

LEAGUE LINK

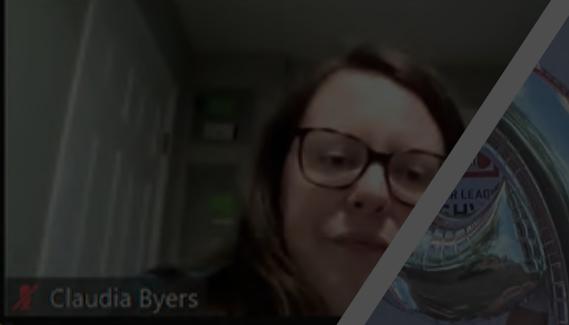
THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF NASHVILLE'S MAGAZINE • YEAR IN REVIEW 2020-2021



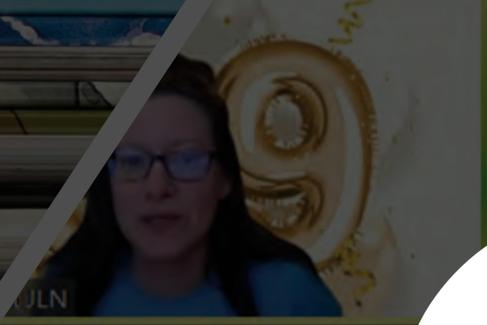
Jenna Watson



Brittany Irby



Claudia Byers



JULN



Amy Smotherman



Elisa Goodrich



2020-2021 Board of Directors



President
Sarah Creekmore Woodall



President-elect
Jenny Barker



Executive Vice President
Jenna Watson



Secretary
Elizabeth Wood



Treasurer
Jeanai Ranero



Active Director
Claudia Byers



Active Director
Brittany Irby



Active Director
Jade Sampson



Sustainer Director
Shana Allsmiller



Sustainer Director
Angela Moretti Goddard



Nominating Chair
Elisa Goodrich

2020-2021 Management Team



Executive VP
Jenna Watson



VP of Community
Nina Kumar



VP of Development
Adria DeLaune



VP of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion
La'Kishia Harris



VP of Marketing & Communications
Jessica Hopson



VP of Membership
Kathryn McNabb



VP of Operations
Samantha Yeagin



We're proud to support those who dream of a brighter tomorrow through helping others.



NOURISHING COMMUNITIES

To learn more about the JLN, please visit www.jlnashville.org and find us on Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter by searching **#myjln**.

IN THIS ISSUE:



- 2** President's Letter
- 4** Pivoting During a Time of Crisis
- 6** Women's Summit
- 7** Commitment to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
- 8** Soirée Virtual Auction
- 9** Hamilton Grant Funds
- 10** Past President Sue Spickard Honored by PENCIL
- 11** Book Drives
- 12** SHOP | SAVE | **SUPPORT**
- 13** Annual Meeting

OUR MISSION

The Junior League of Nashville 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. Its purpose is exclusively educational and charitable.





Sarah Creekmore Woodall

JLN PRESIDENT
2020-2021

DEAR FRIENDS,

This was not the year that any of us imagined. Over the course of the last 15+ months, our city and our members navigated a devastating tornado, an ongoing and divisive global pandemic, heightened racial turmoil, a tumultuous election season, a Christmas Day Bombing, a blizzard, a flood, and a second tornado.

Each of us has been impacted by these events differently - some of us have experienced mild inconveniences and some have had our lives forever changed.

I have always been a collector of quotes. Unique nuggets of wisdom that I save in my quote book - never knowing when the perfect moment to recite one presents itself. I saw this one on Twitter on November 14, 2019, credited to Denzel Washington. (At least, it seems to have been Denzel - without the presence of the blue check, you can never be too sure!) Regardless of the origin of this quote, I couldn't believe the timing and how much inspiration it would end up providing to me.

- Grapes must be crushed to make wine.
- Diamonds form under pressure.
- Olives are pressed to release oil.
- Seeds grow in darkness.

Whenever you feel crushed, under pressure, pressed, or in darkness, you're in a powerful place of transformation. Trust the process.

There were definitely moments in the past year that I felt crushed, under pressure, pressed, or in darkness, and I know many of you felt the same. In many ways it felt like we stood still this year, or paused. We're a member organization and didn't get to have much member togetherness! But Denzel is right about needing to "trust the process." As an organization,

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT: Sarah Creekmore Woodall

we were at that place of transformation—of reimagining. What was borne out of Year 99 was the ability to show our resiliency as an organization, our adaptability, and dare I say it, our ability to PIVOT!

Our community volunteers were able to adapt by filling the needs of community partners through creative ways like creating and delivering gardening kits or pizza-making kits. We kept our longstanding BINGO tradition alive by offering virtual BINGO to patients at the Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt. We collected 5,000 books to donate to partners utilizing technology forward ways of purchasing like QR codes.

We supported our Community Endowment with our first ever virtual auction. Over the course of an entire weekend, as opposed to a single event time, any member could log on and bid on items from the comfort of her home and in pjs still support our community partners.

We created socially distanced ways to offer engagement among members - like our Secret Santa and spring flower exchanges.

We offered our first-ever RiseUp! Women's Summit. The original idea for this event was to host an in-person, Nashville-area event, while considering space constraints of physical buildings. Instead, we were able to create an amazing virtual event that women could adapt to their schedules AND our nearly 300 attendees were able to watch from multiple states!

Prior to March 2020, many discussions had happened over the years asking how we could offer more flexibility to our membership. Enter the world of

Zoom.

This past year, I was known to say publicly, purposely using the word never, that we will NEVER go back to having to ask members to physically show up in Green Hills at Headquarters for meetings. Now, for those times that a member is traveling for work, a babysitter cancels, or she just doesn't feel like fighting rush hour traffic in Green Hills, our transformation will allow us to offer members the choice of how she participates.

In this time of uncertainty (and I want to point out, this is not the first occasion we have gone through uncertain times and won't be the last), our Mission has not and did not change. We continue to be tirelessly committed to our members and our community. While nothing could have prepared us for the events of our 99th year, our training prepared us to adapt and think creatively about how we could continue to support our community and each other. Our members found inventive ways to serve and train even when we couldn't be together in person.

And that's why we will come out of this stronger. Our organization will produce the wine, the diamonds, the oil, and the seeds will sprout. It's because our mission is steadfast and our members are loyal. Your MEMBERSHIP MATTERS. It matters because we develop connections with amazing women of all walks of life who share a common mission to give back to our community and to each other. I know for me and I believe for so many of you, this unusual time has been a great reminder of what a great support system we have in our Junior League community. The friendships we have formed are built to last even in the

most trying time. Membership matters because collectively we go out trained and ready to lead. We go out more knowledgeable about the issues that our community faces and the challenges and the ways we can help.

As I close, one last quote...

"Do not forget this year or set it aside as a mere obstacle. Use it to nourish your conviction that difficulties can be overcome, perils can be faced and crises turned to opportunities through determination and commitment, and by working together toward one goal." Chancellor Daniel Diermeier, Vanderbilt University

We worked together this year towards our goal of improving the community and I could not be more proud to have served as president of this wonderful organization during such an extraordinary year. It has taken all of us to get through it and I will forever be in awe of the adaptability, flexibility, and resiliency you all have shown as members and will forever be humbled by the faith, confidence, and support you have shown in me as your leader. It has been the privilege of a lifetime to serve as the "Pandemic President." This year was but one step in our journey, and I'm looking forward to what the future holds for our organization in the next century.

All my best,
Sarah



PIVOTING DURING A TIME OF CRISIS

CARMEN ROGGE, ONLINE COMMUNICATIONS CHAIR

SINCE OUR FOUNDING DURING THE POLIO PANDEMIC, JLN MEMBERS HAVE PROVEN TIME AND TIME AGAIN THAT WE ARE RESOURCEFUL AND SAVVY DURING A HEALTH CRISIS.

The 2020-21 League year started out with a unique challenge as COVID-19 began to spread across the United States. This challenge really offered us the chance to PIVOT, or to Practice Innovative Volunteering as One Team, which was a true opportunity for ingenuity and creativity.

We sat down (virtually, of course!) with some of our leaders to hear how shifting to a virtual platform influenced their duties in their placements this year.

Jenna Watson, Executive Vice President shares insight on the challenges our leaders faced early on when making big decisions for the Junior League of Nashville.

*Over the past few years, JLN leadership had been contemplating how to provide virtual opportunities for members who were not able to attend everything we offer in person. The pandemic created urgency around figuring this out and we were able to think creatively. At the beginning of the pandemic, we adjusted some of our larger events like Placement Fair and Council Retreat to become virtual. With the first few events where we made this change, we had to figure out how to present information and create meaningful connections virtually. Once we figured it out, it became easier to create future meetings. **Now that we have a great system with virtual meetings, many members appreciate the convenience of being able to log on to a meeting or training from anywhere.***

Pivoting to a virtual, or socially distanced platform introduced challenges, but also brought us together in ways that in-person events never could.

Nicole Jeffery, Provisional Advisor, notes how technology helped her develop new relationships and memories that wouldn't have happened without the shift to a virtual platform.

I'm most grateful for the opportunity to think outside the box in the way my group and I get together. For instance, we had a virtual movie night where we watched Hocus Pocus and live-texted our comments. It was a blast and probably not something we would have done if we weren't in a virtual setting! Being virtual has allowed us to explore new ways to communicate, bond, and just have fun!

As an organization that is committed to the development of women there was no question as to whether trainings would continue, but on a virtual platform.

Emmy Banks, Training Development Chair, talked to us about how hosting virtually kept us connected during trying times.

I'm thankful that our trainings provided a consistent place for education and connection throughout the 2020-21 year. Even far apart, we are able to encourage our women to become stronger leaders both personally and professionally.

The connection, friendships and personal and professional development is what makes the Junior League of Nashville unique.

We asked **Ansley Page, Membership Experience Chair,** to share some of her experiences while organizing social programs on a virtual platform. Ansley is thankful for the tools and resources made available to her during this year.

One thing I am thankful for when looking back on organizing membership experiences virtually is the League's intentionality to have different committee accounts on Zoom. With so many things being scheduled day to day, it's been very nice that Rebecca (Fitzpatrick, Member & Development Services Coordinator) and Amy (Smotherman, Managing Director) are so organized.

The Junior League has a legacy of partnering with community organizations to tackle initiatives and focus areas. No amount of physical distance would keep our members from continuing to do the important work with our community partners as we focus on literacy and human trafficking.

We asked **Nina Kumar, Vice President of Community,** to share her experience of how we have continued to support our community partners.

I am extraordinarily thankful for the amazing, strong women who serve as our Community Council Chairs. They are the bright spot in this challenging year. They have shown grace and resilience. They have pivoted and changed directions many times. It is a blessing to serve with them, and they inspire me every day!

Community partners are supported in many ways through volunteer hours and grants. This year, the Community Council found creative ways to support our partners with volunteer hours in a socially-distanced manner or on a virtual platform and so did the Development Council.

Instead of bidding on silent auction items while donning our cocktail dresses, we bid in the comfort of our homes this year. We asked **Megan Grant, Soirée Virtual Auction Chair** to share her challenges and gratitude as she helped plan and execute this year's Soirée Auction.

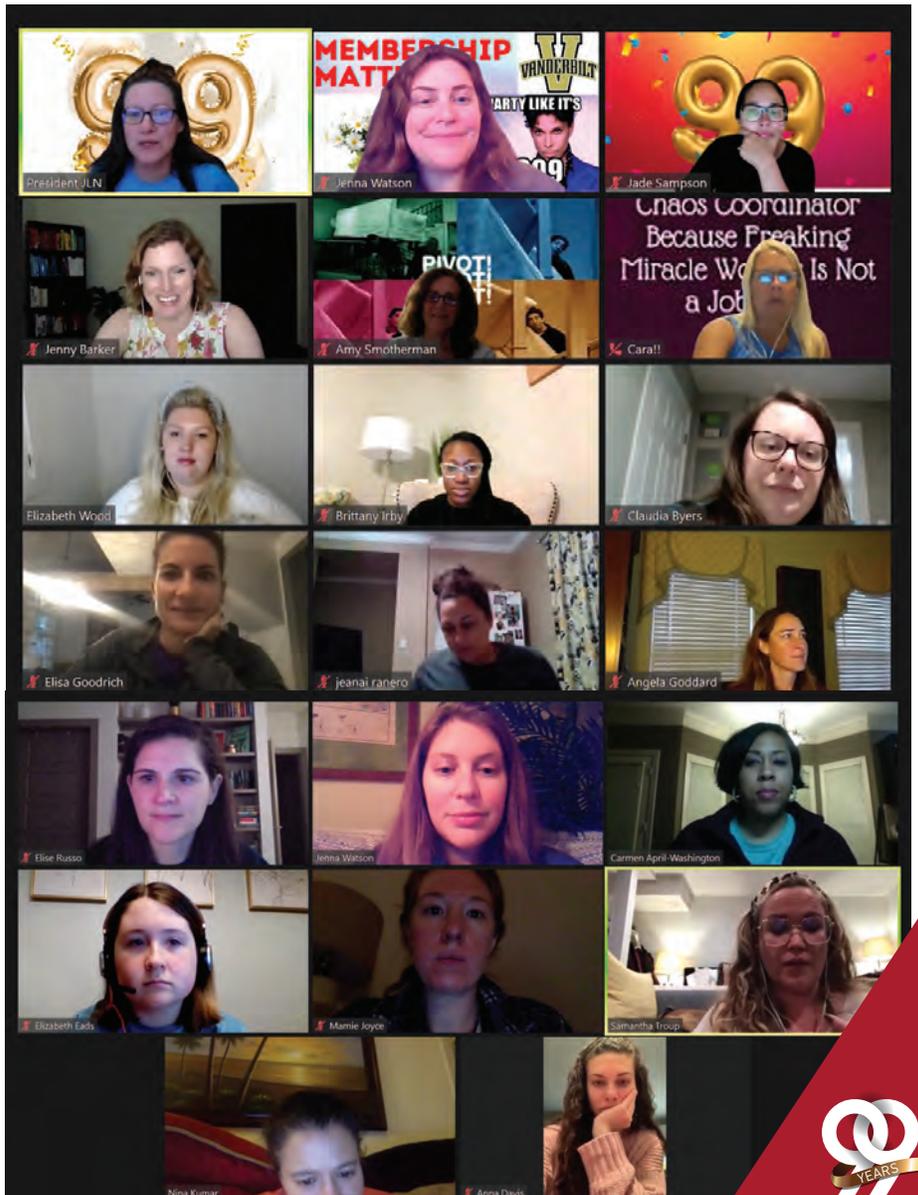
What I found the most challenging about having to pivot to a virtual platform was the fact that we had a fully-baked in-person Silent Auction ready to go that had to be converted to an online-only event. It took Halley (Hale, Gala Auction Co-Chair) and me a good three weeks to go through item by item and figure out if it had a valid expiration date, if we could still offer the item, and how we'd get the item to the winning bidder. We were fortunate that we had already planned to use Handbid at our live event for mobile bidding, so all the items were already in the system. But it was three weeks of heavily editing the catalog of items we had to fit the new virtual format.

Working on the virtual Soirée was one of my highlights of an otherwise difficult year. As someone who likes to have a full calendar and things to do, working from home and having all my plans and travel canceled due to the pandemic was tough. I'm thankful that my placement allowed me an outlet and a purpose to contribute to something greater than myself. I'm also super thankful for the new friendships it allowed me to build.

This year held big challenges for all of us personally, professionally and within our placements. Despite this year's challenges our members mention that the virtual programs have been a bright spot in an otherwise difficult year. As JLN has done throughout its history, we have risen to the occasion to keep our members and communities safe.

We are grateful for you continuing to do the important work within our communities and your commitment to the Junior League of Nashville.

One PIVOT was that our 2020-21 Board of Directors met virtually to continue the governing work of our organization over Zoom, where members were still able to join in and learn about the governance of our League.



JLN'S INAUGURAL WOMEN'S SUMMIT EMPOWERS WOMEN WITH THEMES OF COMMUNITY, CONNECTION AND GROWTH

BY CARMEN ROGGE, JESSICA HOPSON AND DALLAS JESSUP

WHILE 2020 WAS A FANTASTIC YEAR TO BE A ZOOM VIDEO COMMUNICATIONS SHAREHOLDER, MOST ARE FAMILIAR WITH THE TERM ZOOM FATIGUE. However, as President Sarah Creekmore Woodall said, "We are community change agents, women educated in the needs and the ongoing complexities of an ever-changing and growing city." This is why it was more important than ever to host a virtual summit geared towards addressing the unique obstacles and opportunities facing women during the pandemic and look towards reshaping the new normal.

On Saturday, January 30, 2021, more than 250 women participated in the League's inaugural RiseUp! Women's Summit—a virtual day packed with information on navigating the pivots and plateaus of being a woman in and out of the workplace, unpacking what it means to be a financially savvy female, perfecting a TikTok-worthy luxury charcuterie board and much more.

Attendees were delighted by sweet surprises and interactive elements peppered throughout the event. Summit Co-Chairs Dr. Carmen April-Washington and Kristy Vanderford Brink were humbled by the attendees' positive responses. Most participants stayed on for the entirety of the six-hour summit. The Zoom chat was filled with gratitude for a day full of inspiration from truly remarkable speakers, leadership development insights and the energized community.

As the brainchild of President Sarah Creekmore Woodall, planning for the summit began a mere few weeks before the first Coronavirus lockdown began. "In the midst of all that was changing, we wanted women to remember that even if everything else around them is crumbling, there's always an opportunity to RiseUp! to the challenge, RiseUp! to the occasion, and find that glimmer of hope in every situation," noted Co-Chair Carmen April-Washington.

The event's success wouldn't have been possible without the Summit Committee's herculean effort. The committee was comprised of two chairs and 31 committee members spread out across communications, sponsorship, logistics and a speaker team. The entire committee deserves major kudos for pulling off everything from scratch and pivoting plans from a live event to a virtual one in a tumultuous year. Shannen Stewart, one of the morning panelists, posed a question that had been at the forefront of everyone's mind, "How do you navigate a global pandemic?"

The answer may be more uplifting than one would expect. Opportunity is always in the present. As Co-Chair Carmen April-Washington put it so eloquently, **"Your life is an occasion, Rise up to it!"** We are honored to have hosted our inaugural event to inspire, engage, challenge and connect with our community.

Members serving on the inaugural summit committee include Liza Ambrose, Carmen April-Washington (chair), Leanne Binkley, Hillary Blackburn, Elaine Ruth Boe, Kristy Brink (chair), Andrea Clancy, Pruitt Coffey, Jessica Dykes, Eva Gasiorowska, Colleen Gilligan, Taylor Guardino, Allison Hough, Ashlan Jackson, Joslyn Jackson, Morgan Lankford, Veronica Lucena, Johari Matthews, Sarah McGehee, Victoria Mehren, Katelyn Merry, Jasmine Morgan, Sissy Peters, Allison Plattsmier, Anastasia Quarles, Jamie Rokus, Maysoon Sayyad, Kimberly Veirs, Amanda Watkins and Ashley Wood.

WOMEN'S SUMMIT SPONSORS

CapStar Farmington Mortgage
Judge Lynda Jones
R&R Wellness Spa - Grand Hyatt
Nations Dental Studio
Zeitlin Sotheby's International Realty
Goodpasture Gray

SUMMIT IN-KIND SPONSORS

Pies by Gigi
Kourtney Hudson
Eat the Frog Fitness
Barry's Boot Camp



JLN FORMS NEW DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION COUNCIL

ERIKA BLACKSTON, MARCOM CONSULTANT - DEI COUNCIL



**IN OUR COMMITMENT TO
DIVERSITY & INCLUSION STATEMENT,
THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF NASHVILLE CONFIRMS WE**

**“welcome all women who value our mission.
We are committed to inclusive environments of diverse
individuals, organizations, and communities.”**

In 2017, as an answer to the overall movement of the Association of Junior Leagues International (AJLI), the Junior League of Nashville administered a survey to gauge League members' thoughts on our Diversity, Equity and Inclusion efforts. The survey showed that 81% of League members viewed the decision to make the commitment to Diversity, Equity and inclusion as important or very important.

The League affirmed its commitment by transitioning the Diversity and Inclusion Task Force to a new standing Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Council beginning in the 2020-21 League year. This Council sits on Joint Council with our other five councils and the vice president and vice president-elect serve as part of our Management Team.

The work of the DEI Council was divided into several committees, including Communications and Messaging, Data and Statistics, Education, Events, Policy and Research. Each of these committees has a different focus area that will help our organization fully embed our DEI work into the operations of our organization.

Promoting DEI through Events

On October 31, 2020, the committee held its inaugural Women of Color Brunch. Attendees, alongside Chef Jaya Griffin of the Whisk Appeal, met virtually and made a delicious French toast brunch. It was a time to eat and fellowship to discuss the influence of food in one's life. And truly embracing the connections a virtual platform can provide, as Chef Jaya is based out of North Carolina!

Another hallmark event of the year was the training, “The Big 10 Social Identifiers and Interplay with DEI,” led by past JLN President Krystal Clark (2017-18). The event provided a deeper level of awareness and understanding of an individual's multiple identities and related this to membership in the League. Throughout February, JLN

celebrated Black History Month with programming, which included our featured GMM speaker Chakita Patterson of United Street Tours, who led us on a virtual civil rights tour of Nashville. Additional programming included a virtual training with the National Museum of African American Music, a health disparities panel and features on several of our African American members.

Listening and Learning

As our DEI conversations move forward, the DEI Council will continue to listen to membership. The Fall 2020 Membership Survey contained questions to gauge members' feelings about diversity, inclusivity and equity. Results of that survey and forthcoming feedback opportunities will provide a resource to use for future planning. Nationally, the AJLI will continue to hold monthly Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Roundtables as support for local leagues. Already embarking on the next strategic plan to think about the future of our League overall, the 2020-21 Board of Directors hired a DEI consultant, Katrice Albert with Third Eye Consulting Group, to help our organization work towards inclusive excellence. Look out for what is to come and ways you can contribute.

Members of the 2020-21 DEI Committee include Emeline Dunn, Kimberly Glenn Jemmot, La’Kishia Harris (VP of DEI), Ariel Kelly, Andreall Moore, Kristy Offitt, Elise Russa and Keila Sherrell.



Soirée Virtual Auction Pivots Amidst COVID-19 Obstacles

DALLAS JESSUP, PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE MEMBER

OUR LEAGUE PRIDES ITSELF ON OUR ABILITY TO CONNECT OUR 1,400+ LEAGUE MEMBERS, OUR RESOURCES, AND OUR REACH TO AID OUR 12 NONPROFIT PARTNER AGENCIES TO SUPPORT THE OUTCOMES WE ARE SEEKING IN OUR COMMUNITY FOCUS AREAS.

Our focus areas are centralized around increasing literacy, combating the human trafficking issue in middle Tennessee, and our continued commitment to Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt. However, our financial grants and aid to these partners are in part made possible by the hard work of our fundraisers and amazing sponsors.

In recent years, JLN has hosted a Spring Soirée that provides a fun evening of dinner, dancing and community mingling. However, CDC health guidelines meant our scheduled April 2020 event was put on hold until more was clear about our community's safety protocols. Additionally, state and city ordinances did not allow gatherings for the majority of the 2020 calendar year. Because the health and safety of our members and community are of the utmost importance, Spring Soirée transformed into our Soirée Virtual Auction.

"We completely re-engineered our key event with two primary goals: (1) create a positive experience for our members and community in place of an in-person event and (2) work through obstacles of limited time, available resources and pandemic fatigue. We powered through 10 weeks of planning to help bring together a successful online auction hosted on Handbid (a mobile bidding platform). The hard work paid off, and we raised \$46,733 for the Community Endowment to benefit our community partners," said Megan Grant & Halley Hale, Soirée Virtual Auction Co-Chairs.

A QUICK SNAPSHOT OF SOIRÉE VIRTUAL AUCTION WINS:

- \$46,733 raised for the community endowment
- 159 swag bags sold
- 89 items auctioned
- 24 Items sold over FMV (fair market value)

TOP DOLLAR ITEMS:

- St. James Club Antigua 7-9 Night Experience - \$2,200 raised
- The Grenadines Palm Island Resort & Spa 7 Nights - \$2,200 raised
- Antigua, Hammock Cove Resort & Spa 7 Nights - \$1,800 raised
- The Club Barbados Resort & Spa 7-10 Night Experience - \$1,750 raised

MOST BID ON ITEMS

- Original Stone Lithograph by John Leech "Gone Away" (32 bids)
- Custom Landscape Design by L&G International (20 bids)
- Gift Certificate to Graduate Nashville (18 bids)

A huge thank you to everyone who purchased items through the auction, our donors who worked with us during uncertain times as well as the modified date (some items were initially set to expire before the rescheduled date but then were adjusted), and, of course, to our sponsors Andrews Transportation Group, Frazier & Deeter, Robins & Morton, SRVH.



Junior League of Nashville Grants over \$35,000 to Partners

DANIELLE CLEMENT, PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE MEMBER

THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF NASHVILLE (JLN) 2020 GRANTS COMMITTEE SELECTED **13 Middle Tennessee partner agencies** TO RECEIVE **over \$35,000 of charitable giving during the month of December.**

JLN gifted the agencies who most directly align with the 1941 Hamilton fund, which is designated specifically to “enlighten the hearts” of children during the holidays.

Though some of the 2020 projects were different from years past due to restrictions against in-person events, JLN was still able to provide support through this special fund. Organizations receiving funding from the Junior League’s Hamilton fund included:

- **Renewal House** to engage the children and families in a series of holiday activities, including decorating their individual apartments, family photo sessions with framed pictures, and a socially distanced holiday party.
- **McNeilly Children’s Center** to celebrate the holiday with a “Reading with Santa” party to be attended by all McNeilly children.
- **Moves & Grooves** to host a socially distanced event with digital presentations of students’ creative presentations and a take-home “family feast.”
- **Preston Taylor Ministries** to support 3 separate Christmas parties where students will have an opportunity to select and wrap presents for their loved ones and learn the virtue of giving.
- **Youth Villages** to be designated for their Holiday Heroes Program - “Last Minute Kids” serving 50 older male and female youth in their YVLifeSet who would receive no Christmas cheer otherwise. This also partially funds the amount requested for the Wallace Group Home Holiday party (8-10 girls aged 14-17 in foster care) to have a holiday celebration.
- **Oasis Center** to meet the most basic needs of the youth served as well as to nourish their spirits and provide hope, healing and joy during a time they may feel lonely, forgotten or unloved.
- **Safe Haven Family Shelter** to provide Home for the Holidays boxes for 41 families (110 children) in shelter and housing this season.
- **Book’em** to cover the cost of 1 book for 400 middle school students in the HERO program (the homeless program at MNPS) and given as a holiday gift.
- **PENCIL** to create 35 robust holiday gift bags for low-income students that include: warm clothing, face masks, personal hygiene items, iPhone-compatible earbuds with speakers (to be used during virtual learning time and leisure time) and snacks.
- **EPIC Girl** to provide holiday cookie decorating or holiday craft items to girls in the program.
- **Monroe Harding** to provide stockings and holiday experiences for up to 85 youths and their foster families.
- **Sexual Assault Center** to send Do It Yourself (DIY) holiday cookie decorating kits, from small locally owned businesses, to 28 children they are serving and the ones on the waitlist and their families.
- **Monroe Carell Jr. Children’s Hospital at Vanderbilt** to be designated for JLN’s annual Christmas gifts for patients.
- **Monroe Carell Jr. Children’s Hospital at Vanderbilt Music Therapy** to provide their patients and families with opportunities for meaningful, connective, and strength-focused holiday music experiences this holiday season.
- **Vanderbilt-Meharry Center for Excellence in Sickle Cell Disease** to provide a patient and family-oriented holiday party, where they will share accomplishments of the year and those for the upcoming year for the Sickle Cell program.
- **Vanderbilt Neonatal Intensive Care Unit Siblings & Families Party** to provide pictures of the NICU babies dressed as colorful presents by laying the ‘gift wrap’ on top of each baby and capturing this for Christmas, Hanukkah, or Kwanzaa. Pictures were printed, tucked into a photo card with a personalized message, and attached to a gift-wrapped box of candies for families from their baby.

Members of the 2020-21 JLN Grants Committee include Zaia Thombre, Chair; Jennifer Parker Konyon, Chair-Elect; and members Claire Francis, Katherine Bryan, Amy Blount, Allison Stansberry and Andrea Marus.





Former JLN President and PENCIL Founder Honored

EMILY PLUSHNICK, MARCOM CONSULTANT - COMMUNITY COUNCIL

ON NOVEMBER 12, 2020, SUE SPICKARD, PAST PRESIDENT OF THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF NASHVILLE AND FOUNDER OF PENCIL

(Public Education Needs Community Involvement and Leadership) was recognized by PENCIL's current and former board members by the naming of PENCIL's sustaining endowment campaign in her honor. The endowment will ensure critical funding and community business partner support in Nashville public schools permanently.

In the celebratory social media video post applauding both Sue's lifetime achievement in her work with PENCIL as well as acknowledging the founder's 83rd birthday, Sue spoke of what first inspired her to create the life changing organization. Sue was a beloved school teacher in two separate public education school systems. She first experienced an inner-city, under-funded school in Baltimore, Maryland, and then taught at a highly privileged suburban school located in Bethesda, Maryland. In speaking of the alarming inequities between the two schools, Sue thought of the children in both schools, "I really could not find a lot of difference in the capabilities of the children and that really impacted me," she said.

When Sue relocated to Nashville, she discovered the dire needs of Nashville Public Schools. She was determined to adopt a model of engagement between businesses and city schools. Sue promptly gathered business and city leaders together in 1982 and the idea of PENCIL took off. Working behind the mission to help young people achieve academic success and prepare for life, PENCIL has facilitated more than 750 partnerships in Metro Nashville Public Schools. On top of that, the LP PENCIL Box, known as the largest resource center for teachers, has distributed \$10 million worth of school supplies to Metro Nashville teachers since its inception in 2006.

Through the endowment campaign warmly named after Sue Spickard, PENCIL is expecting to raise \$3 million over the next three years to further support and sustain the impactful relationships between businesses and Nashville's public schools.

As part of our focus on increasing access to literary materials and educational resources, JLN has proudly supported PENCIL since 1983. To learn more about PENCIL, visit <https://pencilforschools.org/>

JLN Partners with Local Businesses to Host Book Drives

MARY OLSON, PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF NASHVILLE IS COMMITTED TO IMPROVING LITERACY OUTCOMES FOR NASHVILLE CHILDREN by ensuring that at-risk children and families have increased access to educational support programs and materials. Research shows that reading aloud to children and providing access to books greatly increases their ability to learn to read. Books can be expensive, and many families are unable to make time to regularly read with their children, which consequently equates to a high illiteracy rate within our community. In fact, the United Way of Nashville estimates that only 34% of Metro Nashville Public School third graders are reading at grade level.

In response to this evident need in our community, JLN and Book'em Nashville have historically co-hosted a large book drive each spring. Books are collected from League and community members and inspected for quality and content. Children are then invited to browse the vast selection of donated books and choose a few to take home with them. For many, these books may be the first and only ones they own. The excitement and empowerment of book ownership encourages the children to read and fosters their intellectual growth for future success.

This League year the Book Drive Committee creatively adapted their efforts to maintain the impact of this important initiative despite the challenges of the pandemic. Instead of one book drive, the Book Drive Committee hosted six book drives! Additionally, book donations came in from a number of new sources and partnerships, including two local stores that allowed customers to directly donate books purchased at their locations—one even incorporated book drive contributions into their website. Several JLN members also opened their homes to serve as drop-off locations for book drive donations. Since our All Booked Up (ABU) Committee was unable to host our traditional in-person event, members on the

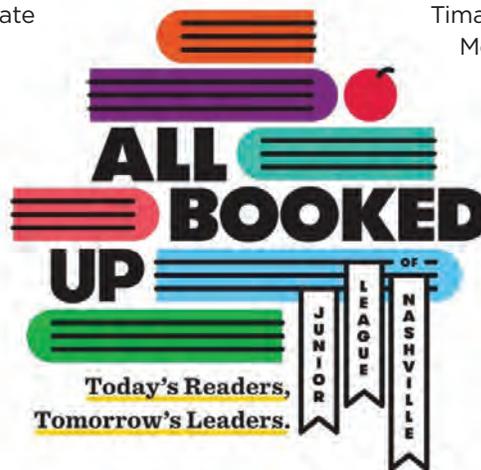
ABU team delivered books. Overall, over 5,000 books were collected and distributed to local children. Overall, over 5,000 books were collected and able to be donated.

Moreover, 2020 was Book'em Nashville's largest distribution year to date with over 130,000 books distributed. Strategic partnerships with organizations like Book'em Nashville provide JLN opportunities to realize our literacy impact goals and to make meaningful contributions to our community year over year. We proudly celebrate this year's success and extend gratitude to all of the League and community members who made it possible.

Members of the 2020-21 Book Drive Committee include Catie Barger, Hailey Blank (chair), Kenna Healy, Gen Heskje, Catherine Price, Laura Ramsey, Megan

Rodriguez, Thomasa Ross (chair), Brooke Shippee, Lindsay Sproles, Sarah Timaeus and Samantha Troup.

Members of the 2020-21 ABU Committee include Elizabeth Baxley (chair), Sarah DeLisle, Jessie Dravis, Meghan Ellzey, Kara Johnson, Markley Jones, Minor Moore (chair), Megan Parker Peters, Allison Reichenbach, Katey Shea, Pecolia Tubb, Bri Wells, Erin Welther and Sara Winchell.



THANK YOU TO OUR YEAR 99 LEAGUE SPONSORS!

MONROE CARELL JR.
CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL
AT VANDERBILT

PUBLIX SUPER
MARKETS CHARITIES

CAPSTAR BANK

THE MALL AT GREEN HILLS

SHERRARD ROE VOIGHT
AND HARBISON



JLN FOUNDING DAY FÊTE AT CITY WINERY
APRIL 9, 2022

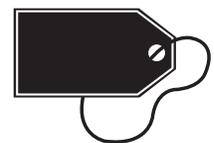
CENTENNIAL GALA & LATE PARTY AT
SCHERMERHORN SYMPHONY CENTER
APRIL 23, 2022



SHOP | SAVE | **SUPPORT**

JLN annually partners with area retailers to offer the community the opportunity to both give and receive during a designated shopping period. Our SHOP | SAVE | **SUPPORT** card provides substantial discounts at various local retailers. To accommodate merchants and provide shoppers with a safer experience, the traditional fall shopping period was moved to April 16-25 (and this year we had more online shopping options as well). Over 90 merchants participated and we added the option of purchasing a JLN-branded Apolis tote. Co-chairs Katie Vasilopoulos and Lauren Petrovich and their committee did an incredible job navigating the obstacles of the pandemic to organize a successful event! 100% of the net proceeds generated through SHOP | SAVE | **SUPPORT** fund our Community Endowment, which enables us to support our partner agencies.

Members of the 2020-21 SHOP | SAVE | **SUPPORT** Committee include Polly Douse, Lila Gray, Teena Jones, Leigh Karro, Tameka Lucas, Lizzie McKeand, Jinal Patel, Lauren Petrovich (chair), Sarah Robson, Nora Snoddy, Sydney Spalding, Haleigh Trew, Katie Vasilopoulos (chair) and Tiffany Wade.



SHOP | SAVE | **SUPPORT**

PRESENTED BY
THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF NASHVILLE

NOVEMBER 1-19, 2017

JLN Holds First Hybrid Meeting at Annual Meeting

BY JENNA WATSON

FOR 14 MONTHS, THE LEAGUE DID NOT MEET IN-PERSON. COMMITTEE MEETINGS, TRAININGS, OFFICIAL GATHERINGS AND GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS (GMM) STAYED VIRTUAL DUE TO CITY ORDINANCES AND CARE FOR PUBLIC HEALTH. During this time, our Headquarters building remained closed to membership as well. In the late spring of 2021, Metro Nashville ordinances lifted to allow larger gatherings to meet in-person again.

With continued consideration of gathering guidance and with input from our COVID-19 Task Force, our May GMM, also known as our “Annual Meeting,” took place as a hybrid gathering. Approximately 40 members were able to attend in-person at our HQ, with nearly 180 more members in attendance via Zoom. It took work behind the scenes from our meetings committee to pull off this hybrid experience, and it was wonderful to finally gather in-person again!

The Annual Meeting has a number of traditions we were able to continue. We honored our Paragon Award winners, celebrated membership milestones and held a moment of silence in recognition of those whose lives were forever changed by the pandemic.

President Sarah Creekmore Woodall shared the challenges and successes of our League year (as detailed in the Message from the President). In lieu of a traditional passing of the gavel among our past presidents, we looked back through our 99 years of presidents, after which Sarah passed the gavel to our 2021-22 president, Jenny Barker. Jenny shared her excitement for the future and the events planned for our centennial year.

After a year of virtual experiences, it was wonderful to be together in our Headquarters building. Being able to play the unofficial theme song (Prince’s “Party Like it’s 1999”) in the Auditorium, as well as pickup charcuterie boxes and champagne, offered a treat that so many of our members missed out on. It was a wonderful “pivot” to end a virtual year with a hybrid experience and we know this will be a model for future successful meetings.

Members of the 2020-21 Member Event Logistics Committee include Aimée Allen, Emily Brinser, Nisha Desai, Mia Gray, Kate Kirby, Kathryn Little (chair), Christine Murray, Tamara Norwood, Laine Striegel, Ashley Travis and Laura Allison Woods.





JUNIOR LEAGUE OF
NASHVILLE

2202 Crestmoor Road
Nashville, TN 37215

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Nashville, TN
Permit No. 796



As a parent, you know what's best.

Apparently, U.S. News & World Report does too.

Because of the excellence of our staff, providers and support from the community and beyond, we have been named **#1 Children's Hospital in Tennessee and the entire Southeast**. That means that whether you are seeking care for common conditions or complex challenges, your child is getting the very best, close to home.

To learn more about the care and services Vanderbilt Children's provides right here at home, visit [ChildrensHospitalVanderbilt.org](https://www.ChildrensHospitalVanderbilt.org)



Monroe Carell Jr.
children's Hospital
at Vanderbilt