



JUNIOR LEAGUE OF  
**DENVER**

**Winter Issue**

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# Grow:

*to increase in size, number or degree.*



*Julia Lazure*

## Message from the President

This year has gone by so fast! I continue to be thoroughly impressed by the incredible women that I work with each day. Our League is filled to the brim with thoughtful, hardworking, dedicated, intelligent and creative members. Along with our day-to-day happenings, we continue to work on our three pillars for this year: Future Focus research, Diversity and Inclusion and implementing our 2019-2023 JLD Strategic Plan.

Our Future Focus Committee, led by [Shannon Batal](#) and [Bianca Smith](#), is a highly collaborative group of women who have completed the initial research stage and are now conducting five Speak-Ups for our members. **I encourage you to attend one of the remaining Speak-Ups!** The insights offered by our members are informative and truly invaluable. We are so excited to discover more impactful ways to help address our community's greatest needs, as we have been doing for more than a century.

I am also eager to share that our Diversity & Inclusion Special Committee, led by [Kesley Rogstad](#), **will become a permanent committee under the Membership Council next year.** This committee will allow us to shine an even brighter light on Diversity & Inclusion by increasing its visibility and helping ensure that it remains a focus for our organization. We are part of a diverse community and will further our Mission of improving the potential of *all* women.

I'm so excited about how our Strategic Plan is being implemented this year and the work we continue to do. Our Strategic Planning Committee, led by President-Elect [Melanie Lewis Dickerson](#), **is working hard to set measurement indicators** to evaluate progress towards the goals that we have identified in our Strategic Plan. Thank you to our VPs for incorporating council goals into their overall plans and ongoing communication!

I feel lucky to work alongside all of you each and every day. Thank you for all that you do for our League, as well as the greater Denver community. You inspire me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Julia", written in dark ink.

[Julia Lazure](#)

2019-2020 JLD President  
[president@jld.org](mailto:president@jld.org)

## Junior League Launches Career & Makes Lasting Impression on Family

Most members of the Junior League have a unique and personal reason for joining. Our own President, Julia Lazure, has a personal background leading to her involvement and leadership within the League. Julia's mother, **Christine Kneeland**, is a Past President of the Fort Collins Junior Women's Club, the year they applied and were accepted to become the Junior League of Fort Collins within AJLI, our international association. In fact, the Fort Collins League consulted with the JLD on the process. As Julia notes, seeing her mom's involvement in the League and how it impacted her career inspired her to join the JLD.

Christine started her own facilitation business when Julia was in elementary school. Over the course of her career, she was hired by major corporations, such as Kodak and Hewlett-Packard, to help them increase their collaboration and effectiveness. She eventually sold her business and continued on with a successful career working with companies all over the world.

To this day, she credits her knowledge of facilitation skills and her ability to start her own business to the Junior League. After serving as President of the Junior League of Fort Collins, Christine continued her community work, serving on the Fort Collins Library Board and the Fort Collins City Council, and has been involved with countless nonprofits.

Mutual involvement in the Junior League has meant Julia and her mom are able to share their common experiences in the League. From an early age, Christine encouraged Julia to "go for it" if she was interested in something. Julia remembered this when she applied for League leadership roles, some of which seemed intimidating. Julia and her mom also talk about the amazing women they have met in the League, and how grateful they feel to have made such meaningful and lasting connections.

Through her mom's dedication and experience, Julia and her brother learned how important it is to care about the community in which we live, how one person really can make a difference, and how much we grow and learn as individuals and leaders when we take the time to volunteer.



*Julia Lazure and her mom, Christine Kneeland*

# Give:

*to present voluntarily and  
without expecting compensation.*



*Bring on Spring with  
delicious fruit pie*

## Dreaming of Spring with Centennial Celebrations Recipe

**Plum Strawberry Pie, page 262**

**SERVES 8**

- 1 package refrigerated piecrust
- 4 cups plum slices ( $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch)
- 2 cups strawberries slices ( $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch)
- Juice of  $\frac{1}{2}$  medium lemon
- $\frac{3}{4}$  cup plus 1 tablespoon sugar, divided
- $\frac{1}{2}$  cup all-purpose flour
- $\frac{1}{4}$  teaspoon salt
- $\frac{1}{4}$  teaspoon ground cinnamon
- $\frac{1}{8}$  teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 1 tablespoon half-and-half

Preheat the oven to 375 degrees. Roll each piecrust into an 11-inch circle. Fit 1 of the piecrusts into a 9-inch pie plate, trimming the edge.

Combine the plums, strawberries and lemon juice in a large bowl and toss to coat. Combine  $\frac{3}{4}$  cup of the sugar, flour, salt, cinnamon and nutmeg in a medium bowl. Pour over the plum mixture and stir to coat.

*Continued in sidebar »*



*Chef Dane at 2019  
JLD Kitchen Tour*

## Save the date for our Fourth Annual JLD Kitchen Tour on May 16

**Our JLD Kitchen Tour will be held Saturday, May 16 from 11 am – 2 pm.** The event showcases fabulous home kitchens in the central Denver area. Each home will have tastings, treats and toddies from local vendors including bars, restaurants and specialty shops. The Kitchen Tour will commence with a gathering where attendees can pick up their home tour map, grab a swag bag, and view silent auction prizes on display that are available for bidding throughout the tour. All League members and guests are invited to attend. Purchase your tickets early, don't miss out on this event! More details coming soon!



## JLD Seeking to Expand Community Focus

JLD is seeking to expand its focus to include additional programs that will further engage our members as civic leaders in service to our Denver metro community. As part of JLD Strategic Plan, and at the direction of our Board of Directors, the Future Focus Committee has been meeting since July 2019 to recommend if and how the JLD should expand its focus.

Since 2012, JLD's focus has been improving literacy rates and providing access to books for children through the third grade in the Denver metro area. Through our own longstanding and successful signature programs like Kids Connect and Read2Kids, we are making an impact on the Denver metro community. In 2018–2019, members volunteered 1,800 hours supporting literacy programs and distributed more than 5,845 books. By sponsoring One Book Colorado, we have helped distribute more than 75,000 copies of the same book to every four-year-old in the state in April of each year since 2012. Given the popularity and success of these programs, the League will continue to support them.

However, in September 2019, 83.3% of members surveyed after L.U.V.S. responded that they would like JLD to expand its focus. Over February and March, the Future Focus Committee has been offering Speak-Ups for League members to discuss characteristics of an expanded focus that would be impactful for our members, our League and our community.

If you're unable to attend a Speak-up, you will still have an opportunity to provide feedback. The committee will be distributing a survey at the end of March. All members are invited to share their insights by responding to the survey. By the end of this League year, the Future Focus Committee will share the results from the Speak-Ups and survey and outline a plan to continue their work next League year.

Questions? Email [futurefocus@jld.org](mailto:futurefocus@jld.org).

*JLD members attend a Speak-Up in February at JLD HQ to voice their opinions about the League's future community work.*

## Save the Dates! Upcoming JLD Events

**March 23:** March General Meeting — JLD Day at the Capitol

**May 16:** JLD Kitchen Tour

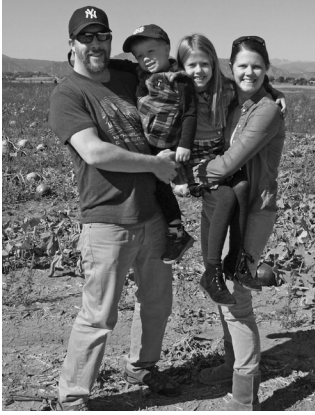
### *« Pie recipe, continued*

Spoon into the prepared pie plate. Cut the remaining piecrust into long thin strips or cut using cookie cutters. Place the strips on the pie in a lattice pattern or overlap the shapes over the pie, leaving a few vents. Brush with the half-and-half. Sprinkle with the remaining 1 tablespoon sugar. Bake for 10 minutes. Cover the edge with a crust shield or foil ring. Bake for 30 minutes longer or until golden brown and bubbly. Let stand to cool completely. Serve à la mode if desired.

**Remember to stock up on Centennial Celebrations for spring and summer events!**

# Get connected:

*join together to provide access and exchange.*



*Ellen, husband Brad,  
and children Maddie  
and Graham*

## Ellen Spangler Joins JLD Staff

In January, Ellen Spangler joined JLD Staff as Development Director for the League. Ellen's primary responsibilities include overseeing all JLD fundraising activities, including sponsor and donor relationships, in partnership with the Fundraising Council and the JLD Foundation. She looks forward to applying her strengths as a writer, relationship-builder and fundraiser, while supporting the important work that dedicated JLD members do for the Denver metro area.

Ellen is from Charlottesville, Virginia, and has lived in Colorado since 2008. From the day she cut up her mother's typewriter-written dissertation at age four, she has always been a curious person. She feels that the arts are an essential part of educating the whole child and arts experiences foster growth in creativity, confidence and self-awareness. She also believes it is important to find inspiration wherever you are, and she seeks to spark curiosity and wonder in whatever she does.

Professionally, she spent over 10 years designing and delivering programs in art and children's museums, including the Denver Art Museum, the Clyfford Still Museum, the Smithsonian American Art Museum and the Children's Museum of Memphis. She has a Master's degree in Museum Education from George Washington University and a Bachelor's degree in Art History and Italian from the University of Virginia. She worked most recently as Development and Communications Director at Resource Area For Teaching (RAFT), where she was responsible for RAFT's contributed revenue, including raising funds from corporate and foundation grants; managing Raft's Upcycle event committee; developing and executing RAFT's Colorado Gives Day solicitation; envisioning new donor acknowledgment procedures; and maintaining RAFT's Salesforce database. In addition, she managed RAFT's communication strategy, including weekly newsletters, social media, and public events such as RAFT's week-long summer symposium.

Ellen was drawn to the JLD because she believes in the importance of fostering creativity and early literacy in children. She is also inspired by its Mission to empower women to be leaders in their communities.

Ellen and her husband Brad have two young children, Maddie and Graham, and a wondermutt, Joni (as in Mitchell). She spends her free time hiking, going to museums, doing yoga and seeing live music.

Welcome to the JLD, Ellen! Feel free to reach out to her by email at [espangler@jld.org](mailto:espangler@jld.org) or by phone at 303.692.0270 ext. 102.



*Community VP Liz Peetz visits with Legislators at our 2019 breakfast*

## Second Annual JLD Day at the Capitol

The Second Regular Session of the 72nd Colorado General Assembly convened on January 8 and runs through May 6. The Public Policy Council is hosting its Second Annual JLD Day at the Capitol on March 23 in line with the council's strategic goal to "amplify advocacy efforts to engage more members and create lasting community change."

The day will kick off with the JLD's Annual Legislative Breakfast. Elected officials, Public Policy Council members, Board members and special guests are invited to attend. The breakfast is a great time to connect with legislators and advocate for the League's public policy priorities. It also provides an opportunity to educate elected officials on the League's efforts and impact within the Denver metro community.

After breakfast, council members will head to the assembly floor to further advocate for our public policy initiatives and corresponding legislation. This involves meeting with legislators between their meetings and other engagements.

The day will be capped by a General Meeting luncheon in the Old Supreme Court Chambers. The theme this year is "Women in Policy." It will feature a panel of women representing various areas within the public policy and government affairs sectors. There will also be a "Training in a Moment" on the 2020 Census and how the Census impacts sectors the Junior League serves.

If you have any questions about JLD Day at the Capitol or the League's 2020 public policy priorities, please email [publicpolicy@jld.org](mailto:publicpolicy@jld.org).

## JLD Diversity & Inclusion Efforts

As one of JLD's core values, we embrace diversity and welcome all women who value our Mission of promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women and improving communities through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. Any person who identifies as a woman and supports the League's Mission can join the JLD.

During the 2017-2018 League year, the Board of Directors voted to approve the creation of a Diversity & Inclusion Special Committee. In 2018-2019, [Kelsey Rogstad](#) was appointed to serve as the chair and the committee officially formed and began work. Kelsey served on the Board of Directors as an advisory member and on the Strategic Planning Committee when JLD identified Diversity & Inclusion as one of our Strategic Priorities.

This year, the committee's main priority is to gather research about how other Leagues are incorporating D&I into their work. They will be soliciting feedback from members and will be sharing plans as they are developed. If you have any questions, please email [D&I@jld.org](mailto:D&I@jld.org).



### **ink Committee**

Becca Parks, Editor

Shannon LaBay, 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 Director*, ext. 102

### **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 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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1140 Delaware Street  
Denver, CO 80204



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