



COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

# JUNIOR LEAGUE OF LONG BEACH

2020-2021 LEAGUE YEAR

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT

**Dear Supporters of the Junior League of Long Beach,**

Eleanor Roosevelt, herself a Junior Leaguer, once said, “A woman is like a tea bag—you cannot tell how strong she is until you put her in hot water.” She was right: These challenging and uncertain times have proven to be an opportunity for the strong women of the JLLB to build on this organization’s innovative 90-year legacy of developing leaders who address critical needs.

The Junior League of Long Beach’s more than 400 volunteers have so much to be proud of and grateful for—we’ve made incredible sacrifices to keep one another safe and found meaningful ways to stay connected during the pandemic. We also used the extra time at home to turn our kitchens into test labs for a 90th anniversary commemorative cookbook.

All of the JLLB’s community programs found virtual or distanced ways forward, including self-esteem and nutrition workshops for the children of essential workers, community diversity and inclusion trainings, book donations, blood drives, letter writing campaigns, food drives, coat drives, and more. We’ve also stayed true to our commitment to making philanthropic investments to benefit women and children, donating three gifts totaling \$90,000 as part of our 90 by 90 anniversary campaign.

Thank you for taking the time to learn about the ways our League is changing the lives of women and children in Long Beach.

With gratitude,

**Ashleigh Ruhl**

*President, 2020-2021*



# STATE OF THE LEAGUE

## 2020 - 2021

### COMMUNITY

**355**

hours members  
served in the community

Over **1,500**

books donated for kids  
& young adults

**10**

Especially Me!  
self-esteem  
virtual workshops

**10%**

members donated  
blood during  
shortages

Over **366**

pounds of food donated  
to food pantries

### FUNDRAISING

10th Annual LUNAFEST  
raised over **\$31,500**

Sold **163** tickets and  
hosted over **262** viewers

Exceeded our Giving Tuesday  
fundraising goal by raising over  
**\$5,000**

Raised over **\$12,500**  
in our first year participating in  
Long Beach Gives campaign

Sustainers  
raised  
**\$7,773**  
for local food  
pantries

Completed our  
**\$90,000**  
commitment for  
the 90 by 90  
Anniversary  
Giving Campaign

### MEMBERSHIP

**35** member  
trainings

**43** hours of diversity,  
equity, and inclusion  
training offered  
to members

**100**  
hours of recipe testing  
for the 90th Anniversary  
Commemorative  
Cookbook

**+5%** Instagram  
followers

**+9%** Facebook  
followers

**97**  
Actives

**271**  
Sustainers

**12**  
New  
Members



# JUNIOR LEAGUE MARKS 90 YEARS WITH GIVING CAMPAIGN

As we have the special privilege of celebrating our 90th year in 2021, the League continues to grow its legacy as a driving force behind the kinds of critical initiatives and institutions that make Long Beach a better place to live. With that in mind, the JLLB committed to making philanthropic investments to benefit women and children with three gifts totaling \$90,000 as part of our 90 by 90 anniversary campaign:

- The Junior League's first gift in 2019 supported the development of the new Billie Jean King Main Library downtown, where our donation sponsored "The Lounge," a space dedicated to teen literacy and activities;
- Rancho Los Cerritos received funding in 2020 for the restoration of the historic site's herb garden and the launch of a larger capital campaign for further restorations;
- And the final \$30,000 was presented this year to Casa Youth Shelter, originally founded by the Junior League of Long Beach, for a full kitchen remodel.

All three 90 by 90 gifts were presented to longtime community partners. The anniversary campaign was a way for our League to give back, build upon existing relationships, partner to offer new community programs tied to those sites, and tell our story as an organization that has played a pivotal role in creating and supporting projects that have served as catalysts for lasting change in Long Beach.



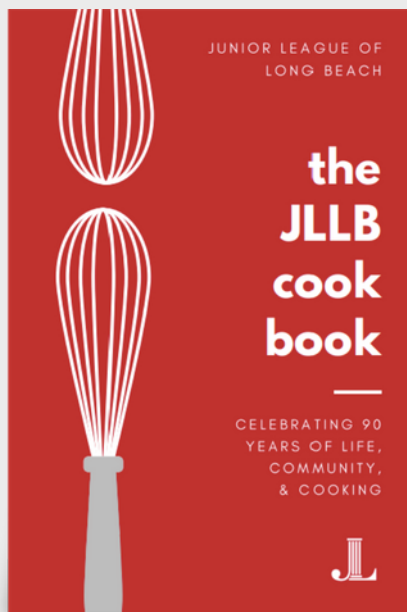
JUNIOR LEAGUE OF  
**LONG BEACH**

## 90TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATIVE COOKBOOK

The 90th celebration year has brought JLLB members together to be a part of JLLB history. Our 90th Anniversary Commemorative Cookbook is filled with stories, memories, photos, and—of course—incredible recipes from our members. The stories include tales from members volunteering, learning leadership skills, and the joys of lifelong friendships. The time-tested recipes vary from simple one-ingredient banana ice cream to complex entrees.

The limited-edition book is available for sale now at [www.JLLB.org/cookbook](http://www.JLLB.org/cookbook).

We are celebrating 90 Years of Life, Community and Cooking.



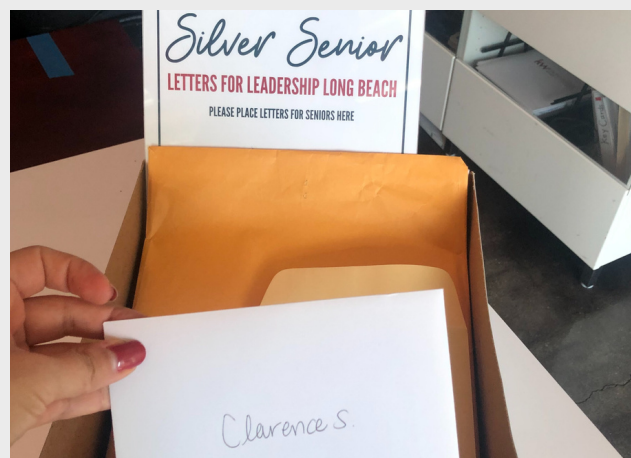
# JLLB MOBILIZES FOR LONG BEACH

This past year was quite a year for Long Beach, and one in which the JLLB was able to adapt and support the local community! After pivoting to virtual meetings, we were able to also continue our community service efforts with socially distanced activities. Many of them were online, and we were able to safely participate in blood drives, coat drives, food drives, book drives, and letter writing to seniors. We hosted our signature programs Especially Me! and Kids in the Kitchen virtually, allowing us to connect and provide a needed service in this time of staying apart together.

Our new member class had an especially successful service opportunity this spring, hosting a book drive for Children's Book Week collecting over 700 books to support the Harbor Interfaith Services Children's Center. This was a great way to come together safely and support our impact area to increase confidence and self-awareness among youth in the Long Beach community and with literacy.

Our other socially distanced service opportunities included blood donations supporting the American Red Cross during shortages, and food drives to meet the community need in conjunction with Kids in the Kitchen. Collectively, we had a total of over 80 bags of food donated to support Food Finders, and JLLB Sustainers raised nearly \$8,000 to further support that cause.

The JLLB is proud to share our members dedicated over 350 hours to serve Long Beach for 2020 - 2021. While it was hard to be apart for a whole year, it was fantastic to still be able to connect with other members through community service events.





# COMMUNITY IMPACT

## ESPECIALLY ME!



This spring the Self-Esteem Committee teamed up with Lafayette Elementary School to bring free virtual self-esteem workshops to 5th grade girls. We brought in trained JLLB volunteers and guest speakers from LBPD and the Bloom Foundation, a social-emotional learning program that encourages girls to grow from bullying. The 17 participants received special JLLB backpacks filled with goodies. Ms. Morishita said, "I like myself better" after participating in the workshops. Ms. Tedeja said, Especially Me! "was very helpful because now I know what happens in my body."



We would like to thank Lafayette Elementary School Counselor Nancy Rettig, Officer Daisy from Long Beach Police Department, Andi Long from the Bloom Foundation, and the entire Self-Esteem committee who helped bring this program together!

## KIDS IN THE KITCHEN

This year, Kids In The Kitchen pivoted to provide virtual education about healthy eating and cooking to kids and their families with fun online cooking classes. We were able to make these classes available at no cost to children and families. We also hosted multiple food drives for Food Finders Long Beach to help children and families in our community struggling with food insecurity.

Next year, we will continue to provide flexibility as needed with virtual and in-person events. Cooking classes, garden visits and an expanded healthy living curriculum program are in the works in addition to new partnerships for continuing the goal of addressing food insecurity in our community.



# DEVELOPING POTENTIAL OF WOMEN



The In-League Training committee has been busy this year, pivoting to hosting trainings that were virtual and safe while also trying to meet the needs of our members. In November and December, to address the well-being of our members during such unprecedented times presented by the pandemic, Dr. Elisa Gambino addressed the ways that the pandemic can affect our minds and bodies and ways to combat it. While Todd Brossart, LCSW from Mental Events provided our members with an introduction to mindfulness and reminded us that sometimes doing nothing is the best self-care we can do.



In January, Amberly Martin, MPA, provided members with a Resume Writing Workshop, offering expert advice on writing a resume and supporting women looking to pivot their careers and jump into the job market in uncertain times. A key takeaway was to make sure that you create a resume for each job you apply to—don't just send out a generic resume!

In February, inspirational speaker and consultant Vicki Clark spoke to our League on what Courageous Leadership is and how we are all leaders. She reminded our members that empowered women empower other women and that we need to invest in ourselves because we are worth it! And to finish out the year, our own Dr. Kristi Culpepper-Nott hosted a JLLB Spring Fling in the Garden, teaching members how to grow their own herbs with step by step instructions. Our attendees learned to not over-water seeds and plants and to pay attention to the leaves and the soil before watering again.





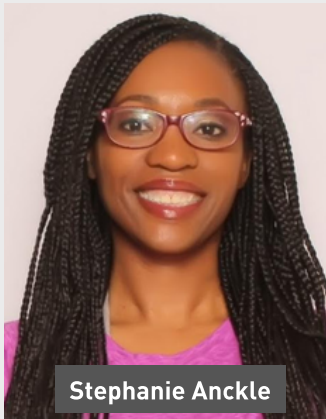
# MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We are thrilled to introduce the 12 wonderful ladies of the JLLB's 2021 Spring New Member class!

In this unique year, the New Member Training committee transitioned all activities to a virtual format, hosting three New Member Info Sessions for prospective members via Zoom as well as executing six virtual training events for all registered New Members. Through these virtual trainings, the Spring New Member class learned about the League, built camaraderie, and planned their own New Member class project collecting children's books to support the Harbor Interfaith Services' Childcare Center.

**We are very happy to welcome them to the JLLB!**



Stephanie Anckle



Carshé Chess



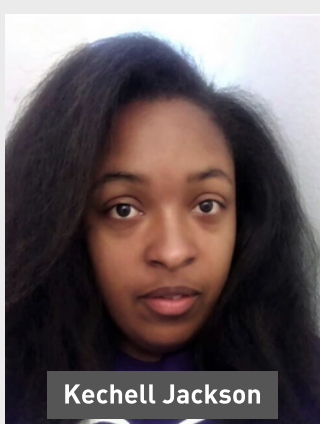
Jennifer de Schepper



Kathryn Esham



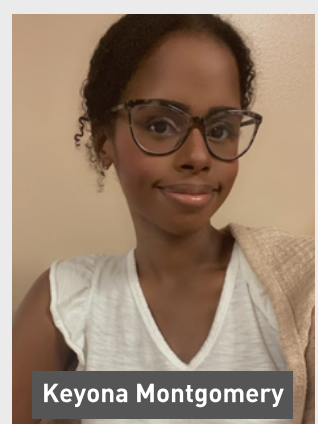
Natalie Ewell



Kechell Jackson



Nicole Kalupa



Keyona Montgomery



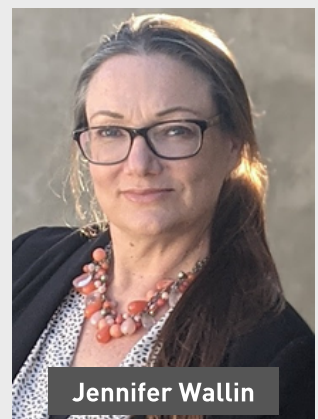
Ebony Murphy-Root



Julia Quang

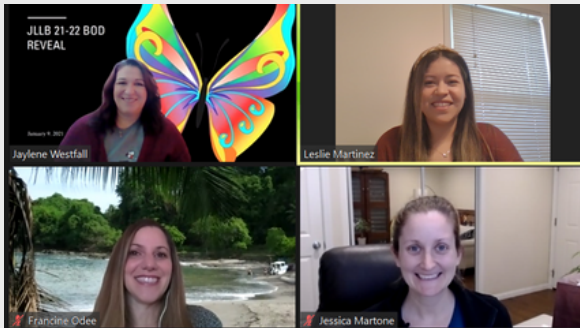


Shawna Stevens



Jennifer Wallin

# MEMBERSHIP UPDATE



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2021-2022

### Congratulations!

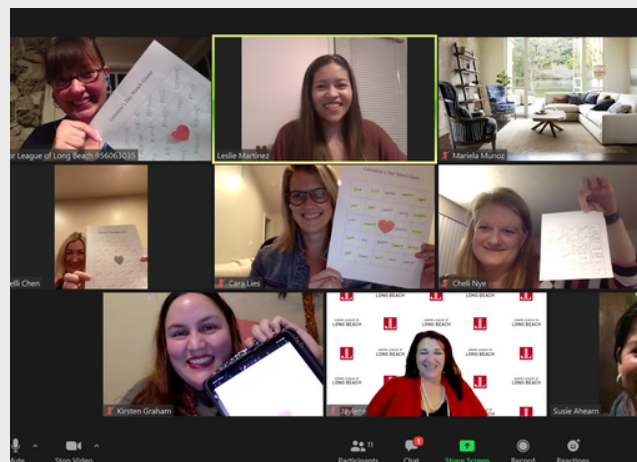
President: Jaylene Eatherly Westfall  
President-Elect: Francine Odee  
Treasurer: Cameron Hernandez  
Treasurer-Elect: Jessica Harbison Weaver (not pictured)  
Executive Secretary: Leslie Martinez  
Membership VP: Ashley Hopkins  
Fund Development VP: Alyce Coley  
Community VP: Kaley Millan  
Nominating Chair: Cheli Nye  
Board Assistant: Jessica Martone  
Sustaining Advisor: Christie Bettendorf



## STAYING CONNECTED

As we entered the second half of our Junior League year, members came together for diverse virtual social opportunities. Connection during this year was more important than ever.

Our committees planned safe and fun events like winter wreath crafting, Galentine's Day game night, a Cheers to Women Night, and an at-home spa day and fundraiser with LATHER to celebrate Women's History Month, drive-thru pick ups, and book club meetings, just to name a few.





# MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

## 2020-2021 JLLB AWARD RECIPIENTS



**KAREN RECTOR  
MEMORIAL AWARD**

Lorena Valle



**SPIRIT OF  
VOLUNTEERISM  
AWARD**

Kaley Millan



**LEADERSHIP  
AWARD**

Elisa Gambino



**DEDICATION  
AWARD**

Mary Lamo



**PRESIDENT'S  
AWARD FOR  
EXCELLENCE  
IN COMMUNITY  
SERVICE**

Angela Tarango



**RIISING STAR  
AWARD**

Meghan Gilling



**PRESIDENT'S  
AWARD FOR  
EXCELLENCE IN  
LEAGUE SERVICE**

Leslie Martinez



**SUSTAINER OF  
THE YEAR  
AWARD**

Penny Brocksen

**JLLB  
COMMUNITY PARTNER  
AWARD**

*Gelson's*



# SUSTAINERS UPDATE



During the month of February, the Sustainers held an internal "Show our Love" campaign to collect monetary donations to address food insecurity. A gift of \$7,773 was given to Food Finders, a nonprofit organization that partners with over 100 Long Beach agencies in providing food assistance.

In support of LUNAFEST, many Sustainers were sponsors as well as donors to the wine wall and the silent auction. The Sustainer Council itself was even a Blue Moon sponsor.



Sustainers also hosted a virtual welcome for the New Member class. Both Sustainers and New Members participated in virtual breakout conversations discussing League life, and Sustainers delivered gift bags to the New Members' homes. Sustainers continued to mentor and advise the Actives as well as serve with them on ad-hoc committees.

## JLLB'S 2020-2021 BUSINESS DONORS

Anchors Away - AnneQP Draws - Aquarium of the Pacific - Benthale, McKibbin & McKnight: Professional Law Corporation - Boathouse on the Bay - Chef Karla Flores-Ybaceta - Chef Tech Cooking School - City Prosecutor Doug Haubert - Clariteas - Cluck & Blaze - Community Action Team/Justin Rudd! - Derricks on Atlantic - Domenico's - Eda Massage - f/8 Studios - Gelson's - Golden Star Family Restaurant - Gondola Getaway - Gorjana - Grit Cycle - Grunion Gazette - Happy Hour Wine (at Trader Joe's) - Healthy Balance Fitness - Heywood Park Collective & Tricia Fidler - Hotel Maya - Jessica Ponce Yoga - Just Add Ice Cocktails - Label Me Lindsay - Laserfiche - LATHER - Lauren Line Realtor - Long Beach Community Foundation - Long Beach Post - Los Altos Dental - Los Angeles Dodgers - Mark Schneider Fine Jewelry - Michael Guilfoyle - Miss Priss Cupcakes - Molo Macrame - Naples Rib Company - Nora Frislie Artistry - Peaches Skin Care - Pacific MNDFL - Pendergast Real Estate Group - Petals & Prickly's - The Pie Bar - Plunge - Port of Long Beach - Primal Alchemy Catering - Prime by Shenandoah - Pure Barre Redondo Beach - RA Yoga - Rancho Los Cerritos - Royal Gourmet Cookies - Stephanie Tova Photography - The Grand Long Beach - Twig & Willow - Wolf's Brew Coffee & Gallery - Water's Edge Winery - Zenni Dogs

# 2021 HELEN D. NEWCOMB AWARD RECIPIENT



Junior League of Long Beach Past-President Dona Syes Ponepinto has been selected to receive the JLLB's highest honor: The Helen D. Newcomb Award.

Since 1996, the prestigious award has been presented in the name of Helen Dutton Newcomb who, in 1931, served as the first president of the JLLB, originally known as the Junior Charity League. The award recognizes a longtime member who embodies the organization's mission to promote voluntarism, develop the potential of women and improve the community through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers.

Ponepinto, who acted as JLLB President in 1996-97, began volunteering with the JLLB in 1988. She served as Chair of the Membership Outreach Committee and Project Vice-President as well as the Facilitator Core, Partners in Education, Impact Long Beach, and Training Team committees. She later served as President for the Junior League of Detroit and today she's a member of the Junior League of Tacoma. A recognized leader within the Association of Junior Leagues International, Dona was recently slated to serve as the President-Elect of Board for AJLI, already having held several positions within the organization that represents Junior Leagues worldwide. She will hold the office of President-Elect for one year and then President for two years beginning in June 2022.

"Dona lives a purposeful life, and everyone who knows her learns something from her and is so inspired by her," Helen D. Newcomb Award Committee Chair Lorrie Hutton said. Dona credits her time in the Junior League of Long Beach for showing her the path to leadership and community service. "When I think back, without the JLLB, I would not be where I am today, and for that I will be forever grateful," she said, noting that a lifetime in Junior League has reinforced for her the importance of taking every opportunity to help grow other women leaders.



# 10TH ANNUAL LUNAFEST

The Junior League of Long Beach's 10th annual LUNAFEST© film festival hosted on April 25, 2021, was a great success! While this year's LUNAFEST was held virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we still had the traditional elements that everyone loves, like the Wine Wall and Silent Auction. This year we introduced home delivered specialty cocktails and mocktails from Just Add Ice Cocktails, as well as Festival Favor bags to bring a more in-person element to the event. The Opportunity Drawing that everyone is used to seeing also pivoted to a gift card grab bag, featuring over \$800 worth of gift cards to many local Long Beach businesses!

This year's LUNAFEST also featured a better film viewing experience via the Eventive platform, which allowed attendees the opportunity to stream the films on a computer or television. One attendee said "Streaming the films to my living room television made it feel like I was at the movies! I could really experience the films in a much better way than watching it on my small computer screen." After the films, we hosted local Long Beach filmmaker Sandy Widynata for a special question and answer session. Her short film "Plastic" was featured in a past LUNAFEST season and was screened specially for the event.

In total, the JLLB raised over \$31,500 by selling 163 tickets to over 262 viewers! We wouldn't be successful without our sponsors and supporters, thank you. See you next year!



## THANK YOU TO OUR BLUE MOON SPONSORS



JLLB  
Sustainer  
Council

Ashleigh &  
Taylor Ruhl



Laserfiche®

Kaley &  
Mauricio Millan  
Anduril Industries







# JUNIOR LEAGUE OF LONG BEACH

The Junior League of Long Beach 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.

The Junior League of Long Beach welcomes all women who value our Mission. We are committed to inclusive environments of individuals, organizations and communities.

## Let's keep in touch!



@JuniorLeagueofLongBeach



Info@JLLB.org



@JLLongBeach



**Interested in joining the  
Junior League of Long Beach  
as a member?**

**Visit [www.JLLB.org](http://www.JLLB.org)  
to learn more!**