# JUNIOR LEAGUE OF SUMMER 2023 | Volume 31, Issue 1 WINSTON-SALEM Informer

## A Fine Time Was Had By All By Allison Bradbury

The 18th Annual Tour of Fine Spaces was one of the most spectacular tours to date! Five renovated homes, a bustling new restaurant, and a member-owned boutique were visited on Saturday, April 22nd. Food and drinks provided by local caterers, restaurants, and bakeries were a delightful accompaniment to the spaces showcased.

This event would not have been possible without our amazing sponsors — Susan Maier Colon with Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Realty, McCullough Tile, ICON Custom Builders, Emerald Pearl Kitchen & Baths, Cabinet Creations NC, ADAMS DesignBuild Inc., LMI Builders, Solid Foundation Construction, Anderson Moore Kitchen & Bath, QFC Inc., and Bloomday Granite and Marble — volunteers, and dedicated patrons!

Funds raised by the Tour of Fine Spaces tickets help the Junior League of Winston-Salem bring literacy and health programs to the women and families of Forsyth County.

We look forward to seeing you all for the 19th Annual Tour of Fine Spaces, which will be held on Saturday, April 20, 2024!











**Spaces Showcased:** 2322 Buena Vista Road • 619 Summit Street • 978 Wellington Road • 718 Arbor Road East of Texas at 907 South Broad Street • L'Avenue Boutique at 905 South Broad Street





The Junior League of Winston-Salem is an organization of women committed to promoting volunteerism, 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.

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## Letter from the President



Dear JLWS Members,

Happy 100 years to the Junior League of Winston-Salem! I am so happy to reflect on the successes we have enjoyed this year as we celebrated our milestone anniversary.

#### **Community Gift**

Thanks to the dedication of Past President Liz Noland, the Junior League of Winston-Salem has created a new endowment

at The Winston-Salem Foundation. The JLWS Literacy & Education Equity Fund will soon begin to make mini-grants to individual schools, teachers and PTAs within the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County school system. We all know our education system and educators need more, and this forward-thinking endowment directly ties our mission to a gift that will continue to support education long past 2023. The endowment kicked off with an initial gift from the JLWS of over \$30,000 with a goal of raising \$100,000 to celebrate our 100 years. You can learn more about the endowment by visiting our website.

#### Gala

On March 25th, over 300 guests toasted the JLWS at the Centennial Gala. Thanks to the hard work of Past President Susan Conger and Kristin Kelly Broyes, co-chairs of the Gala, and their committee, over \$15,000 was raised. This celebratory event included dinner, dancing, and a proclamation issued by Mayor Joines recognizing the many contributions the JLWS has made over the years. It was truly a night to remember.

#### **Exhibitions**

On April 1st, the Exhibit on the Lake Porch at Reynolda House Museum of American Art opened. This exhibit tells the history of the Junior League, beginning with the first meeting hosted by Katharine Reynolds Johnston and forty of her friends on that very porch, through pictures. It was so meaningful to have our last GMM of the 2022-2023 League year at Reynolda House so that members could have an exclusive opportunity to see the celebration of this history. I am thrilled that museum-goers will be able to learn about the JLWS through the rest of 2023. Thank you to Past President Lisa Aft, Sustainer Advisor to the Exhibit committee, for her leadership and vision on these special projects.

On August 1st, another exhibit will open on the 2nd floor of the Forsyth County Central Library. This free exhibit will educate the public on the contributions the JLWS has made to the Winston-Salem area, with documents, pictures and other artifacts. I hope you will make a trip to the library this fall before it closes on October 31st.

As Mayor Joines proclaimed, "the women of the Junior League of Winston-Salem have served the community of Winston-Salem through volunteering, fundraising, advocacy and education, and their work has left an indelible mark on the city." That mark will continue to be made as we usher in another 100 years of training women and serving the community.

Sincerely,

Carrie Vickery

Carrie Vickery 2022-2023 President

## January GMM Spotlight

#### By Bethany Leggett

January's General Membership Meeting was a packed evening of fun, laughter, and community building. Festivities began at the Barn at Reynolda Village with a fabulous pre-GMM social hour featuring local vendors and refreshments from Ginger Fox to celebrate the launch of our Boutique Shopping Card Fundraising Event.

Once it was time to start the general meeting at 7 p.m., members made their way into the main area of the Barn where they chose a Post-it note color from a bag that became their table assignment for the evening.

Anna Geras and Kabler Meyer spoke about the Boutique Shopping Card, a digital pass offering savings at many local Winston-Salem retailers. Purchases supported the Junior League's community initiatives like BookWORM, Strong Women Strong Families, and Puppet Show.

There was a lot of excitement around our Centennial updates. Liz Noland, chair of Centennial Community Gift, announced that the JLWS is establishing a new endowed fund at The Winston-Salem Foundation, focused on financially supporting literacy and educational equity needs in our community. This endowment launched a sustainable, long-term community gift that will allow the League to give directly back to schools and educational programs in Winston-Salem and Forsyth County on an ongoing basis through the annual income generated by the fund. Kristin Kelly Broyles, co-chair of the Centennial Gala, shared more about the Gala on March 25 at Forsyth Country Club. The Gala theme was "Fire & Ice." And Lisa Aft, Sustainer Advisor, gave a wonderful account on the pictorial exhibition at Reynolda House Museum of American Art.

The agenda also included general membership voting on the slate for the 2023-2024 Board of Directors and Nominating Committee Members, both of which passed. Members also voted to approve the renewal of members' fundraiser obligations and Community Project obligations that include one volunteer placement each year. President Carrie Vickery proposed the updated Mission Statement of JLWS to align our chapter with the Association of Junior Leagues International (AJLI)'s updated mission statement adopted in May 2022, following a vote at the Annual Meeting in Texas. Our chapter approved the new statement, which reads: "The Junior League of Winston-Salem, Inc. is an organization of women whose mission is to advance women's leadership for meaningful community impact through volunteer action, collaboration, and training."

Lastly, Elizabeth Richardson, Annual Fund Coordinator, gave a finance spotlight on the 2022-2023 Annual Fund and its \$50,000 goal. These funds go directly towards supporting the mission of the Junior League of Winston-Salem by helping us sustain our existing programs and partnerships and allowing us to invest in new opportunities and projects.

The meeting ended with the excitement of a bit more shopping in the boutique market on the way out.  $\blacksquare$ 

## Women Who Wine Affinity Group

#### GALENTINE'S WINE TOUR • FEBRUARY 2023

Sanders Ridge Vineyard Divine Llama Vineyards & Farm Medaloni Cellers

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## JLWS Centennial Gala

















TO OUR CHAMPAGNE TOAST SPONSOR





## KATHARINE REYNOLDS JOHNSTON LEGACY AWARD EVA WU



The Junior League of Winston-Salem awarded the 2023 Katharine Reynolds Johnston Legacy Award to Eva Wu. Katharine Reynolds Johnston has left a lasting legacy, particularly within the Junior League of Winston-Salem, of championing charitable causes and civic engagement. Eva Wu is a true embodiment of that legacy.

For the last two years, Eva has built the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging Task Force from the ground up. She has led that Task Force from its creation on to recommend implementation of strategies to imbed DEIB into the fabric of the Junior League. In addition to this vital work, Eva remains the long-time chair of Crosby Scholars, the Sustainer-led committee which reviews and provides feedback on the college admissions essays of local students.

Eva joined the Junior League in 1999. During her time as an Active member, she has led numerous committees, including serving as the Children's Museum Grand Opening Events Chair in 2004. In addition to all of the work Eva has done during her years of service to the League, she is a Senior Vice President for Truist Bank.

Eva also serves as a member of the Board of Directors for the Novant Health Forsyth Medical Center Foundation. In the same vein as Katharine Reynolds Johnston, Eva has left a lasting impact on the Junior League of Winston-Salem and our broader community. The JLWS is grateful to Eva for her invaluable contributions to the Junior League and to the community.

### COMMUNITY PLACEMENT OF THE YEAR BACKPACK PROGRAM COMMITTEE



The JLWS Backpack Program exemplifies a community partnership that has fortified our reputation in the Winston-Salem community over the last 100 years. This year's committee was small, but they were able to fulfill their commitment to pack and deliver food to classrooms each week while supporting the school by hosting a successful food donation drive to stock the school's pantry; showing appreciation to the volunteer coordinator by celebrating her retirement; and contributing to a party for the teachers, which incentivized them to sign up students who would benefit from the Backpack Program.

#### SUSTAINER OF THE YEAR DEBORAH MALMO



The Junior League of Winston-Salem is pleased to award Deborah Malmo as the 2022-2023 Sustainer of the Year. Deborah joined the Junior League of Winston-Salem as a Provisional in 1998. Since then she has served the Junior League in a variety of ways, from the Editor of the Informer to the Chair of the Children's Museum Opening Event.

Outside of the league, Deborah has always kept busy as well, working for Sara Lee Hosiery or in the broadcasting industry as well as serving in a variety of volunteer positions, from St. Paul's Church to her beloved Green Nest. One would think that when Deborah became a Sustainer in 2006 it would have been an invitation to slow down, but she didn't in the slightest. Deborah has been an active and engaged Sustainer Council member, spearheading most of the events that this special community has enjoyed over the past few years, from hosting Zooms with WFU Provost Michele Gillespie on Junior League History, to Fall and Holiday luncheons, to bridge groups. Deborah's passion for the Junior League, and especially its Sustainer community, is unmatched and so appreciated. Thank you, Deborah.

### IN-LEAGUE PLACEMENT OF THE YEAR NEW MEMBER DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE



Every year the Junior League of Winston Salem recognizes an in league placement that goes above and beyond. As our first fully post-COVID year, there were a lot of really great options to choose from and it was a tough choice. The New Member Development Committee has had outstanding attendance at meetings and hosted a wide variety of creative socials. like a candle exchange, floral arranging, and self-care night. We are proud to recognize this committee and its leaders for devoting their time and efforts into making this a fantastic league year, especially for the new members. Therefore we would like to recognize the New Member Development committee: Kathleen, Grace and the New Member Mentors - Matti, Shay, KJ, Lindsey, Daisy, and Edelin. These ladies were integral in training our fantastic 26 new members.

6 Junior League of Winston-Salem

### FRIEND OF THE LEAGUE MISSY CARROLL OF HALF PAST THREE



This year's Friend of the League award went to Missy Carroll of Half Past Three. While still a relatively new business, Missy graciously supported the Junior League by both participating in the Boutique shopping event in January and February of this year and by making

a generous donation to the League's centennial community gift, the JLWS Literacy and Education Equity Fund, after last November's shopping event in Reynolda Village.

As an organization that cheers on the success of women, the Junior League applauds Missy for creating a space that has been described as "your best friend's closet, where the conversation is easy and the fashion is fierce." Thank you, Missy, for supporting the Junior League, and we wish you and Half Past Three many years of success to come!

#### ACTIVE MEMBER OF THE YEAR ANNA GERAS



Anna Geras was recognized as our Active Member of the Year for the work she did with all three of our fundraisers in the 2022-2023 League year. Anna's official placement was to chair the Little Black Dress Initiative to help fund our Centennial Gift. After putting on a wonderful event and successful fundraiser, Anna jumped in as a pinch hitter, stepping up to help with the kickoff event for the Boutique Shopping Pass at our January GMM. Anna jumped in again at the end of the

## AJLI Annual Conference 2023

#### By 2022-2023 JLWS President Carrie Vickery



L-R: Allison Bradbury, Carrie Vickery and Sarah Blackwell On May 11th, Allison Bradbury (President-Elect), Sarah Blackwell (incoming President-Elect), and I traveled to Indianapolis, Indiana for the 101st Annual Conference of the Association of Junior Leagues International. Almost 200 member Leagues joined us in Indiana, representing numerous different cities and states, and several different countries. Being in the company of so many outstanding and accomplished women moving towards the same goal was incredibly energizing.

One of the important pieces of business that was accomplished was the adoption of a Diversity Value Standard by AJLI. This statement will become part of AJLI's Operational Policies and further supports the work that AJLI, and our own League here in Winston-Salem, are doing to imbed DEIB work into all that we do.

We left Indianapolis full of new ideas and excitement, and a potential new Member courtesy of our Uber ride!

League year, volunteering to help run an event for the Tour of Fine Spaces sponsors. All in all, Anna embodied what it means to be a team player and selflessly offered up her talents at every turn!

### COMMUNITY PARTNER OF THE YEAR COOK LITERACY MODEL SCHOOL



Through our Backpack Placement program, JLWS has a longstanding relationship with Cook Literacy Model School, and we recently partnered with Winston-Salem/ Forsyth County Schools to host two successful health fairs at the school. We are so thankful for all the staff who worked with us to make those events happen and for their help advertising to school families—which has resulted in increased attendance at the health fairs! We appreciate their staff for always welcoming our volunteers into their school, and we look forward to continuing our work with their community next year.

### NEW MEMBER OF THE YEAR KRYSTAL MORRIS



JLWS is excited to recognize one new member who went above and beyond this year. This new member soaked up every opportunity that her new member year offered and was such an encouraging peer to others in her new member group and beyond. She was often the first to arrive and the last to leave, always asking for more ways she could contribute her time and talents. She always shared about JLWS events and opportunities on her social media accounts, helping to spread our mission far and wide. She is the embodiment of a woman committed to building a better Winston-Salem. It is for all these reasons that we are confident she will be an amazing new member mentor in her first year-active. We are happy to present New Member of the Year to Krystal Morris.

#### Junior League of Winston-Salem, Inc.

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## WHAT DO YOU ENJOY MOST ABOUT JLWS?

I JOINED THE JUNIOR LEAGUE in 2020 upon returning home to Winston-Salem to attend Wake Forest University School of Law. JLWS was a source of light for me during the pandemic and the struggles of the first year of law school. The Junior League has allowed me to connect with like-minded women who are passionate about serving the Winston-Salem community. As a young professional, I enjoy learning from more experienced members. JLWS members are brilliant, confident, attentive, and genuine women. I am honored to be part of a sisterhood of women building a better community.

> - ALEXUS ACCRAE JLWS Member