherine Rainbolt &
Bridget D'Angelo, *The
Journey 2020 Co-Chairs*

Outstanding Provisional Award

Abby Smith

May General Meeting & JLD Award Winners

The final General Meeting of the 2019–2020 League year was held virtually on May 12. Even though we were not able to physically be together, traditions were upheld as close as possible. It was a time to celebrate our current JLD President and Board members and to welcome our new President and her Board. The Zoom chat session throughout the meeting was filled with words of support, gratitude and kindness.

The event kicked off with a virtual cocktail-making demonstration. Next, our outgoing President, Julia Lazure, thanked the current Board members for their leadership and direction. For the last two years, Past Presidents joined the current President on the stage to pass the gavel from hand-to-hand, ending with the President-Elect. A little ingenuity was required this year to keep up with tradition. The gavel was delivered ahead of time so that Melanie Lewis Dickerson, our 2020–2021 President, would be able to complete the traditional ceremony. Along with the gavel, Past Presidents had written notes of encouragement as a surprise for Melanie. She welcomed our new JLD Board members and the 2019–2020 award winners were announced. Thank you to everyone for participating!





Mother and daughter duo — Bernadette and Meghan Bille

Mother & Daughter Provisional Team

Membership Council announced at the May General Meeting that 197 women from the 2019–2020 Provisional Class joined our Active ranks. Two of those women are a mother and daughter duo — **Bernadette** and **Meghan Bille**.

Bernadette, who goes by Berny, first joined the League 25 years ago. She completed her Provisional year and went on to serve another two to three years as an Active member. JLD was very different then. Berny was required to have another member sponsor her in order to join. Meghan was born while Berny was a member of the League and several friends from her Provisional Class attended her baby shower. When Meghan was little, Berny stepped away from the League but maintained her friendships and connections throughout the years.

After Meghan graduated college, she felt like she was missing out on connection. Remembering her own experience, Berny suggested that Meghan look into joining JLD. At first, Meghan was skeptical, but she eventually attended a recruitment event last spring. At that event, one of the speakers said that the League will “enhance your life, not be your life”. When Meghan heard this, she thought JLD would complement her schedule without taking it over. Meghan informed her mom of her decision to join and they both agreed that Berny should join too as an opportunity for them to spend more time together.

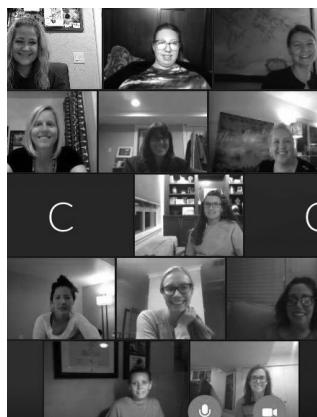
This year, Berny and Meghan are both placed on the Provisional Recruitment Committee. During this time of social distancing, they have been empowered to discover new ways of reaching out to potential recruits. Recently, Meghan taught a virtual yoga class as a recruiting event. She was able to pass on her experience in the League this year to potential Provisionals. This also gave her mom an opportunity to see Meghan’s development as a leader and a fellow committee member outside of their already strong family bond.

Meghan and Berny are both very happy with the decision they made. While COVID-19 definitely impacted their Provisional year and changed how they were able to interact within their group, they have been impressed with the way JLD has creatively handled events and communications. “It has been great to be around professional women that have it together and also know how to have fun,” Meghan said about the last three months. They hope that more mothers and daughters will join the League together so that they can experience seeing each other grow and develop in roles outside the family.

We are so happy you joined JLD together, Berny and Meghan! Thank you for your dedication and hard work.

Get connected:

join together to provide access and exchange.



Our Board of Directors attending a virtual meeting.

How a Virus Changed Our World and Taught Us To “Creatively Carry On”

The week of March 9 was business as usual at the JLD. League members and staff were energetically preparing for The Journey 2020 featuring soccer superstar Carli Lloyd, scheduled for that Friday, March 13. Preparations were also moving full speed ahead for our JLD Day at the Capitol, scheduled for March 23, along with many other League activities. Little did we know that life as we knew it was about to drastically change.

On Tuesday, March 10, Journey Committee members met with key hotel staff at the Hyatt downtown to hold a walk-through and ask all remaining questions for our eighth annual signature evening fundraiser, a huge feat for League members each year. Concurrently, COVID-19 was already spreading rapidly in the U.S., wreaking havoc on our cities and states. However, at this point in the week, event cancellation was still not being actively discussed. Questions began to arise, like “should we have hand sanitizer stations?” and “should we post signs about creating distance?” It was unanimously agreed that protecting League members and guests was paramount.

As the week went on, the situation rapidly escalated. Our JLD President, Julia Lazure, ultimately made the heart-wrenching decision to cancel The Journey 2020 on Thursday, March 12, and led a team of leaders as the group sprang into action, communicating the decision and negotiating event contracts. The silent auction went on, and the event STILL raised more than \$63,000! Journey Committee members adapted and made the very best of the situation.

As the global crisis snowballed, the decision was then made to cancel our Day at the Capitol, but our members quickly pivoted to host a virtual General Meeting. All in-person League meetings and events were canceled in line with Mayor Hancock’s Stay-at-Home Orders for Denver. The Public Policy Council and General Meeting Committee were able to give League members a sense of normalcy during an extremely challenging time at this first large virtual meeting.

Our Board of Directors, League leaders and members were dedicated to ensuring that we were able to provide impactful

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community action and meaningful engagement with our members. Our Fundraising VP (and now President-Elect) Caryne Mesquita, coined the term “creatively carrying on,” which perfectly describes how the League chose to move forward. Members teamed up with House & Howell Social to host cooking demonstrations utilizing recipes from our new cookbook. Our Provisional Recruitment team started planning and hosting virtual events to allow candidates to learn more about the League and possibly join this summer. Members shifted to a virtual world almost overnight.

Through it all, our members mobilized to help the community, to check in on each other and to respond to the crisis with generosity and compassion. Membership Council created a Scholarship Fund, knowing many of our members faced sudden financial hardship. Requirements were waived for the year to give members some peace of mind and one less thing to worry about.

So what did we learn from the crisis, still ongoing? We learned that our members are more compassionate, more hardworking and more dedicated than we *ever* thought possible. We learned so much about each other’s strength, as well as our own. We learned that our JLD members are strong, enduring and will always be on hand to address our community’s greatest needs, just as we have done for 101 years in Denver. To you we say thanks, thanks and ever thanks.

Give:

*to present voluntarily and
without expecting compensation.*

A Fresh Update on Your Quarantini

The Blood Orange Cocktail featured in *Centennial Celebrations* is a delicious and refreshing beverage to enjoy at your next virtual happy hour or socially distanced driveway party!

Blood Orange Cocktail

SERVES 2

3 ounces tequila

1 ounce fresh lime juice

1 ounce Triple Sec

3 ounces blood orange soda

Fill a cocktail shaker with ice. Add the tequila, lime juice and Triple Sec and shake. Fill 2 glasses with ice. Strain into the prepared glasses. Top off with equal portions of the soda. Garnish with orange slices and mint leaves.

Note: *Depending on what soda you use, this drink can be anywhere from a bright sunny orange to a deep reddish pink. Either way, it’s a refreshing and beautiful cocktail.*



*The Blood Orange
Cocktail.*



ink Committee

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Mission

Junior League of Denver, Incorporated, founded in 1918, is an organization of women committed to promoting voluntarism, 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.



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