

# ink



JUNIOR LEAGUE OF  
**DENVER**

Winter Issue  
Volume 2324 — Issue 1

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



*Thank You for Your Ongoing Commitment, JLD Members!*

# Grow:

*to increase in size, number or degree.*



*Claire Juneau*

## Message from the President

We're about three quarters of the way through the League year and there is so much to celebrate! We are officially settled in our new home at 1301 S. Washington Street. You can feel the magic of community impact in every leadership meeting and event hosted at our new JLD Headquarters. If you haven't had an opportunity to visit, please stop by and say hello!

JLD has been busy this League year. On September 23, 160 volunteers joined forces at eight sites around the Denver metro community for our annual L.U.V.S. day of service. The Community Council organized an incredible day filled with outdoor projects, coaching high school students, packaging essential items for new mothers and much more. What a beautiful day to witness women

supporting women through hands-on community work. Our magenta t-shirts were a reminder that girl power is a force that truly makes the world a better place!

The Fundraising Council had a very busy fall! We enjoyed a beautiful dinner at 1908 An Uptown Eatery on September 9. We were thrilled to welcome Chef Beau Green and enjoyed his delicious selections from our newest cookbook, *Centennial Celebrations*. We officially rolled out the 1918 Society to celebrate our recurring donors and honored our biggest supporters at a Major Donor Coffee on October 25. What a delight to see members with decades of history together gather in our new building! Listening to the stories and seeing the smiles demonstrates the significance of League relationships that last a lifetime.

Our 44th Annual Mile High Holiday Mart was a huge success! From our Libations for the League preview party on October 19, to the big shopping weekend, November 10–12, we had a blast welcoming members and the public to DU's campus to raise essential funds for our community work. We hope everyone who attended enjoyed the mix of returning and new vendors and found that perfect gift for everyone on their list. Additionally, we are incredibly grateful to all donors who supported us on Colorado Gives Day, December 5. We had our most successful event this year, raising \$23,663 from 158 donors — wow!

The Junior League of Denver remains a strong presence in Colorado with nearly 1,400 members, including 127 New Members joining our legacy of service. Looking ahead, our members endorsed grant recipients at our February 13 General Meeting. As a result, Growing Home will receive \$5,000 and both Florence Crittenton Services and Gateway Domestic Violence Services will receive \$10,000 grants in the 2024–25 year, in addition to volunteer support. We are grateful to our Advisory Board for leading the charge on developing our new Strategic Plan, which will officially commence in the next League year. I encourage members to attend a Speak-Up to provide input if time allows in March. Our future is bright!

*(continued »)*

Thank you for your support and steadfast belief that women of the JLD can change the world! You are truly what makes this organization unique and inspiring.

Sincerely,



**Claire Juneau**  
**2023–2024 JLD President**  
**president@jld.org**

---



*2023–24 Board of Directors & Advisory Board*

# Give:

*to present voluntarily and  
without expecting compensation.*



*SAVE THE DATE for  
our 2024 L.U.V.S. day  
of service on Saturday,  
September 14!*

## Seventh Annual JLD L.U.V.S. Day of Service

Our seventh annual Leaders United in Volunteer Service (L.U.V.S.) themed “Building a Better Future” was a great success. On September 23, we teamed up with eight fellow Denver nonprofit partners to complete projects all over the city. More than 160 JLD volunteers came together to donate over 600 hours of service to our community partners. This equates to almost \$20,000 dollars’ worth of time and energy and allows our partners to put these funds directly into their programs. Michelle Baldwin with Florence Crittenton Services said “This is not anything we could do ourselves. It is two-fold for us — it is the physical help and then also spreading the word about what we do and who we are. It is amazing!” Thank you to everyone who supported L.U.V.S. this year and helped to support our community!

Members met after this amazing day of service at Joy Hill in Denver to celebrate. Thank you to our 2023 L.U.V.S. Co-Chairs, Erika Calabretta and Haydan Smith, and the L.U.V.S. Committee members, for organizing a fun event to support the Denver community.

### **2023 L.U.V.S. Partners**

Boys Hope Girls Hope of Colorado

Florence Crittenton Services

Girls Inc. of Metro Denver

MotherWise Colorado

The Urban Farm

There with Care Denver

UpRoot Colorado

Urban Peak



## Children's Museum of Denver Celebrates 50 Years

The Children's Museum of Denver creates extraordinary experiences that encompass the wonder and joy of childhood. Believing in the power of play, the museum provides exhibits that are hands-on, interactive, and totally one-of-a-kind.

The Junior League of Denver supported the creation of the museum, which celebrated its 50th anniversary on September 7, 2023. During the museum's annual Birthday Bash fundraiser, guests celebrated the museum's 50th year of providing wonder, joy, and good vibes for visitors of all ages with support from the League.

JLD members supported all aspects of this Birthday Bash. Two JLD Past Presidents, Kali Handford and Julia Lazure, chaired the event, and the committee was largely composed of League members. It also served as a unique Done in a Day shift, allowing other members to volunteer with set up activities including setting tables, chairs, décor throughout the museum and plaza, hanging elements, and setting stage and tent décor. Taking the museum back to its beginning in 1973, attendees boogied to 1970s music and celebrated an amazing community gathering place in Denver that welcomes all children and their adults. Thank you for your commitment, JLD members!



*Julia Lazure & Kali Handford, JLD Past Presidents & Birthday Bash Co-Chairs*

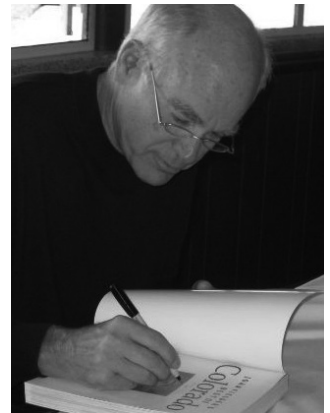
---

## Remembering a Colorado Photography Legend

Colorado photographer John Fielder passed away on August 11, 2023, after spending nearly five decades traversing the Centennial State capturing its stunning landscapes. His work became a comprehensive collection of the varied environments of Colorado, which drew people to the state to see the vistas for themselves. He hoped their exposure to the outdoors would instill a sense of respect for nature so that they would become advocates for protecting and preserving what's left of America's wilderness.

Before he passed away, John donated 5,000 of his images to the public through a commemorative exhibit at History Colorado. His hope was to provide a capsule of what Colorado looked like prior to the changing climate. The League also had a connection with John thanks to his donations of photos featured in JLD cookbooks. His breathtaking shots appear in *Crème de Colorado*, *Colorado Collage*, and *Colorado Classique*. The League is thankful for John's kindness and generosity over the years.

**Active members can fulfill a Fund Development credit by purchasing all six of the 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.



*John Fielder signs books at a Sustainer Luncheon*

# Get connected:

*join together to provide access and exchange.*



## Sustainer End of Summer Soirée

The JLD Sustainer Council hosted an End of Summer Soirée at Past President Becky Schaub's beautiful home on Wednesday, September 27. It was a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with fellow Sustainers following the summer break as well as a chance to meet new people while enjoying appetizers, wine and cocktails. There were 80 attendees ranging from new Sustainers to Past Presidents. The event highlighted the life-long friendships created between League members.

## New Member Class of 1973–74 Celebrates 50th Anniversary

A group of 13 women from the 1973–74 New Member Class gathered on October 20, 2023, at member and Past President Merrilyn Leuthold's home to celebrate 50 years of membership and friendship. Attendees enjoyed catching up on their present-day lives, as well as reflecting on how much JLD has evolved in 50 years. For example, the 1973–74 roster includes 40 women who joined JLD that year; this year we welcomed a class of 127 New Members, showing just how much our League has grown!

An astonishing five Past Presidents came from the 1973–74 class: Bonnie Downing (1981–82), Ellen Fisher (1982–83), Merrilyn Leuthold (1984–85), Arlene Hirshfeld (1986–87) and Carolyn Schafer Wollard (1988–89).

Guests of honor at the anniversary celebration included 1973–74 New Member Chair Day Peters and 1973–74 President Mary Gittings Cronin, who spoke beautifully about JLD history, including recounting what the League was like in the early 1970s and the issues the class was concerned about at the time, including diversity, healthcare, education, and preservation.

Members from the 1973-74 class went on to support a variety of Junior League projects focused on the community's needs, including the following:

- **Historical Preservation:** Members participated with and donated funds to Historic Denver, Inc., which was initially formed to save the Molly Brown House from demolition.

*(continued »)*

## Save the Dates for Upcoming JLD Happenings

### March 14:

JLD Day at the Capitol & March General Meeting

### March 30–April 21:

Spring Lottery Registration

### April 13:

Saturday with Sustainers General Meeting

### June 23:

Fourth Annual Drive for Change Golf Tournament at City Park Golf Course

- **Public Affairs:** The Public Affairs committee was formed in the early 1970s, when the League began exploring our role in policy and advocacy and educating our members on current issues and topics. The Public Policy Council continues to take on that important work today.
- **Establishing Trails:** JLD worked with the Land Use Task Force of the Women's Environmental Coalition to establish the first urban trail way in the State of Colorado. Members also helped establish part of the Hogback trail west of Denver.
- **Career Advancement:** JLD founded EXPLO Career Education Fair to help high school juniors and seniors plan for a career. The fair hosted 50,000 students over three years, after which the JLD advocated and helped pass a bill requiring career education to become part of all K-12 schooling in Colorado.
- **Healthcare:** JLD collected data and completed/computer-coded over 800 research studies for the HEART (Hereditary Screening, Early Heart Attacks, Atherosclerosis in Childhood, Research Genetics, Teratology) program.

Congratulations to the wonderful women from the 1973-74 New Member class who continue to contribute to the Junior League of Denver in rich and meaningful ways, we appreciate you!



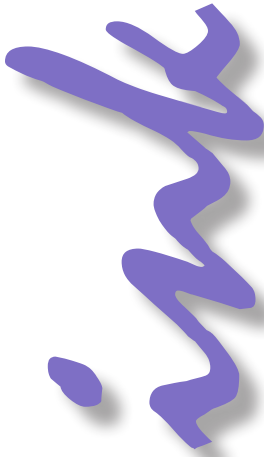
*From left to right — Front Row: Molly (Waters) Williams, Merrilyn Leuthold, Arlene Hirschfeld, Ellen Fisher, Susie Willson, Day Peters; Second Row: Nancy Wimbush, Kay Hall, Carolyn Schaefer Wollard, Lynne Cundy; Third Row: Jeri Vanatta, Marcie Wolff, Bonnie Downing.*

## 44th Annual Mile High Holiday Mart a Success!



Thank you to our Mile High Holiday Mart Committee, JLD Staff members and all volunteers who pitched in League-wide to help make our largest fundraising event run smoothly. A huge thank you also goes out to our wonderful merchants, sponsors and shoppers. We could not do it without your support!

Congratulations to our 2023 Mile High Holiday Mart Chair, Caryne Mesquita, as well as her entire team for their hard work on the event! Nearly 50% of our merchants were new for 2023. We appreciate and value their hard work and dedication.



### **ink Committee**

Deanne Rider, Editor  
Elizabeth Aviles, Assistant Editor

### **JLD Staff**

Vanessa Banker, *Communications Director, ext. 114*  
Cassandra Jones, *Finance & Operations Director*  
Celeste Sims, *Operations Manager, ext. 100*

### **JLD Headquarters**

Junior League of Denver  
1301 S. Washington St., Denver, CO 80210  
**phone:** 303.692.0270  
**email:** [info@jld.org](mailto:info@jld.org)  
**web:** [JLD.org](http://JLD.org)  
**hours:** Monday thru Friday 9 am–4 pm

### **Mission**

The Junior League of Denver, Inc. (founded in 1918), is an organization of women whose Mission is to advance women's leadership for meaningful community impact through volunteer action, collaboration, and training.



JUNIOR LEAGUE OF  
**DENVER**

1301 S. Washington St.  
Denver, CO 80210



@juniorleaguedenver



@juniorleaguedenver

#JLD

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