

Inside Scoop

SPRING/SUMMER 2024

 **JUNIOR LEAGUE**
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI



League to Celebrate 110th Year!

In 2024, we celebrate 110 years of our commitment to our community, and our commitment to each other.

Read on to learn more about how our League has been celebrating, and will celebrate this milestone, all year long!

Top News

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A Letter from Our Past President

Dear **Junior League of Kansas City Members**,

I am filled with immense pride and gratitude for the unwavering commitment and impact we've made together. Our League's legacy of service, collaboration, and community engagement continues to shine brightly, even in the face of challenges.

Reflecting on Our Journey

The past year has been a tapestry of accomplishments, resilience, and unprecedented change. We've navigated uncharted waters through the launch of Member Essentials, hosting our first-ever period poverty summit, as well as the launch of Find the Good Day. We've adapted to shifting expectations in how we continue to service the Kansas City Community and emerged stronger than ever. As we transition into the next League year, I am excited to witness how we will continue to fulfill our mission in new and innovative ways.

Our Unstoppable Impact

Our trained volunteers, each a force of nature, have worked hard to continue to make an impact on our beloved Kansas City. From identifying critical needs within our community to collaborating with community partners, we've taken bold action to create positive change. Whether it's addressing sudden funding gaps, providing relief during disasters, or championing essential programs, we've stood tall as advocates for progress.

A Grateful Heart

To each member of our League, thank you. Your dedication, passion, and tireless efforts are the bedrock of our success. Together, we've woven a vibrant tapestry of service, compassion, and empowerment. As we move forward, let's celebrate our achievements, learn from our challenges, and continue to uplift one another.

Looking Ahead

The road ahead holds promise and possibility. Let's embrace it with open hearts, unwavering determination, and the knowledge that we are part of something extraordinary. Our League's impact reverberates far beyond our meetings and events—it touches lives, transforms communities, and leaves an indelible legacy.

In Unity and Purpose

As we march onward, let's remember that we are not just members of an organization; we are catalysts for change. Our collective spirit, resilience, and vision will propel us toward even greater heights. Together, we are committed to our Kansas City Community and committed to each other.



With gratitude and anticipation,

Ericka Duker

Ericka Duker, President, Junior League of Kansas City, Missouri 2023- 2024



A Letter from Our Current President

Dear Junior League of Kansas City Members,

I welcome you to the 2024-2025 League year with tremendous joy. I'm humbled to be serving as president of this organization of 1,100 strong, dedicated women who are **passionate** and **spend their time to make a difference in our Kansas City community**.

Since 1914, the JLKCMO has effectively trained volunteers to be **civic, corporate, and community leaders**. I'm excited to partner with our membership to continue our longstanding tradition of inspiring and empowering women, providing in-depth leadership, personal development, and championing key community projects.

Every year we find ourselves confronted with important challenges in both our League and community. I know that through our theme of ***Inspired Excellence: Embracing Traditions ... with Momentum*** we will be able to focus on these perspectives:

- Remain **steadfastly committed** to our mission, ensuring it guides every action we take,
- Have a **renewed emphasis** on offering our members in-depth, thought-provoking training sessions,
- Cultivate a culture where we **take pride** in being members of the Junior League and actively encourage others to join, and
- Continually look for ways to **evolve and enhance** our fundraisers while ensuring that we promote fiscal **responsibility and sustainability** for years to come.

The Junior League has always been deeply committed to addressing the needs of our community. This year, I'm thrilled to see the development of our new signature program focused on period poverty. **Our dedication to the community and our organization remains steadfast**, strengthened by our robust partnerships and the active involvement of our members. I encourage you to **connect with one another** in ways that not only support our organization and community but also enrich the value of your membership.

As we embark on this journey, I am inspired by the promise of what lies ahead and **eager to achieve great things together**. I look forward to continuing our 110th celebrations, and I thank you for your contributions to the League this year and in the future.



Proudly serving,

Courtney Raupp

Courtney Raupp, President, Junior League of Kansas City, Missouri 2024-2025





May 2, 2024

The Guild and Paradise Garden Club

JLKC hosted its annual Sip & Support silent auction in the Crossroads District of Kansas City, a night filled with great food and music. All proceeds raised support JLKC's mission of advancing women's leadership for meaningful community impact and training programs.



**April 2, 2024
 Union Station**

The seventh annual C3KC conference brought together civic, corporate, and nonprofit communities to educate and spark change for a better Kansas City.

C3KC programming highlighted relevant, cutting-edge topics focused on positive social innovation. Attendees listened to expert panels explore the core focus of the conference and collaborated in breakout sessions with panels of local and national leaders, delving into the current challenges and solution opportunities of the community. Session topics included early childcare and education, healthcare, networking, and female entrepreneurship, among others.

Attendees enjoyed presentations from keynote speakers as well as the presentation of the 2024 Branton/Hall Community Collaborator Award winner, Maurice Watson.

Keynote Presenters

Gretchen Rubin

Keynote speaker Gretchen Rubin, author of the #1 New York Times and international bestseller *The Happiness Project* as well as *Happier At Home* and *Better Than Before*.



Nicole Jacobs Silvey

Nicole is the Co-Founder of the Sisters' Circle GKC, a giving circle for African American women, and the Rise Tribe, a group of African American women who host a podcast (Life in the Middle) addressing the unique complexities of life for women of color. She also serves as CCO of recently-launched Connection Coach KC.



Branton/Hall Community Collaborator Winner

Maurice Watson

This award recognizes an individual from the Greater Kansas City area who plays an active role in civic engagement, leadership, fostering a spirit of service to others, and promoting the spirit of collaboration for social good.



2024 GMM AWARDS

Congratulations, Award Recipients!

Community Service Award	<i>Lisa Rinehart Hoffman</i>
Active Member of the Year	<i>Brenda Poor</i>
Committee of the Year	<i>Community Volunteers & Grants</i>
Leader of the Year	<i>Anna Thomas-Rios</i>
Above and Beyond Award	<i>Alexis Strauss</i>
Active Achievement Award	<i>Sarah Dempster</i>
Advancing the Mission	<i>Courtney Lutgen</i>
New Member of the Year	<i>Terri Roberts Munsell</i>
AJLI Top 40 Under 40	<i>Abbie Rothermich</i>

2024-25 COMMUNITY PARTNERS

ScrapsKC

ScrapsKC's mission is to provide resources, education and an environment for creative upcycling that encourages change in a more responsible community.

Family Resource Center

Family Resource Center provides solutions to address the needs of working/disabled individuals, families, and senior citizens facing hardships due to poverty, low income, homelessness, and food insecurity.

Friends of JCDS

Through kinship with Johnson County Developmental Supports (JCDS), Friends of JCDS provides basic needs, affordable housing, and life enhancing opportunities for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

HopeKids Kansas City

HopeKids provides ongoing events, activities, and a powerful, unique support community for families who have a child with cancer or some other life-threatening medical condition. We surround these remarkable children and their families with the message that hope is a powerful medicine.



Special Proclamation

On March 21, 2024, the Junior League was honored with a special proclamation presented by Mayor Quinton Lucas on behalf of the City of Kansas City, Missouri. The proclamation celebrates our 110th anniversary and recognizes our outstanding service to the community. Past President Ericka Duker spoke and other JLKC leaders were in attendance.

Find the Good Day

Find the Good Day (Sept. 19) is not just a day on the calendar, it's a movement that reflects the timeless spirit of Junior Leagues, a legacy of kindness, empowerment, and community transformation. Together, we aim to make a difference by embracing the power of unity and positive change. In this way we look for, and find, the good!

Members volunteered around the community and attended an engaging panel discussion about the profound impact of volunteering for the League and our individual lives.



AN INTERNATIONAL DAY TO CELEBRATE
THE **GOOD** IN AND ALL AROUND US

POWERED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF JUNIOR LEAGUES INTERNATIONAL

Done in a Day!



Looking for opportunities to serve?

All are welcome at Done-in-a-Day volunteer opportunities! Whether a New Member, Active, or Sustainer, join us for an opportunity to serve the community and build relationships with community partners and your fellow League Members!

Sign up on Member Essentials!



Advanced Leadership Certification Series

Among the many great training opportunities offered this fall, take advantage of the award-winning Advanced Leadership Certification Series (ALCS)! The ALCS program is an amazing opportunity designed to train members on identifying and building strengths, enhancing leadership skills, and developing relationships to help prepare for leadership opportunities within the League and Kansas City community.

The ACLS program is brought to the JLKC League through a partnership with the Midwest Center for Nonprofit Leadership (MCNL) at the University of Missouri - Kansas City. A series of eight advanced leadership courses, each runs for two hours and is only offered once during each League year. Each course is designed to stand alone and can be completed in any order.

If you are interested in participating in one or all of the classes, check out the training calendar and sign up today!

Community Resource Fair

Saturday, March 23, 2024

The Community Resource Fair is an annual free public event for members of the Kansas City community who need routine healthcare and other basic quality-of-life resources that are difficult to access.

The 2024 Community Resource Fair featured critical public health resources such as vaccines, cholesterol screening, vision/dental screenings, and children's health services. We partnered with local organizations that brought resources such as:

- KU Department of Family Medicine, adult health screenings
- Chaney Dental, adult & child dental screenings
- Children's Mercy, child & teen asthma screenings and mental health resources
- HappyBottoms, resource information and sample diaper packs
- Healthy U and Community Kits (JLKC Signature Programs), care packages and trail mix
- KC Free Eye Clinic, Literacy KC, Legal Aid of Western MO, wildHERness, and CHES, Inc., resources and information

Attendees also had the chance to receive a free grocery gift card and enjoy hot coffee, light refreshments, and activities for kids.

We value your support for this impactful event by spreading the word! If you have questions, ideas, or connections to help us promote and improve the next Community Fair, please reach out to communityfair@jlk.org.



Farewell, Holiday Mart!

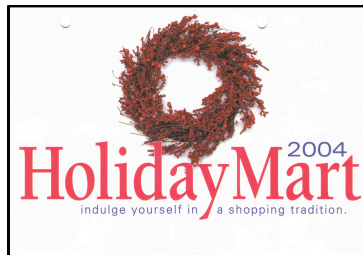
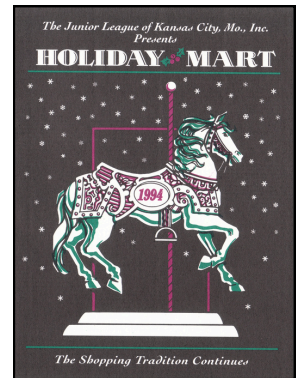
A League Institution is
Sunset with Style

Photos (from top): Martha Stewart is served in '88; League Chairs man their stations in '93; '94 marketing; 2004 marketing; latest logo; committee members 2012; tree decorating at Bartle Hall.

Holiday Mart launched in 1988 as a novel new supplement to the League's fundraising efforts. The event was a success, as shown by the numbers below, and featured a special guest speaker, Martha Stewart.

32 retailers **10k** shoppers **\$94k** raised **82** volunteer shifts

Over the years, the event became both a huge recruiting tool and a yearly staple for League members. Participation in the event through AMR shifts gave New Members and Actives alike a chance to support this signature event, and the time spent decking Bartle Hall (and its predecessor locations) solidified many lasting friendships. Many women have chaired or served on the Holiday Mart committee through its 30+ year tenure. "From the first time I attended Holiday Mart, I knew I had to be a part of the League," said Susan Moss, JLKC Past President and former Holiday Mart chair.



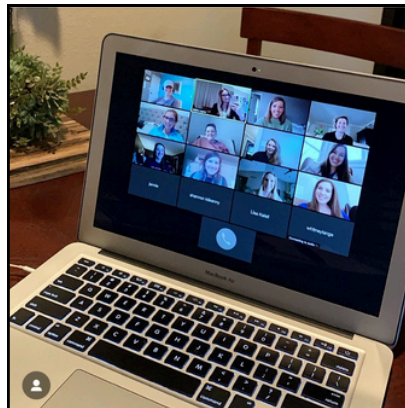
The event has evolved over the years, never more so than in 2020. Due to the overwhelming amount of uncertainty around the pandemic, the committee reimaged the Holiday Mart in-person shopping experience. They utilized some existing retailers to create our Holiday Mart box, shopper card, and Pics with St. Nic. *“The committee came together to keep the spirit of Holiday Mart alive!”* said Hailie Paulson, 2020 and 2023 Co-Chair.

In recent years, market changes like the rise of online shopping and local for-profit holiday shops have made Holiday Mart less competitive. As a result, the decision was made to sunset the program before it overstayed its welcome.

The final Holiday Mart was celebrated in 2023 at a new location in Crown Center, better suited to the number of vendors. The event gave the Mart a chance to bow out on a high note, with a champagne toast, special events, and goal-busting fundraising.



Photos (from top): Martha Stewart is served in '88; League Chairs man their stations in '93; '94 marketing; 2004 marketing; latest logo; committee members 2012; tree decorating at Bartle Hall.



2024-2025 Board of Directors



President - Courtney Raupp

President Elect - Sarah Koci Scheilz

Director of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion - Sara Harrison

Nominating Chair - Jennifer Bass

Board Assistant - Amanda Braun

Director of Community - Abigail Kennedy

Step-Up Director of Community - Abby Moog

Director of Finance / Treasurer - Melissa Coleman

Step-Up Director of Finance / Assistant Treasurer - Ash Parulekar

Director of Fund Development - Jammy Evans

Step-Up Director of Fund Development - Kristen Patterson

Director of Marketing / Secretary - Becky Haddican

Step-Up Director of Marketing / Assistant Secretary - Pallavi Siriam

Director of Membership - Stephanie Davis

Director of Planning - Cathy Cisetti

Bylaws Chair - Kim Craig

Director of Sustainers - Sally Cook

Director of Training - Savannah Kannberg

Executive Director - Astra Garner



Welcome,
Astra!



The League is thrilled to welcome Astra Garner as our new Executive Director.

With over a decade of leadership experience in the nonprofit sector and a graduate of the KC Chamber's Centurions program, Astra is dedicated to driving positive change and empowering our community.

Astra draws inspiration from her family to fuel her passion for making the community a better place.

"What inspires me are my daughters," she says. "I look at them and I see everything wonderful in the world and I really want the world to be a better place for them."

Astra is passionate about advocating for the League as we are today. "The causes that matter to the community matter to the League," she says. "I am excited to share the good news of the League about how we serve the community and train future leaders."

The League hosted a well-attended reception for Astra on June 25. Astra has already hit the ground running by attending the Presidents of Large Leagues (POLL) conference in New Orleans, where she networked with leaders of Leagues from across the country.

Where can you find Astra when not leading League activities?

Her two daughters keep her and her husband busy! Much time is spent traveling to competitive gymnastics practices and meets and attending Girl Scout meetings (...if anyone is looking for Girl Scout cookies, Astra knows someone selling...)

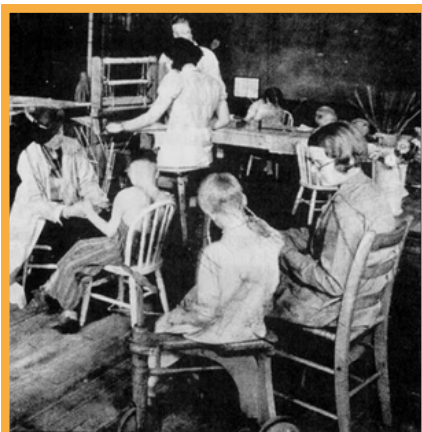
Astra's oldest daughter was born 12 weeks premature, and supporting other families with premature babies is a cause close to Astra's heart. Among other things, she supports the Children's Mercy NICU with annual premie clothing donations.

But when she can, Astra loves to laugh! Visiting local comedy shows or strolling the aisles of Costco are two of her favorite happy places.

A History Lesson

1911-1918 - The Beginning

JLKCMO was incorporated as the 14th Junior League with approximately 50 members. The org grew from a small group of women interested in social service who sewed for Mercy Hospital (now Children's Mercy Hospital) and organized a kindergarten for Swope Settlement.



1912: A small group of women showed interest in social service and organized the first kindergarten for five year-olds in Kansas City for Swope Settlement.



1915-1918

The League had 165 members, and as the U.S. enters World War I and the war ends, community service efforts include: Mattie Rhodes, Florence Crittenton Home, Katherine Hill Home, Nettleton Home, War efforts, Swope Settlement, Red Cross, and Spofford Home. Funds were raised through Follies.

1919-1923

Post World War I, the League grew to 267 members, and community service included the Red Cross, Junior League clinic (1st prenatal clinic in KC), Art Institute, and establishing Girls' Advisory Bureau (only agency in KC to care for both White and Black girls)

110

CELEBRATING OUR PAST.
Transforming Our Future!

We'll be celebrating all year long, watch for the following!

- History at the following GMMs
 - Sept 2024
 - Dec 2024
- Free gift if you round up your dues by \$110
- Sip & Support VIP Ticket
- Family activities
- Custom JL jewelry & T-shirt
- Exclusive Shoppportunity Event

1924-1928

The League had 297 members and begins volunteering for the Catherine Hale Home for Blind Women.

1928-1931

With 357 members, the League Headquarters moves to 58th and Madison.

1931-1933

The League grows slightly to 381 and opens an occupational therapy class at the DeLano School.

1934-1939

At 420 members, the League starts the Docent program at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art. It's also active in children's theatre plays. The League celebrates its 25th anniversary and the first parliamentarian is appointed.

1940-1941

JLKCMO had 440 members, the Thrift Shop moved to 3041 Main, and occupational therapy was offered at the DeLano School.



Beth Althoff is a product manager at Inovca. While she's always enjoyed volunteering, she was particularly drawn to the long history of the JLKCMO and the additional focus on training and connections. She's loved being able to build within her small group will participating in focused learning opportunities. Ask her the last place she traveled!

Amanda Cunigan is a 5th grade teacher and mom who lives in the Northland. She joined JLKCMO for volunteer opportunities, connection with other women, and to grow as a professional. As a New Member, she's enjoyed trainings (like "Happiness at Work") and social gatherings like book club. Ask her about her cow tattoo!!



Cami Galles is a singer, CEO of 3V Productions, and advertising executive. She joined to connect with fellow women who share a passion for making a meaningful difference in our beloved KC. Her favorite experiences so far have been the New

Member KC bus tour and volunteering at Lazarus Ministries. Ask her about having her music featured in Love is Blind!

New Member Spotlights

Kim Kushner is a mom and an IT Project Manager at the University of Missouri-Kansas City (UMKC) who lives in Overland Park; she is also working on her dissertation in UMKC's EdD program. She's enjoyed attending many of the Council meetings, participating in the DEI Committee, and serving as a door greeter at Holiday Mart. Ask her about the famous painting she's in!



Terri Roberts Munsell is a certified financial planner and financial advisor and mom who lives in Pleasant Hill, MO. Drawn to the power of women working together, she is participating in everything she can this year! A favorite is book club and the diverse group of League women who participate. She's also looking forward to the new Neighborhoods initiative. Ask her about being a Missouri Master Gardener and living on a 9-acre "farm"!

Upcoming Trainings



**Leadership Ed Committee
Presenting
Fund Development 101**
Tuesday, October 08
6:30-8:00 PM
JLKCMO HQ—9215 Ward Parkway



Basic CPR/AED Training
Saturday, October 26
10:00-11:00 AM
Overland Park Fire Department
12401 Hemlock St
Overland Park KS 66213
(non-certification class)



**Happy on Purpose for the
Holidays**
Tuesday, November 12
6:30-8:00 PM
JLKCMO HQ—9215 Ward Parkway

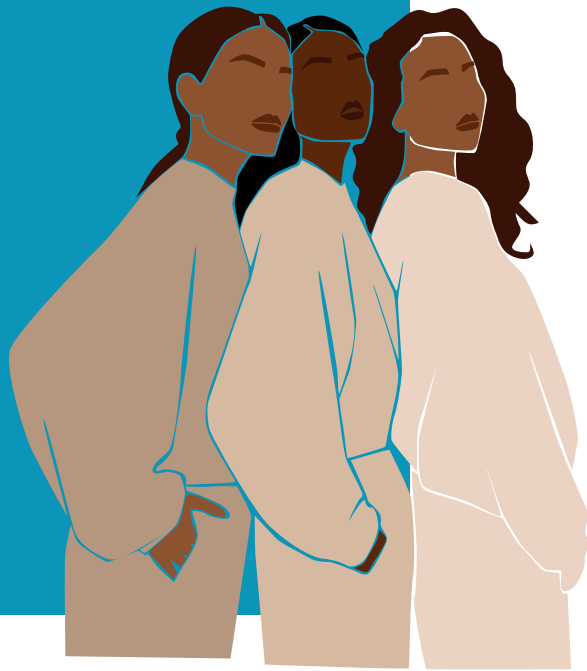
Evening Book Club

Join fellow JLKC members in Evening Book Club!

Actives, Sustainers, and New Members are all welcome to join the JLKC Evening Book Club. Many editors' picks on the selection list! Each gathering this year falls on a Wednesday evening at 7:00 pm, and locations feature an interesting venue each month. Make sure to sign up for any meeting you'd like to attend!

2024-2025 Book Picks

- October 16:** *Hidden Pictures* by Jason Rekulak
Rochester Brewing and Roasting Company, 2129 Washington St. KCMO
- November 20:** *Finding Me* by Viola Davis
Casual Animal Brewing Co., 1725 McGee St., KCMO
- December 11:** *The Wish* by Nicholas Sparks
Kaiemi Teel's home, 14405 W. 58th Ter., Shawnee, KS
- January 15:** *The Frozen River* by Ariel Lawhon
Made in KC Marketplace, Cafe & Bar, 306 W. 47th St., KCMO
- February 12:** *Iona Iverson's Rules for Commuting* by Clare Pooley
Pathlight Brewing, 11200 W. 75th St., Shawnee, KS
- March 12:** *The Light Pirate* by Lily Brooks-Dalton
Cinder Block Brewing, 110 E. 18th Ave., North KC, MO
- April 9:** *The Berry Pickers* by Amanda Peters
Friction Beer Company, 11018 Johnson Dr., Shawnee, KS
- May 14:** *The Book of Doors* by Gareth Brown
J. Rieger & Co., 2700 Guinotte Ave., KCMO
- June 11:** *The Sweetness of Water* by Nathan Harris
Gocha Shawnee, 7800 Shawnee Mission Pkwy., Mission, KS



WOC Affinity Group

Build connections, gain insights, and contribute to the growth of our community through the Women of Color Affinity Group. Whether a long-time member or new to the group, we look forward to seeing you!

Sept 17 | Tuesday
Headquarters
6:00-8:00 PM

Nov 4 | Monday
Potluck Social, see Member Essentials for registration
6:00-8:00 PM

Register on Member Essentials.

Connections Events!

Join us for Connections Events! All are welcome, New Members, Actives, and Sustainers. Check out Member Essentials to sign up for the socials and your local neighborhood get-togethers!

Game Night! Sept 18
Headquarters | 6:30-8:00 PM

Fall Craft Night Oct 16
Headquarters | 6:30-8:00 PM

Friendsgiving Bingo Night Nov 07
Headquarters | 6:30-8:00 PM

Holiday Hoopla Dec 10
Headquarters | 6:30-8:00 PM




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

CELEBRATING 110 YEARS OF JLKC



October 24 | The Guild KC

See jlkc.org for more information

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