

**THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF COLUMBUS**

# CLEARINGHOUSE



The world has certainly changed since we began writing pieces for this publication. The first eight months of the League year were action-packed, with in-person gatherings grinding to a halt in March. We hope this publication highlighting much of what the League accomplished earlier this League year will provide a welcome respite from coronavirus news. Through these unprecedented times, the League continues to focus on our core purpose – to develop the potential of women through training and community opportunities that ultimately benefit central Ohio. Our members take pride in the work our organization is accomplishing and are working hard to ensure the continued success and viability of the League in the coming years. This is such a tumultuous time for everyone and we hope that you are able to stay positive, stay strong, stay safe, and stay home. We truly are all in this together, and together we've got this!

With great pride,  
 Kara Newbury  
 2019-2020 President  
 Junior League of Columbus

## MISSION STATEMENT

The Junior League of Columbus 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.

## VISION STATEMENT

The Junior League of Columbus is the community's leading resource for trained volunteers. Through our programs and the Kelton House Museum and Garden, we educate the community, preserve the past and build for the future of Columbus.

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# LEADERSHIP AND LATTES: AN EVENING OF EMPOWERMENT

The 5th Annual Leadership & Lattes event was held on Thursday, November 14th at Station 67. This year's panel included Lori Kaiser, Darla King, and Sophia Fifner.

Lori Kaiser is the CEO of Kaiser Consulting, an international professional services firm specializing in accounting, finance and IT consulting. Lori is a board member of Women's Fund of Central Ohio in addition to a mentor and corporate supporter of Columbus Women's Business Accelerator, and Otterbein University Women's Business Mentor.

With over 34 years of experience in the commercial office furniture industry, Darla King started her company 20 years ago in 1998 with her husband Dave King. Darla shared her experience of starting her family-owned company and serving on many local boards throughout the years, the first being the Worthington Chamber of Commerce and completed as chair, the New Direction Career Center Board and completed as board chair, Recreation Unlimited Board for two terms, The Haugland Learning Center Board for children with Autism, City Year Columbus Board.

As the Community Relations Chief for the Columbus Recreation and Parks Department, Sophia Fifner oversees media relations, constituent affairs, and partnerships with organizations like the Columbus Blue Jackets. She shared with our group about how her advocacy for women and girls, and especially those who are survivors of sexual assault and violence, continues to be her life's mission. To fulfill this passion, Sophia serves on the Survivor Advisory Council of the Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence and on the Board of Directors of the Women's Fund of Central Ohio.

The event wrapped up with a very engaging Q & A session, with many of the attendees sharing their own entrepreneurial experiences and requesting advice from the panel. One question came up regarding remaining calm in stressful situations, to which a panelist suggested singing a favorite tune to yourself, culminating in a rendition of her personal favorite "Celebration" by Kool & The Gang breaking out throughout the audience. The spirit of Leadership and Lattes makes it an event not to be missed, and we look forward to next year!



## SUSTAINER LUNCHEON

The Sustainers had a beautiful Homecoming Luncheon on November 21, 2019, at the Scioto Country Club. The sustainers enjoyed catching up with each other as well as getting to mingle with the current leadership of the League. They heard updates on new initiatives for the year. Marisa Nye, Past President and Holiday Tour of Homes Coordinator, joined the group to share details on the upcoming fundraiser. Christin Smith provided an update on the new community focus of the League - youth aging out of foster care. President Kara Newbury said, "The Sustainer Homecoming Luncheon has become one of my favorite League events of the year, and this year did not disappoint! So many incredible women in one room - thanks to all who attended and made this a fantastic event!" This event has become a favorite for many women in the League as it is a great opportunity to continue engagement with the League's work as a sustaining member.



## CODE DAY 2020

On Saturday, February 8th, 2020, the Junior League of Columbus had eight members represent our organization at CODE Day, an annual training event that rotates among the eight Ohio Leagues. "CODE" stands for Connect-Ohio-Develop-Educate and serves as a day of training for Ohio League members at all levels. This year's event was hosted by the Junior League of Dayton. This year's theme was inspired by "sheroes" aka women heroes. This event inspired our members to move the needle in diversity and inclusion, acknowledge the importance of women's health (mental and physical), and learn from amazing women in leadership roles in the City of Dayton. Overall, the day was very inspiring and we are looking forward to participating again next year.



## ADORNMENTS: KELTON HOUSE EXHIBIT OF VICTORIAN ERA JEWELRY

From November 2 through 24, 2019, the Kelton House Museum & Garden hosted an exhibit of beautiful jewelry and accessories from the 19th century. The exhibit included memorial jewelry, hair jewelry, chatelaines and other feminine accessories, as well as pieces made in the Pietra Dura manner and the even finer micro mosaic.

The elegance and beauty of the Victorian era came alive through these beautiful adornments. The exhibit included necklaces, bracelets, and rings that embellished the women of the period, as well as chatelaines that carried the tools of the trade of everyday life and graced the waists of the wearers.

Named for England's Queen Victoria, the Victorian Era featured many traditions fostered by Victoria with symbolic meanings, including turquoise (forget me not), seed pearls (tears), images of a single hand (offering love or friendship), and many flowers with specific meanings.

During her reign, different styles of fashion and jewelry came and went. Her loss of Prince Albert in 1861 ushered in a lengthy period of mourning for her and popularized mourning traditions.

The exhibit featured items on loan from local collectors Susan Rector, Chuck Miller, Betty Ann Wernet, as well as pieces from the Kelton House collection.

An opening reception on Sunday, November 10 featured champagne and appetizers and followed a lecture on 19th century jewelry given by local expert Debourah Davies.

A visit to the exhibit also included a tour of the historic Kelton House where visitors could experience the 19th century through the eyes of the Kelton family. Special thanks for their assistance and funding go to the Sherrie Gallerie, Amber Wozniak, Georgeanne Reuter and our generous collectors.



## GIRL SCOUTS: THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD



As an Underground Railroad site documented by Ohio Underground Railroad Association, the Kelton House is a perfect location for learning about the Underground Railroad. One particular runaway, Martha Hartway, was sheltered by the Kelton family for ten years. Her story provides a compelling context for learning about history.

Our educational program provides a unique learning experience that brings to life the fearsome challenges faced by fugitive slaves and their protectors. The program includes a tour, readings, academic exercises, and a dramatic presentation in a recreated "secret hiding place."

The program's goal is to develop understanding and empathy in today's children so they will respect the multi-racial efforts that saved the lives of innumerable fugitive slaves at a turning-point in America's history.

Both programs are marketed through the Girl Scouts of Ohio's Heartland catalog of badge and patch programs; both programs were sold out for each presentation! The Kelton House patch features a Victorian woman, the words "Celebrating HerStory," and the names of the Kelton House Museum, the Junior League of Columbus and GSOH (Girl Scouts of Ohio's Heartland).

## CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF THE ABC PROJECT



It has been 20 years since the Adopt-A-Backpack for Children (ABC) Project laid its foundation as a Junior League of Columbus Community Project. Over the past two decades, League members have dedicated thousands of hours to the project. Amanda DeBernardi, formerly Trueman, an inaugural member of the project shared recently “I vividly remember bringing the idea to the Board of Directors and the project was born. The rest is history... An amazing history that carries on by tangibly impacting so many lives.”



In the first year, it has been told, the League distributed about 5 backpacks and members could see how the ABC Project could grow and impact the community even more. In 2018-2019, the League distributed over 3,000 backpacks. The Project has served as the foundation in a League member’s tenure with the organization as an exclusively New Member Project with the leadership of a few more tenured active members. Possibly more remarkably, the program has promoted the challenge children face not having the proper school supplies so much that additional programs have been created around Columbus. The League has provided so much to families in the Columbus area over the year.

Christin Smith, former ABC Coordinator, provided insight on just how many people are impacted through the project. “It not only impacts the child receiving the backpack, but it impacts 1-3 others as well...the caregiver, the siblings, and/or the teachers.” The ripple effect of the project could be never ending, as we do not know quite how many people are truly impacted by providing school supplies to thousands of children. Lastly, it is important as we talk about and reflect on the last

20 years, we remember how the project and the individuals we provide backpacks to continue to benefit even after that school year as they know they have support, know we care, and know we want to make a difference in their lives.

Mary Austin-Palmer, Past President and Former ABC Chair reflected on the long term impacts of the project as she heard from a grandfather of two Capital Kids, a group we had partnered with to distribute backpacks. “A couple months ago I ran into a grandfather of two Capital Kids participants and he shared that one has joined the military and the other is attending college. He expressed his appreciation of the outreach his grandchildren received to better their education.” Thank you for your time, care and support in making the Adopt-A-Backpack for Children Project a success for the last 20 years! Looking forward to many more years of amazing growth and community impact.

### This Year’s ABC Project

In 2019-2020, the Adopt-a-Backpack for Children Project has seen a lot of success and has implemented a few changes. The Community Engagement Team has been busy planning a new distribution event that aligns with our League year and will see new faces at an event in June to kick off the summer. They hope by giving out backpacks as summer is starting the students are encouraged to continue reading and keeping their minds engaged over the summer months. The team is thinking creatively about how to revise this event due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but are excited to get backpacks into the hands of those who need them.

The A Breakfast with Characters Team executed two successful events at Station 67, introducing a second breakfast specifically geared toward children with Autism and other sensory needs. The program had a great deal of success and we are so grateful for those who have continued to support this fundraiser and to those who have supported us for the first time this year.

The Operations Team has been busy working to find new community partners and the best backpack products available. They have been looking into new programs through AJLI such as Dollar Days and have worked with previous vendors in hopes we can guarantee the best quality and highest quantity of backpacks we can.

A special thanks to the Partnership Development Team, both the ABC Liaison Team and the Grants Team for all the support they have provided us this year with a record amount of funds coming in from partners, sponsors, and grants. We have enjoyed learning from and being introduced to the ways of development.

The whole ABC Project team thanks the League and everyone for their support in this fantastic project. Thank you for the opportunity over the last 20 years to build up women, engage volunteerism, and create change in the community.



# HOLIDAY MAGIC

The 15th Annual Holiday Tour of Homes was a magnificent milestone event featuring seven beautiful residences in the historic neighborhoods of Upper Arlington. Attendees enjoyed savory and sweet bites from fourteen local eateries, while being captivated by local decorations and floral arrangements from various Columbus-based interior designers and florists.

New to the event this year was JLC's first Holiday Tour of Homes Giving Tree, where attendees could make a donation toward the League's signature project and hang an ornament on the tree. Individual donations ranged from \$10 to over \$100, each representing items that will be donated to youth aging out of foster care for their new housing in Carol Stewart Village; the recently announced signature project of the JLC tied directly to the League's community focus area. It is with great pride that we share that the tree brought in \$1,700 for the signature project on the tour day alone.

More impressively, the tour hit a record breaking number of attendees, over 550, and raised more than \$30,000 in net profit for the League. This year's team was comprised of Coordinator Marisa Nye, Vice Coordinator Ashley Laughlin, team members Jamie Adams, Kara Blunier, Kristen Camacho, Aja De Los Santos, Camille Doty, Kristina Ellis, Natalie Fox, Gina Hotte, Christie Lee, Amy Matlock, Natalie Pantalos, Lisa Petroski, Alexandra Rodenfels, with marketing assistance from Lauren Amery, Nicole Bergman and Lisa Theado. It truly was an amazing team that pulled off a triumphant fundraiser for the League. We look forward to the 16th Annual Holiday Tour of Homes. Planning is already underway; please save the date for this annual event which will be back in Upper Arlington on Saturday, December 6th, 2020!



## GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

On Tuesday, January 14, over 50 new, active and sustaining members of the League gathered at the January General Membership Meeting (GMM) to learn more about foster youth and JLC's new signature project, Bridging the G.A.P. Cassie Snyder, Associate Director of Adoptions and Youth Transition Services at Franklin County Children's Services, joined us to speak about foster care, the youth's experience in foster care and also how to be a good advocate. During the GMM, members had the opportunity to directly impact the foster youth by writing inspirational notes to those graduating this year and by donating new or gently used adult winter gloves and hats for Star House, which serves homeless youth including many with previous experience in the foster care system.

The Community Focus Committee also announced our new foster care initiative, Bridging the G.A.P., which stands for Guide, Advocate and Provide. There will be a lot of upcoming opportunities for JLC members to get involved with each of the facets of G.A.P. including quick impacts and supporting the Little Black Bag campaign. Overall, the GMM was a huge success where members were extremely engaged in learning more about the foster care signature project and how they can get involved and make an impact.

# SUSTAINER & NEW MEMBER SOCIAL



League members of all ages gathered at the annual New Member and Sustainer social, hosted by sustainers, Julie Smerdel and Mary Oellermann. Mary, who has planned this event with Julie for ten years and hosted at her gorgeous home, welcomed everyone on Thursday, January 30.

It was such a wonderful night networking with friends, new and old, and discussing the highlights of our thriving organization. There was a wonderful spread of wine and delicious food throughout the evening!

## LEAGUE LEADERS LAY FOUNDATION FOR NEXT YEAR AT BOARD/MANAGEMENT COUNCIL RETREAT

The Board of Directors and Management Council leaders gathered Sunday, February 2, 2020 for their annual mid-year retreat. Sustainer Pam Bertram was once again graciously hosted them at her beautiful home. Incoming Board of Directors and slated Management Council for the 2020-21 League Year were also invited and many were able to attend. They spent a lot of time discussing the new membership model, and brainstormed how to keep members engaged and how to right-size our League. They also reviewed the new three-year strategic plan that will take us into our centennial and conducted an interview training for the placement process. The retreat concluded with Board and Management Council breakout sessions. Everyone is looking forward to finishing out their term strong and starting the 2020-21 League Year off even stronger!



## GALENTINES DAY

We had a great time celebrating Galentine's Day! In February a small group of members and potential new members spent the evening taking a do-it-yourself (DIY) candlemaking class at Studio 614 in Clintonville. During this social event, potential new members had the opportunity to get to know our current members and share casual conversation about what it is like to be part of the Junior League of Columbus. We had a great time painting our candle vases and coming up with our own custom candle scents.



## QUICK IMPACT: READY TO SERVE

On January 29 and March 1, members ventured out to the YWCA Family Life Center to serve dinner to the residents. Taking the time to prepare a meal, converse with some of the residents and getting a feel for their lifestyles truly allowed us to see where we as an organization can be more effective regarding fulfilling a need. The residents and staff were very thankful and it is rewarding for our members as well. We appreciate our ongoing partnership with the YWCA and we strive to continue to serve our community and make a difference in central Ohio.



# AN ENCHANTING MORNING

The 4th Annual 'A Breakfast with Characters' took place at Station 67 on Saturday, Feb. 22, 2020. Families and friends dressed as their favorite superheroes, princesses and villains and gathered for a magical morning of fun and surprises!

This year was our first time holding two breakfast sessions – a traditional session in the early morning and a sensory-friendly session in the early afternoon. Both sessions featured a variety of characters for the kids to interact with, balloons, crafts, face painters, raffle items and delicious breakfast foods. Miss Ohio for America acted as the emcee, and Hal Epler from Chris Cakes flipped tasty pancakes for the crowd!

Our traditional session had music and tunes provided by Corey with Party Pleasers. Children made superhero masks, princess crowns, and superhero cuffs. Adam's Mascots, the Rebel Legion, and Amy's Princess Parties paraded around the event space entertaining and playing with children of all ages. Amy's Princess Parties closed the traditional session with an extraordinary performance that got everyone up on their feet and dancing!

Our sensory-friendly session had softer music and toned-down lights so our guests who fall on the autism spectrum could come join in on the fun. The Royals Project and Rebel Legion entertained the whole audience! Our friends at Autism Society Central Ohio loaned us noise-canceling headphones, a rice bin, fidget spinners, and coloring books and crayons, which enabled us to provide a Quiet Room throughout the entirety of this session.

The event was a fundraiser for our Adopt-A-Backpack for Children Project, now in its 20th year. To date, we have donated 55,000 supply-filled backpacks to local children in need.



## ANNOUNCING GRANT PARTNERS FOR 2019-2020

Our grants team has been hard at work this past year. The Junior League of Columbus has been awarded \$39,450 this year in grant monies for our various programs! We are excited about our increasing footprint in grants from both national and local foundations. Locally, the American Electric Power Foundation funded our ABC Backpack Project, along with the national foundations, The ORIX Foundation, Kappa Delta Foundation, and Kiwanis Club. Most recently, we were awarded a grant from the Tom E Dailey Foundation for our Underground Railroad Learning Station at the Kelton House - this is the second time the Tom E Dailey Foundation has supported this project. We are thankful for the many corporations and foundations that offer grant funding to the Junior League of Columbus and hope to continue to expand our grant partnerships in the future.



# 2020-2021 LEADERS SLATED

Congratulations to the 2020-2021 Board of Directors and Management Council Slated Leaders.



Christin Smith  
President-Elect



Rochelle Toth  
Management Council  
Vice Chair



Sarah Kern  
Board Administrator



Jennifer Shea  
Recording Secretary



Veronica Scherbauer  
Community Impact Council  
Vice Chair



Taylor Kotevski  
Fund Development Council  
Vice Chair



Rose Schroedl  
Kelton House Council  
Vice Chair



Lauren Watkins  
Management Council  
Administrator



Shelley Lee  
Marketing & Operations  
Council Vice Chair



Karissa Hodson  
Membership Development  
Council Vice Chair



Susie Seaman  
Partnership Development  
Director-Elect



Travelle Ellis  
Treasurer-Elect

## THE JLC LAUNCHES NEW SIGNATURE PROJECT

On March 9th, 2020, the Junior League of Columbus launches our new Signature project, Bridging the G.A.P. (Guide. Advocate. Provide.), which supports youth who are aging out of the foster care system. When youth in foster care turn 18, they are no longer part of the foster care system, and many find themselves living alone, without the support, resources, and guidance of a stable family or other caring adults in their lives. Each year in Ohio alone, close to 1,000 youth transition out of the foster care system. The Junior League of Columbus is working diligently to find ways to guide, advocate, and provide for our local youth in need.

This new project is the result of almost three years of League members' efforts, from initially identifying youth aging out of foster care as our League focus, to meeting with community partners and youth focus groups to further define needs and how JLC could help. The Community Focus Committee (CFC) along with Management Council and our community partners, have been working to further define this project over the past League year.

The first component of Bridging the G.A.P., Project Guide, is still in the beginning stages but will aim to empower foster youth through development of positive personal relationships and life skills. Next League year, the CFC's Development Team will work to build out this project. Project Advocate, will kick off with a social media campaign at the start of next League year, The Little Black Bag, to raise public awareness of foster care issues and raise funds for Project Provide. Project Advocate will be further developed throughout 2020-2021 to include additional ways that JLC can advocate for foster youth, possibly adding new training opportunities and pursuing legislative advocacy.

The final component, Project Provide, has been the primary focus this year. In partnership with Star House, JLC will provide 105 youth with household necessities to start their new life in their very own studio apartment at the Carol Stewart Village (formerly the Franklinton Housing Project). This \$4.5 million project is converting two former motels into 105 studio apartments with a campus-like setting. The complex will primarily support youth ages 18-24 who are homeless or have aged out of the foster care system. The campus will be designed to create a sense of community with front porches, indoor and outdoor community spaces, a community garden and a different theme in each building. We are currently raising money to purchase the 1st round of Essential Kits. To learn more and how to donate, [CLICK HERE](#).



**BRIDGING THE G.A.P.**  
GUIDE • ADVOCATE • PROVIDE

A PROJECT OF THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF COLUMBUS

# GEORGEANNE REUTER RETIRES AFTER 20 YEARS

After over 20 years of dedicated service, it is bittersweet to announce the retirement of Georgeanne Reuter as the Museum Director for the Kelton House Museum and Garden. Georgeanne has served as the Director of the Museum since 1999, and before that was a volunteer for the Museum during her time as a member of the Junior League of Columbus.

It is hard to think of the Kelton House Museum and Garden without thinking of Georgeanne Reuter. Her unwavering support, time, commitment and love of the Museum is unmatched, and the Junior League of Columbus is thankful for all she has given in this role. Georgeanne's long history with the Kelton House Museum allowed her to interact and meet with the first corps of volunteers who saw beyond the challenges of the property, to see an opportunity to save an important, historical building.

When asked about her favorite memories from her time at the Kelton House, Georgeanne shared "I love meeting and communicating with Kelton relatives: the Coffeys, the Keltons, the Steinhilbers, Katherine Bozarth, the Clearys and many others. They have been so supportive! The best aspect is that they tell stories about Grace Kelton, who was the family 'Grande Dame.' Grace often hosted her family for holidays. They called her home "586" and seemed to love it as much as she did." Georgeanne also loved hearing how the youngest school visitors of the Museum would go home to tell their families about their experience, and insist they all return for a group visit, which happens quite often.



Georgeanne's favorite room at the Kelton House is the Dining Room, especially the faux graining of the woodwork. During the restoration of the museum, the League hired a gentleman from the National Parks Service who analyzed the painted surfaces and was able to tell that the dining room woodwork had been faux grained a light oak. Over the years, the faux graining was painted over white. With help from a grant from the Ohio Historic Preservation Office, the Junior League hired master grainer Malcolm Robson, who recreated the faux graining that you now see in the dining room. So beautiful!

Georgeanne also shared that she will miss meeting all the people, members and community volunteers who support the Kelton House. She will also miss the reaction of the visitors when they see the Kelton House for the first time, and also added, "I am still waiting to see a ghost, although I have heard many things that I cannot explain."

Finally, Georgeanne commented, "I am grateful to the Junior League of Columbus for giving me the opportunity to learn and become part of this extraordinary place!" The Junior League of Columbus is grateful as well and would like to wish Georgeanne all the best in her much-deserved retirement. At a future date, the League will be celebrating Georgeanne at the Kelton House for an open house celebration. Please stay tuned for more information.



## GIRL SCOUTS: HERSTORY

Central Ohio Girl Scouts are earning a Try-It patch featuring the Kelton House. Twice yearly the Kelton House offers a three-hour program titled "HerStory." The program uses life histories of the women who once lived in the Kelton House to explore these topics: Women's Work, Women Making History, Courtship & Marriage, Women through the Years (Fashion), Strong Women, and Time for Tea. Participants in the program tour the Kelton House to learn about life for women in the 19th century. Following the tour, they attempt some of the tasks expected of Victorian women and see how their skills measure up! With the help of one of the Girl Scout mothers, they see the layers of undergarments that were required for proper dress during the period. The program concludes with a light tea.

# A RED HOT NIGHT HONORING SONYA THESING

Each year the Junior League of Columbus Sustainer organization chooses one of its own to honor who has gone from training in her early league years to continuing out into the community making an impact. The 2020 JLC Sustainer Honoree, Sonya Thesing, was celebrated on March 6th with "A Red Hot Night in the City" held at "Station 67."

Attendees enjoyed festive decor with balloons & glitzy table decor designed by the event committee. Gorgeous flowers topped the tables by "All in Bloom". A Delicious selection of hors d'oeuvres & signature cocktails, The Voluntini & The Huckleberry were created in recognition of Sonya's dedicated volunteer service to the JLC & her current & future endeavors with Huckleberry House.

Cocktails & food were enjoyed while buying raffle tickets, bidding on silent & live auctions. The live Auction was facilitated & called by Thomas Worthington High School Senior & future JLC member Savannah Kruse, daughter of event Co-Chair & JLC sustainer Melissa Kruse.

The fun continued into the night with a VIP after party. Patrons enjoyed a bourbon tasting bar & a delicious assortment from "Sadie Baby Sweets." Guests left the event with swag bags containing custom JLC logo bourbon glasses.

Through the generosity & support of Sonya's Family, JLC members & community friends, 115 tickets were sold and over \$7,500.00 was raised to help further the mission of the JLC.

A special Thank You to the Host Committee & JLC friends: Angela Parsons, Andrea Graumlich Brown, Becky Keglewitsch, Courtney Kramer, Katie Grayem, Laurie Schmidt Moats, Leigh Anne Strahler, Lesli Lawrence, Mary Oellermann, Melissa Kruse, Pamela Bertram, Stephanie Rodgers, Suzy Lucci, and Gracie Lacheta, Laura Lazor, Amanda Truman, Ann, Craig & Andy Lund and Taylor Rodgers were instrumental in this successful event!



## KARA NEWBURY REPRESENTS JLC ON WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT PANEL

On the morning of March 6th, Columbus Young Professionals (CYP) Cares hosted a 'Coffee with a Cause' panel devoted to women empowerment organizations and initiatives across Columbus. JLC President, Kara Newbury, joined the panel to discuss the Junior League and her experience in the League. The panel also included local leaders: Lisa Hinkelman, Ph.D., Founder/Executive Director of ROX (Ruling Our eXperiences), Molly Preston, Director of Programs at Dress for Success Columbus, Katrina Levy Zidel, CEO at In Christy's Shoes, and CYP's moderator Mikaela Hunt.

The event hosted a room full of young Columbus professional women and a few familiar faces including; Amanda Parks, Kim Burns, Nicole Bergman, Amy Roberts, and Rachel Badovick.



## JLC MEMBERS TAKE ACTION DURING COVID

No matter who you are, COVID has changed life as we know it. With a stay-at-home order in place since mid-March in Ohio, many citizens have had to come up with creative ways to spend their time. Junior League member Nicole Bergman saw this as an opportunity to capitalize on the home reorganization many residents were doing to make an impact in the community, while still social distancing. After multiple calls to local organizations, her plan was set in motion upon learning that Dress for Success was still taking clothing and personal care donations.

In an effort to engage as many league members as possible, Nicole teamed up with fellow League members Hayley Roberts and Courtney Rea to create a fun, educational tutorial showcasing tips to organize clothing, jewelry, and makeup. On April 19th, Hayley and Courtney took over the JLC's Instagram Stories to highlight these helpful hints with the overarching focus on donating professional items to Dress for Success. After the Insta takeover, members could sign up for a contactless porch pickup to donate these items to DFS.

On Friday April 24th, Kara Newbury, Deidre Barrington, and Nicole Bergman drove around Columbus and picked up over 75 bags of clothing and other donation items from 20 different league members. In addition, the curated Instagram stories Nicole put together to coincide with the takeover saw a significant increase in interactions and impressions with the JLC profile and website, helping to spread the League mission and outreach to even more community members!



## INTRODUCING NEW KELTON HOUSE DIRECTOR

The Kelton House Council and JLC Board of Directors would like to introduce our new Executive Director of the Kelton House Museum and Gardens, Sarah Richarddt. Sarah will be starting at the Kelton House on June 1st and will take over running the museum after Georgeanne Reuter's retirement on June 30th. She has recently relocated to the Central Ohio area from Lombard, Illinois. Sarah has previous experience as the Executive Director of the Lombard Historical Society and President of the Lombard Park District Board of Commissioners. She brings experience in the areas of historical preservation, grant writing, event planning, and community networking. She is excited about the Underground Railroad aspect of the museum and is looking forward to learning more about the Kelton family.

## RECRUITMENT TEAM GETS CREATIVE

With the COVID-19 crisis hitting during the prime months for recruitment, the Recruitment team had to make some adjustments in order to spread the word and grasp the interest of potential new members. Typically the JLC would host a few in-person information sessions leading up the New Member Application deadline on June 15th. With creative thinking and quick action, they were able to develop a virtual recruitment strategy that has been receiving a great response. They utilized a variety of different platforms in hopes to be able to reach a broader demographic including Facebook Live and Zoom.

The team also developed an Instagram Live Interview Series that runs each Friday throughout the month of May. Each week our Recruitment Coordinator, Diana Marshall, connects with a different leader of the Junior League of Columbus and leads an interview focusing on a different element of the League (history, community impact, Kelton House Museum and Garden, and Membership Experience). In an effort to extend a personal connection with our potential new members we have organized a SignUpGenius with time slots available for potential new members to schedule a personal phone call with one of our members. During the calls we have had an opportunity to get to know the potential new members a little better and be able to answer their questions with more than just an email. We have had a great response to the personal phone calls and are excited with the results we are getting. The COVID-19 crisis threw a curveball to the original recruitment strategy, but through teamwork and getting creative we have been able to maintain our recruitment efforts and expect to see a strong number of new members to join the JLC in July 2020!



## KELTON HOUSE GALA CANCELLED

As the COVID-19 situation continues to evolve, the Kelton House Museum and Garden and Junior League of Columbus have made the decision to cancel this year's Kelton House Gala. During this difficult and unprecedented time, our thoughts are with you, your families, and the Columbus community. We will get through this together. If you are able and willing to support the Kelton House as we work through these challenges, a 100% tax deductible donation can be made online at [www.jlcolumbus.org/donate](http://www.jlcolumbus.org/donate). We thank you for your understanding and continued support.

## VIRTUAL ANNUAL DINNER

Due to the ever-changing impacts of COVID-19, we will be moving our 2020 Annual Dinner to a virtual format. 2020 Virtual Annual Dinner will take place via Zoom on Tuesday, June 9th at 6pm. During this event we will hear from both the outgoing President and incoming President, we will recognize our 2020 sustaining members, announce our award winners, and recognize Georgeanne Reuter for her 20 years of service as the Kelton House Museum & Garden Director. Pass the gavel ceremony, as well as the physical award presentation, will take place at the September GMM.

## WELCOME TRANSFERS

Alexis Kollay D'Ettorre (Indianapolis, IN), Mary Kate Gallagher (Dayton, OH), and Sarah Warner (Cincinnati, OH)



## THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS, PARTNERS, AND FOUNDATION SUPPORT

Allstate/Dean Insurance Group, American Electric Power Foundation, America's Floor Source, Anne DeVoe - Coldwell Banker, Buckeye Window Treatments, City Park Interiors, CityScene Media Group, Coldwell Banker - Camille Doty, Compass Homes, Ferguson Bath, Kitchen & Lighting Gallery, Derrick Layer Custom Homes, Dirty Frank's Hot Dog Palace, Fabtique, First Commonwealth Mortgage, Franklin County Cuyahoga Group, Gallo's Kitchen and Bar, Hamilton Parker, Health and Productivity Consulting, KA Menendian Rug Gallery, Kappa Delta Foundation, Katie Davis Group, Konkus Marble & Granite, LBrands Foundation, Mary Shipley Interiors, NB Creative Solutions, NB3 Photography, OCLC, Ologie, ORIX Foundation, Station 67, Street Sotheby's - The Kullman Group, Tailored Management, The Bella Bean, The Cleary Company, The Friedmann Firm, The Scout Guide, and The Tuckerman Home Group.



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