



**JUNIOR LEAGUE**  
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

# Inside Scoop

## 2025 Fall Issue

JLKC.org

**“Thanksgiving is not only being aware of the abundance of good in the world, but embracing it.”**

**Richelle E. Goodrich**

**In this newsletter you can expect:**

Cookie Exchange Event

Upcoming Fundraisers: S&S, C3KC

Pop-up Dinner Club

Find the Good Day Recap

Project Period: Embrace the Cycle

Inaugural Mah Jongg Tournament



# LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT

In this season of gratitude, I've been reflecting on what makes the Junior League such a uniquely meaningful organization. And the answer always comes back to YOU.



Each of you brings something special to our League: your time, your energy, your curiosity, your compassion, your willingness to show up even when life is full. You are the heartbeat of our mission. You are the reason we continue Building Connections. Building Leaders—in ways that genuinely strengthen our community and one another.

Thanksgiving encourages us to pause and take stock. I hope you'll spend some time this month reflecting on what you're grateful for within the Junior League. Maybe it's the friendships that have sustained you, the leadership opportunities that have stretched you. Maybe it's the sense of purpose you've found in service or simply the feeling of belonging to something bigger than yourself. Maybe it's the opportunity to make a meaningful difference in a world where making an impact sometimes feels challenging. As the Honorable Patricia Schroeder, former U.S. Representative from Colorado, said, "You can't wring your hands and roll up your sleeves at the same time."

And if you're struggling to find something to be thankful for this season—if gratitude feels just a little out of reach—let that be your call to action.



**BUILDING CONNECTIONS.  
BUILDING LEADERS.**

Lean into the League. Make a new connection at an upcoming meeting, sign up for a Training that sparks your interest, or reach out to a leader on your Committee or Council. Often, gratitude follows momentum. Sometimes what we need most is simply to step back in, even gently.

On a personal note, please know how grateful I am for each one of you. Thank you for the countless ways you contribute, both seen and unseen. Thank you for saying yes, for bringing your full selves to the table, and for trusting one another as we grow, learn, and lead side-by-side. Thank you for showing up when things are joyful (and especially so, when things are challenging). Thank you for your grace and joy as we navigate a busy year together. And thank you for your friendship, encouragement, and camaraderie.

You make this work meaningful. You make this community shine. And my life is richer because of each and every one of you.

I hope your Thanksgiving was filled with rest, warmth, and connection — and that you feel proud of the impact you make in the world and in this League.

With gratitude always,

Sarah Koci Scheilz  
2025-2026 President

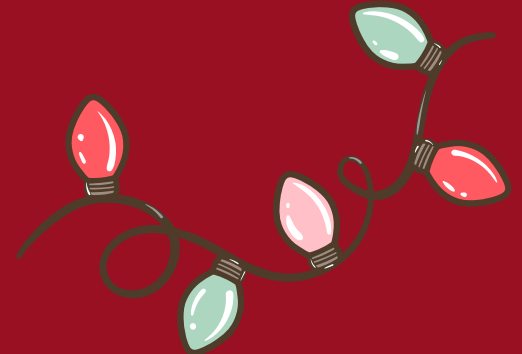
# IT'S THE MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR: ADMISSIONS COMMITTEE EDITION!



“Good food is all the sweeter when shared with good friends.”  
Unknown

The Cookie Exchange, hosted by the Admissions Committee on Wednesday, November 19, was a recipe for both fun times and sugar rushes! The Roanoke Room was merry and bright with delicious hors d'oeuvres, festive Christmas music and decorations and, of course, cookies and other sweet treats! Festive attire was also worn by several attendees. Oh, and it would not be the holidays without some hot chocolate and apple cider! Each attendee could take home some treats in a holiday-themed box, designed by our own Maegan Tambke-Thomas!

We had several potential new members attend with one “obligation:” bring cookies or other sweet treats to share! The potential new members had several questions about the League that the Admissions Committee members were glad to answer. Additionally, the potential new members were given a tour of the JLKC building. We received positive feedback from the potential new members about the event!



# GREETINGS FROM DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION, AND BELONGING!

**“Diversity is having a seat at the table, inclusion is having a voice, and belonging is having that voice be heard.”**

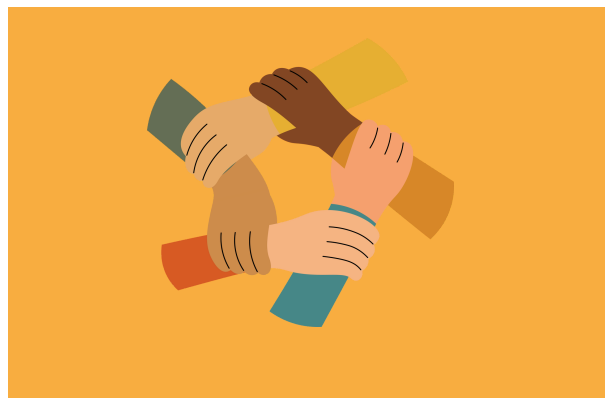
**Liz Fosslein**

All members of the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB) Council are excited to be part of our first year as a Council! We have been working on ways to make GMMs more inclusive and accessible, in addition to ensuring that League policies are thoughtful and welcoming to all. As a part of that goal, we have created food and beverage guidelines for League events as well as supporting the Marketing Council in crafting policies that highlight holidays, heritage months, and other celebrations on JLKC social media channels. We are continuously striving to make sure our League is a place where we all want to be.

If you have any questions or ideas for improving DEIB within the League, please contact your 2025-26 DEIB Council representative:

- Mindy Becker (Community)
- Veronica Castellano (Membership)
- Caitlin Fore (Finance),
- Taylor Hodges (Training)
- Teresa Maly (Fund Development)
- Hannah McSpadden (Nominating)
- Sophia Taylor (Marketing)

You may also reach out to Jo York, Director of DEIB; Neera Gupta, our Council Assistant; or Laura Sellers as the DEIB Member-at-Large.



## CELEBRATING COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

*WHO ARE MODELS FOR DEIB INITIATIVES*





# IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN: THE ANNUAL SIP & SUPPORT FUNDRAISER!

For more than a century, the Junior League of Kansas City, Missouri (JLKC) has trained generations of women to become civic leaders, making lasting contributions to our city through meaningful volunteer service and community partnerships. Our legacy includes the founding and support of many beloved Kansas City institutions—and our work continues today.

From 7:00 to 11:00 pm on December 4, 2025, we will host Sip & Support, a holiday-themed fundraiser at The Carriage Club. The event will feature a festive atmosphere, signature cocktails, and a silent auction—all to raise funds that support our mission of developing the potential of women and improving our community through the power of trained volunteers. The attire is cocktail.

Patron-level ticket holders will be able to take an exclusive bus ride down to the Plaza to view the iconic Plaza lights with friends during the event. Please see the link below for purchasing tickets:

<https://jlkc.org/auction/>



## Save the Date

Thursday, December 4, 2025

7:00 PM - 11:00 PM

The Carriage Club

Kansas City, MO



**“Christmas is a season for kindling the fire for hospitality in the hall, the genial flame of charity in the heart.”**  
Washington Irving



## Auction Item Sneak Peek!



**MARGARITAVILLE**  
Hotel  
KANSAS CITY

# C3KC 2026: OUR MISSION IN MOTION!



corporate. civic. community.

C3KC is the League's current signature fundraiser and the funds raised benefit our work in the Community.

The 2026 Branton/Hall Honoree is: Julia Irene Dennie-Kauffman. The Branton/Hall Award is named after two of our members who won the highest award (Mary Harriman Award) given annually by AJLI. Ms. Dennie-Kauffman has created a legacy for Kansas City through the gift of the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts, which was opened in 2011. In addition, the Muriel McBrien Kauffman Family Foundation has stewarded significant impact in the areas of the arts and health care through millions of dollars in grants and support that has substantially impacted the Kansas City community for the better. The work of the Muriel McBrien Kauffman Family Foundation is synergistic with the Junior League of Kansas City, Missouri in that a number of the recipients of the League's volunteer support and funding over our 110+ years mirror those of the Muriel McBrien Kauffman Family Foundation. This includes the Coterie Theater, the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey, and the Kansas City Zoo, to name a few.

Keynote: Shaylyn Romney Garrett, co-author of *The Upswing* with Robert Putnam. An internationally recognized author, lecturer, and social entrepreneur, her work has been featured by *The New York Times*, *TIME*, *NPR*, *BBC*, and *PBS*. She co-founded *Think Unlimited*, a nonprofit driving social innovation in the Middle East, and developed an Arabic-language curriculum on creativity and critical thinking in partnership with Queen Rania of Jordan.

Please purchase tickets at:  
[jlk.org/c3kc](http://jlk.org/c3kc)



*Julia Irene Dennie-Kauffman*



*Shaylyn Romney Garrett*



# THE MEMBERSHIP COUNCIL AND DINNER CLUB PRESENT: POP-UP DINNER CLUB!

**“Food brings people together on many different levels. It’s  
nourishment of the soul and body; it’s truly love.”**

**Giada De Laurentiis**

Dinner Club embraced a festive Halloween-themed event in the month of November and it was a hit! Members gathered for an evening filled with creativity, flavor, and plenty of laughter. Our Dinner Club continues to be a place where good food and good people come together.

Meet the newest initiative from Dinner Club and Neighborhoods: **Pop-Up Dinner Club**. We are teaming up to bring you opportunities to share a meal with other League members at a surprise restaurant near you.

Head to the December League calendar to sign up for a Pop-Up Dinner Club in a neighborhood near you — or somewhere new! Once your reservation approaches, the restaurant will be revealed. If you have dietary restrictions, concerns, or just want some hints at where you’re going, please email Savannah Kannberg & Ginny Brown at [dinnerclub@jkkc.org](mailto:dinnerclub@jkkc.org).





The League celebrated "Find the Good Day" on September 18, 2025. This special day of unity and compassion aimed to spread kindness, uplift others, and inspire positive change across Kansas City. "Find the Good Day," an initiative from The Association of Junior Leagues International (AJLI), served as an opportunity for individuals, families, and organizations to come together as change makers and create a ripple effect of positivity throughout our community. It was a day to reflect on the goodness within ourselves and to find inspiration in the acts of kindness we had witnessed and participated in throughout the year.

Sarah Koci Scheilz, JLKC President, shared her excitement for the "Find the Good Day" initiative. "Our Junior League has a rich history of bringing good things to life here in KC, and Find the Good Day exemplified exactly that," Koci Scheilz said. "The Junior League is a ripple effect organization, where our members make an impact in the community because of what they learn together. It's all about celebrating the positivity happening right here in Kansas City, and our members were thrilled to be part of this international Find the Good Day movement."



### CELEBRATING COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

*WHO ARE MODELS FOR DEIB INITIATIVES*



**CONNECT CAFE**

CELEBRATING COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS  
*WHO ARE MODELS FOR DEIB INITIATIVES*

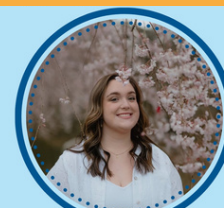


**ALPHA POINTE**

CELEBRATING COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS  
*WHO ARE MODELS FOR DEIB INITIATIVES*

### CELEBRATING JLKC MEMBERS

*WHO MAKE A DIFFERENCE*



**Brandi Fletcher**

Hilcrest Transitional Housing Chair

CELEBRATING JLKC MEMBERS  
*WHO MAKE A DIFFERENCE*



**Ashley Porter**

New Member

CELEBRATING JLKC MEMBERS  
*WHO MAKE A DIFFERENCE*

# THE MONTHLY FLOW: TIME TO CELEBRATE YOU!

**“The emerging woman will be strong-minded, strong-hearted, strong-souled, and strong-bodied. Strength and beauty must go together.”**

**Louisa May Alcott**

You make a difference! Because of your generosity and time on Find the Good Day, we packed 2,350 period products into Period Packs!

This year, Project Period KC is focused on distributing Period Packs to those who need them through community partners and select events. With our Choose What You Use model, recipients select the products they use—promoting dignity and inclusivity. Our distribution cycle is centered on partnerships with you, donors, and community organizations.

Since September, we have distributed over 4,300 period products to our four community partners and we're growing!

**Did you know** that 1 in 3 people who menstruate miss school or work because they can't access period products? \*Source: Alliance for Period Supplies Missouri State Fact Sheet on Period Poverty, 2025 Since launching our distribution program in September, Project Period KC has distributed 4,300+ tampons and pads through four community partners, helping ensure people get the period products they need.

## Embrace the Cycle with us.

Donate, pack, deliver, spread the word - Your support keeps our shelves stocked and our reach growing. Contact [projectperiodkc@jlkc.org](mailto:projectperiodkc@jlkc.org) for more information.

## HOW YOU CAN HELP



Drop off new, unopened pads and tampons at  
JLKC HQ 9215 Ward Pkwy, KCMO



Become a Community Partner



Host a donation drive



Shop the **Project Period KC Amazon Wishlist**



## Embrace the Cycle

Our cycle shows repeating pattern of action and community partnership





NOV | 21-22 | 2025

# Inaugural JOKERS & JEWELS Mah Jongg Tournament

The inaugural Jokers & Jewels Mah Jongg Tournament was held November 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> at the beautiful Ameristar Casino & Hotel. Friends connected, players competed, volunteers hustled, and everyone shared the love of the game, all while supporting our community.

A huge shout out to all the Mah Jongg Committee members who made the inaugural fundraiser happen! It was incredible with a great turnout from non-League members!

A heartfelt thank you to our friends at Ameristar for graciously providing the beautiful Fountain Ballroom for the JLKC Inaugural Jokers & Jewels Mah Jongg Tournament! A huge thank you to our sponsor, Aesthetics for Women! Their support of the JLKC Inaugural Jokers & Jewels Mah Jongg Tournament is just one of the many ways they continue championing women in Kansas City. We extend our sincere thanks to the talented small business, Mahjong Luxe, that showed up to support Jokers & Jewels and brought their stunning mahjong racks & quivers to share with our players. While not on social, you can email Charlotte Hatfield, their chief creator, to experience the craftsmanship firsthand! [CharKC21@gmail.com](mailto:CharKC21@gmail.com)

Additionally, we collected over 1,500 period products at the events. We are deeply grateful to everyone who donated, your generosity makes a meaningful difference



# Our Mission

The Junior League of Kansas City, Missouri, is a 501(c)(3) organization of women whose Mission is to

*advance  
women's  
leadership for  
meaningful  
community impact*

through volunteer action, collaboration, and training.

 **JUNIOR LEAGUE**

KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

9215 Ward Parkway

Kansas City, MO 64114-3307

Change Service Requested

Dated Material

Nonprofit  
Organization

PAID

Permit No. 1440

Kansas City, MO

## Stay in Touch!

Add us to your contacts and text photos/videos to the media library! (Include a short description of the photo)



Scan here



We've got a new look!  
Check it out at [Jlkc.org](http://Jlkc.org)