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

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 weeks. Julia 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 continuing 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.

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 take the time to volunteer.
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 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.
I am so excited 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 our 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,

Julia Lazure
2019–2020 JLD President
president@jld.org
Dreaming of Spring with Centennial Celebrations Recipe

Plum Strawberry Pie, page 262

SERVES 8
1 package refrigerated piecrust
4 cups plum slices (1/4 to 1/2 inch)
2 cups strawberries-alicis (1/2 to 1 inch)
Juice of 1/2 small lemon
1/4 cup plus 1 tablespoon sugar, divided
1/4 cup all-purpose flour
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon
1/4 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 7 1/2 inch pie plate, trimming the edges. Combine the plums, strawberries and lemon juice in a large bowl and toss to coat. Combine 1/2 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.

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 tidbits 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 megabag, 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’s Strategic Plan, and at the direction of our Board of Directors, the Future Focus Committee has been meeting since July 2019 to recommend how and if 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 J.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 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.

Save the Dates! Upcoming JLD Events

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

JLD members attend a Speak-Up in February at JLD HQ to voice their opinions about the League’s future community work.
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 the JLD members do for the Denver metro area.

Ellen is from Charlotteville, 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 gaining funding from corporations and foundations grants. Managing RAFT’s Upcycle event committee; developing and executing RAFT’s Colorado Give 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 community.

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 or by phone at 303.692.0270 ext. 102.

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All League members and guests are invited to attend. Purchase your tickets early, don’t miss out on this event! More details coming soon! Continued in sidebar »

Give:

to present voluntarily and without expecting compensation.

Dreaming of Spring with Centennial Celebrations Recipe

Plum Strawberry Pie, page 262

SERVES 8
1 package refrigerated pie crust
4 cups plum slices (¼ to ½ inch)
2 cups strawberries slices (¼ to ½ inch)
Juice of ½ medium lemon
⅓ cup plus 2 tablespoons sugar, divided
⅛ cup all purpose flour
⅛ teaspoon salt
⅛ teaspoon ground cinnamon
⅛ 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 ⅓ 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 »

JLD Diversity & Inclusion Efforts

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This year, the committee’s main priority is to conduct 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.

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Chef Dane at 2019 JLD Kitchen Tour

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Celebrations Recipe

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 2 tablespoons sugar. Bake for 10 minutes. Cover the edge with a crust shield or foil ring. Bake for 30 minutes 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!
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Dreaming of Spring with Centennial Celebrations Recipe

Plum Strawberry Pie, page 262

SERVES 8
1 package refrigerated piecrust
4 cups plum slices (4 to 6 inches)
2 cups strawberries slices (1/4 to 1/2 inch)
Juice of 1 medium lemon
1/4 cup plus 1 tablespoon sugar, divided
1/4 cup all purpose flour
1 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
1 teaspoon ground nutmeg
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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.

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Ellen, husband Brad, and children Maddie and Graham

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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.

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Questions? Email futurerefocus@jld.org.

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This year, the committee’s main priority is to oversee 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.

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Mission
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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 Vanessa Banker, is in the initial research stage and are now conducting five Speak-Ups! These Speak-Ups will help us gather information on each of the topics in our Future Focus pillar. Our Future Focus Committee is made up of so many talented and knowledgeable women and we are thrilled to be working alongside them on this important work.

Our Diversity and Inclusion Committee is led by Stephanie Braund. They are committed to working toward making the Junior League a more inclusive and welcoming organization for all. In March, we will discuss the possibility of making Diversity and Inclusion a permanent committee under the Membership Council next year. This 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 increase our efforts to support and uplift diverse populations in our community.

As you know, our Strategic Plan is informed by our three strategic pillars of Future Focus, Diversity and Inclusion, and Implementation of our 2019-2023 JLD Strategic Plan. Our Strategic Planning Committee is led by President-Elect Shannon LaBay. They are working hard to set measurement indicators for our Strategic Plan. Thank you to our VPs for incorporating council goals into their overall plans and our 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, our members, and our community. Let’s keep moving forward and making a difference in our community together.

2019–2020 JLD President
president@jld.org

JLD Day at the Capitol, March 23
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