



JUNIOR LEAGUE OF
DENVER

Winter Issue

Volume 2021 — Issue 2

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



*Ninth Annual virtual Journey fundraiser on March 19,
featuring keynote conversation with Carli Lloyd!*

Grow:

to increase in size, number or degree.



*Melanie Lewis
Dickerson*

Message from the President

Dear Members,

Despite the shared challenges we've faced this year, I am continuously impressed and inspired by how our members have maintained their resilience and dedication to give back to our Denver community, grow together and get connected with each other. Our volunteers have worked incredibly hard to adapt our approach to ensure we can continue our Mission and amplify our impact. I could not be more grateful for each member's contributions.

The League's creativity and flexibility has advanced our Strategic Plan and overarching strategic priorities this year:

- Our **Training and Public Policy Councils** continue to host hybrid and virtual training opportunities to reach more members than ever before.

- The **Membership and Sustainer Councils** are connecting and engaging both new and longtime members with the League's Mission and each other.
- The **Community Council** has empowered our members to volunteer more than 1,400 hours through our community programs, serving nearly 12,000 meals and distributing more than 3,500 books, reaching more than 7,200 children.
- The **Fundraising Council** has creatively built a culture of philanthropy across the League by starting new traditions and adapting signature events, like our 41st Annual Mile High Holiday Mart, which went virtual for the first time ever, and The Journey, a fully-virtual event happening on March 19.
- And the **Communications and Finance & Operations Councils** have ensured we remain a healthy organization and that our members and partners are well-informed.

Additionally, we have worked to elevate our **diversity, equity and inclusion efforts** by providing short-term training opportunities and developing a long-term vision for our organization. This spring, our Board of Directors will review a strategic roadmap for DEI that is a culmination of the last two years of work by our DEI Committee.

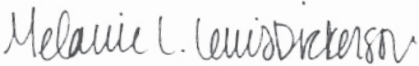
Our membership also just endorsed the **expansion of our focus area** to ensure we are meeting our community's greatest needs. With that goal in mind, I'm excited to share that our future focus will include women and families facing systemic poverty. We believe, through the leadership of our trained volunteers, we can help disrupt this cycle and build a better Denver for everyone. This work will build on the continued success of our literacy efforts by helping us engage in adjacent areas like homelessness, education, health and food security.

And we're working to **build a culture of using data for improvement** across our organization to measure our achievements, inform our planning and tell the story of our impact. Later this year, we'll review the initial data collected under our new Strategic Plan in addition to rolling out our second annual member survey.

It's been amazing to watch our members rise to the occasion this year and provide critical support to our community while developing their leadership skills. Our members are impactful professionals, transformative volunteers and incredible civic leaders. There is simply no task too big or too small for the women of the Junior League of Denver.

I'm so proud of our members and how they continue to further the legacy of the League. The JLD continues to thrive and make a difference after 102 years because of YOU.

In Partnership,



Melanie Lewis Dickerson
2020–2021 JLD President
president@jld.org

Increased attendance at virtual training events

The JLD Training Council has been hard at work to meet the increased interest in training events. The move to exclusively virtual meetings has presented unique opportunities to provide additional training content to our members. So far this League year, attendance is already more than 70% higher than for all of 2019–2020.

Driven by this increased interest, a League-wide survey went out on January 14 to gather feedback and interests from our members. Responses to questions like, “What types of trainings do you attend? (personal/professional development, GM, etc.),” “What meeting formats do you prefer?” and “In what subject areas would you like to see more training opportunities?” will help the Training Council determine future topics, potential guest speakers, duration and frequency of events. This feedback was considered so valuable that participants who completed the survey received a League Experience credit in return. The Training Council received 248 completed surveys. Examples of feedback included, “I would like to see a mix of times offered,” “I think having recordings of trainings would be helpful for people that do not have the availability to join” and “Continue with virtual options.”

Stay tuned for opportunities to participate in mini-trainings at future council or committee meetings. The Philanthropic Development Committee is currently working on a new concept called Training in a Box. The trainings will include prepared sets of materials covering various topics that leaders can access to provide small, interactive training to groups at their convenience. Each Training in a Box will contain about 15 minutes of content that can be shared easily at a council or committee meeting, making them simple and accessible. More info coming soon! Questions? Email training@jld.org.



*Dec. 5 Virtual
Holiday GM*

Give:

*to present voluntarily and
without expecting compensation.*



*Journey emcee
Reggie Rivers*

Please join us for Ninth Annual Virtual Journey fundraiser on March 19!

Our 2021 Journey event will be held virtually on March 19 for the first time. This decision was made in order to protect the health of our members, attendees and community.

This year's event features a live stream with emcee Reggie Rivers and a keynote conversation with soccer superstar, Carli Lloyd! The online auction, part of the virtual program, will include items signed by Carli. Katherine Rainbolt, The Journey 2021 Co-Chair, says of the event, "We are honored, proud and excited to present the first-ever virtual Journey! Our ladies have worked tirelessly to take care of every detail for our guests so they can kick back, relax and enjoy the full Journey experience from the safety of their homes."

There are a variety of ticket options available to cater to the individual comfort level of our guests as we all do our part to slow the spread. Virtual Only tickets are \$25 and include access to the annual paddle raise, so make it a night "in" with your family! Be sure to spread the word to out-of-town family about this option as well. There are also several "Personal Party" options that include food, wine, cocktails and flowers delivered to your home the day of the event (Denver metro area only).

- Virtual Only, \$25
- Personal Party of Two, \$200
- Personal Party of Four, \$400
- Personal "Table" of Six, \$600
- VIP "Table" of Six, \$1,200

Visit bit.ly/jldjourney2021 to purchase tickets by Monday, March 15. Can't attend? Please consider making a Pre-Paddle Raise donation to the event. Thank you for your support! Questions? Email journey@jld.org.



Comfort food for a cold, winter night

RED CURRY CHICKEN

Centennial Celebrations, page 141

SERVES 4

1 cup long grain white rice

8 thin chicken cutlets

Salt and pepper to taste

2 tablespoons canola oil

2 red bell peppers, cut into slices

¼ cup water

1 (15-ounce) can coconut milk

2 tablespoons red curry paste

¼ cup torn fresh basil leaves

Cook the rice according to the package directions.

Season the chicken with salt and pepper. Heat the canola oil in a skillet over medium-high heat. Cook the chicken in the oil in batches for 2 minutes per side or until golden brown and cooked through. Remove to a cutting board, reserving the skillet drippings. Cut the chicken into bite-size pieces. Add the bell peppers and water to the skillet drippings. Cook for 3 to 4 minutes or just until tender, stirring frequently. Stir in the coconut milk and curry paste. Simmer for 4 minutes. Season with salt and pepper. Add the chicken and mix well. Divide the rice and chicken mixture evenly among 4 serving plates. Sprinkle each with 1 tablespoon of the basil. Garnish each plate with a lime wedge.

Special member
prices extended!



SPECIAL MEMBER PRICES

Colorado Cache: \$12

Crème de Colorado: \$15

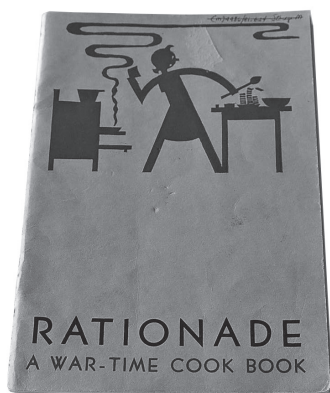
Colorado Collage: \$15

Colorado Colore: \$15

Colorado Classique: \$15

Centennial Celebrations: \$18

As an added bonus for all members, the special member pricing has been extended through May 31! You may call the office at 303.692.0270 (press zero) to pay for your cookbooks and arrange pick-up (curbside available!) with JLD Staff. Questions? Email info@jld.org.



Cookbook History Fun Fact

We often think of *Colorado Cache* as the first JLD cookbook, but it's actually the second! In the fall of 1943, during World War II, the Scribbler's Club, with the assistance of Mrs. Katharine Fuller, compiled, wrote and published the JLD's first cookbook, *Rationade*. The JLD sold 750 cookbooks, raising \$700. The funds were used to gift 1,500 books to Fitzsimmons Army Hospital for wounded soldiers and a subscription of *TIME* Magazine to the U.S.O.

Register for our Black Friday "Refer a Friend" Giveaway for a chance to win a complete set of the Junior League of Denver's cookbooks!

I've been referred!

Holiday Mile High Mart

VIRTUAL MART

SHOP THE MART!

Use code
HM2020
for promos with
participating
merchants!

View Merchant Guide

2020 Mile High Holiday Mart raises \$57,000



For the first time in its 41-year history, the Mile High Holiday Mart was held completely online. Shoppers were able to make their purchases from the safety and comfort of their own homes. Thank you to our co-chairs Liz Glenn and Jennifer Ayvaz, as well as

Lindsey Talafuse, Fundraising VP, for their leadership and hard work to make Mile High Holiday Mart a success. **We are proud to report that despite the shift from in-person to virtual, the event raised \$57,000!** Thank you to everyone who supported us through the holiday season.

You are still able to submit receipts for Fund Development credit. Purchases totaling \$100 or more with a receipt dated November 15 - December 31, 2020 are eligible for credit. Questions? Email holidaymart@jld.org.

Save the Dates! Upcoming JLD Events

March 19: The Journey

March 24 – April 15: Spring Lottery Registration

March 30: General Meeting — Public Policy

May 22: JLD Kitchen Tour

Get connected:

join together to provide access and exchange.

Future Focus Expansion and Grant Recipients endorsed by JLD members

The first General Meeting of the year on Monday, February 8 included a packed agenda. Active members voted to approve the 2021-2022 Board of Directors Slate. JLD members also endorsed our Future Focus Expansion and Collaborative Grant Recipients.

Congrats to the following women, who will serve on our Board next year! Thank you to Nominating Chair Tiffany Deines, as well as her committee, for their hard work to select future JLD leaders.

2021–2022 Board of Directors

President: Caryne Mesquita

President-Elect: Lindsey Talafuse

Secretary: Calley Wright Renz

Treasurer: Carrie Kufta

Communications Vice President: Midori Clark

Community Vice President: Lisa Weatherbie

Finance & Operations Vice President: Isabelle Vargas

Fundraising Vice President: Jacklyn VanOoyik

Membership Vice President: Amy Marty Conrad

Public Policy Vice President: Lindsay Johnson

Training Vice President: Elizabeth Hipp

Sustainer Vice President: Amy Johnson

Board Manager: Kate Percival

The Collaborative Impact Grants Committee presented three grant recipient finalists selected from more than 20 applicants. JLD members chose to support **We Don't Waste** and **WeeCycle** as this year's grant recipients. Each organization will receive grants and volunteer placements next year. The committee will grant up to \$25,000 total to these two wonderful organizations.

The Future Focus Special Committee created a list of guidelines to move forward with developing a recommendation based on research and member feedback. The committee proposed **expanding our impact area to include women and families experiencing poverty** and this proposal was endorsed by JLD members during the meeting. The expansion allows for new trainings, nonprofit partners and legislation for the League to support. More information coming soon!



*JLD members
volunteer at WeeCycle
Done in a Day*



ink Committee

Shannon LaBay, Editor

Lisa Mehlbrech, Assistant Editor

JILD 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

JILD Headquarters

Junior League of Denver

1140 Delaware Street, Denver, CO 80204

phone: 303.692.0270

email: info@jild.org

web: 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.



JUNIOR LEAGUE OF
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1140 Delaware Street
Denver, CO 80204



@juniorleaguedenver



@jildenver



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