



# the bloom

NEWS AND INFORMATION FOR THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF LEXINGTON

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JUNIOR LEAGUE  
of LEXINGTON

Empowering Women of the Bluegrass  
Volunteerism | Philanthropy | Historic Preservation

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### LEAGUE OFFICE HOURS:

Max Herbert

Tuesday - Friday  
9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Office: 859.252.8014

## PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

*Melissa Hammer, President*

I cannot believe our Centennial year is almost at an end! What a wonderful year it has been. From the bottom of my heart, I am grateful for the opportunity to serve and lead this year. You are in great hands with **Heather Kane** next year!



Many thanks to **Aaron Ann Cole-Funfsinn, Jessica Stigall**, and the many committee members and volunteers who made the Centennial Gala such a special night! Many thanks, too, to **Alice Bowen** for being our guide during the year as Centennial Committee Chair.

I would also like to thank **Beth Shockley** and the Holly Day Market Committee for their dedication and hard work to put on another successful, festive market. Making the move back to Alltech was no small feat, but it paid off in a big way. Our merchants were delighted to be back, and our shoppers loved

the variety of goodies to kick off their holiday shopping.

As I shared in my remarks at the gala, our League's journey has been remarkable. Together, we've built a legacy, one project and one success at a time, through the tireless efforts of the thousands of women who have joined the Junior League of Lexington since 1924.

This year alone, our members have volunteered more than 12,000 hours, all while working through change to ensure that the League stands for another 100 years. Every day I am inspired by the women in this League. I firmly believe we're ready to take on the next 100 years with the same energy and commitment to building a better, brighter future. Together, we are developing women to do a world of good.



*The Junior League of Lexington is committed to fostering inclusivity. We value diversity among the community partners we serve and aim for a membership varied in cultural backgrounds and life experiences.*



Junior League of Lexington Newsletter

bloom Staff

Madison Wallace, Editor

The bloom reserves the right to edit any submissions presented for publication.

The next bloom deadline is 8:00 p.m., December 15.

LEAGUE BOARD 2024

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Table with 2 columns: Position and Name. Includes President (Melissa Hammer), President-Elect (Heather Kane), Recording Secretary (Ellen Black Hall), Corresponding Secretary (Ann Mary Quarandillo), Treasurer (Megan Lee), Membership Chair (Amanda Sieglien), Headquarters Chair (Lindsay Medley), Horse Show Chair (Abigail Brotherton), Holly Day Market Chair (Beth Shockey), Sponsorship Chair (Cynthia Barnes).

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Table with 2 columns: Committee and Chair Name. Includes Advisory Planning (Heather Kane), Admissions/Provisionals (Lauren Sword, Samantha Howard), CE&R (Laura Prather), Community Projects (Rachel Bugaris), Diversity & Inclusion (Camisha Boyd-Powell), Finance (Megan Lee), Membership Hospitality (Iman Ali), Mentoring (Opa Johnson), The bloom (Madison Wallace), Nominating (Kendal Anderson, Erin Jones Roth), Parliamentarian (Betsy Davies), Sustaining Membership (Marcey Ansley), Website (Amanda Sarratore), Centennial Ad-Hoc (Alice Bowen).

Empowering Women of the Bluegrass since 1924
Volunteerism | Philanthropy | Historic Preservation

LOOKING FORWARD TO THE NEXT 100 YEARS: EMBRACING CHANGE AND CHARTING A BOLD FUTURE

By Heather Kane, 2024 President-Elect

As we celebrate our organization’s 100th anniversary, I am filled with immense pride and gratitude for the incredible journey we’ve shared. For a century, women in this community have come together to make a real, lasting impact—through service, leadership, and the power of volunteerism. Our rich history has shaped who we are today, but our commitment to evolving with the times is what will carry us into the next century of female leadership.

Over the past few years, we’ve navigated some exciting, yet challenging, changes. We’ve embraced a new organizational structure, updated our processes, and shifted our focus to be mission-driven. These adjustments haven’t always been easy, but they have been necessary to ensure our organization remains strong, relevant, and

able to serve future generations of women leaders.

I am excited to build on the work of those who came before me. We will continue to honor our legacy while also preparing for the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead. Together, we’ll focus on strengthening our training programs, increasing transparency, and fostering a welcoming, inclusive environment where every voice is heard.

The next 100 years are full of possibilities, and I’m confident that, with your support, we will not only carry forward our proud traditions, but also create new ones—setting the stage for an even brighter future of women helping women.

Here’s to the next chapter!

THANKS FOR BEING A MEMBER!

Being a Member of the Junior League of Lexington offers many benefits, such as:

- The Bloom - mailed to sustainers and shared as a PDF for all other members to stay up to date on League happenings
Sustainer and Active Member specific social events
A reduced rental rate for hosting events at the Bodley-Bullock House
Leadership training opportunities through AJLI
Leadership training opportunities offered by the League, like the DEIB Training series offered this year
Networking opportunities
Affinity groups in the League, like the Book Club, Brunch Club, etc.
Access to The Junior League Boutique
The opportunity to apply for EduQuest Grants designed to assist Junior League members who aspire to advance their education, build

their professional skill set, and become influential leaders in their communities.

- The opportunity to take part in The Junior League miniMBA Certificate program, offered in partnership with Miami University’s Farmer School of Business, a top-ranked business school.
AJLI offered discounts:
- Rental Car Discount
- 1-800-Flowers
- Alliance Background
- FINRA
- Group Insurance Plans
- IncidentGO
- MemberDeals
- Preferred Rates at Hotels and Resorts
- Prept Club
- Protect My Kids ID

Enjoy all the League has to offer in the coming year!



JUNIOR LEAGUE OF LEXINGTON IS A PROUD MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATION OF JUNIOR LEAGUES INTERNATIONAL, INC.

# HOLLY DAY MARKET

By Beth Shockley, Holly Day Market Chair



JUNIOR LEAGUE of LEXINGTON  
*Holly Day Market*

To my fellow Junior Leaguers, especially the 17 women who chaired this event before me, thank you for laying the foundation of this market. Being part of this legacy is a true honor. And to this year's **Holly Day Market Committee**, I am endlessly grateful for your time, talent, and heart. You have balanced roles as professionals, mothers, spouses, and community leaders, all while

dedicating countless hours to ensure this event's success. You inspire me every day. Additionally, thank you to the nearly 400 provisional, active, & sustaining women of the Junior League of Lexington for your support, time, and enthusiasm backing us the whole way.

As we celebrate the success and momentum from this year's market, mark your calendars for next year's event, December 5-7, 2025, as we continue this beautiful tradition of joy and giving.



# VIEW FROM THE PARK

By Rachel Elam, Headquarters Marketing Chair



JUNIOR LEAGUE of LEXINGTON  
*Bodley-Bullock House*

Join us on December 12, 2024, from 6 PM to 8 PM for a festive holiday party at the Bodley-Bullock House. This year's celebration features a cookie exchange—bring two dozen cookies (and your recipe if they're homemade!) to share in the holiday spirit. Don't forget to RSVP in the Junior League of Lexington app. We can't wait to see you there for an evening of sweet treats and warm camaraderie!



*Cookie*  
EXCHANGE

December 12th



6:00 - 8:00 pm

Please join us for a holiday party at the

*Bodley-Bullock House*

200 Market St  
Lexington, KY 40507

Please RSVP by signing up on JL calendar! Bring 2 dozen cookies with you. If they are homemade, bring your fun recipe!



# A NIGHT TO REMEMBER: CELEBRATING 100 YEARS



The Junior League of Lexington's Centennial Gala, held on November 8, 2024 at The Campbell House, was a spectacular evening of music, fine dining, and dancing. Guests gathered to honor a century of service and commitment to Central Kentucky, sharing memories and looking ahead to the future. We extend heartfelt thanks to our generous sponsors and attendees for making this milestone celebration possible.



## Silver Sponsors

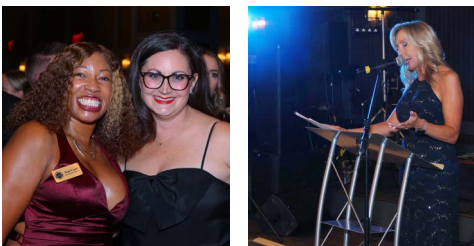
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## Bronze Sponsors



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# JUNIOR LEAGUE OF LEXINGTON 2024 ANNUAL AWARD WINNERS

By Heather Kane, President-Elect



MEGAN LEE



BROOKE  
AMADON



CHRISTY JANE  
WOODRUFF

In our centennial year, we received an overwhelming number of inspiring nominations for our annual awards. While three exceptional women were honored, we recognize that many deserving nominees showcased remarkable dedication and service. Their contributions reflect the strength and impact of our community, and we celebrate them all.

## Alice Lang Vance Award - Megan Lee

The Alice Lang Vance Junior League Award, named in honor of the 1940-42 President and the 1939 Horse Show Chair, is given to an Active member whose overall commitment to the League makes them a tremendous asset.

Megan has demonstrated exceptional leadership and commitment to the Junior League of Lexington. As Treasurer in 2024, Megan led transformative financial changes, including onboarding a new accounting firm, standardizing budgeting, and revising financial policies to align with best practices. She dedicated over 100 hours in January alone to ensure the League's financial success and stability. Megan's efforts to reorganize financial reporting, create new procedures,

and educate the Board and membership have laid a solid foundation for the future. Her tireless work and steady leadership have been invaluable to the League's continued growth and success. Plus, her attitude and demeanor throughout this incredibly busy and difficult year have been positive and encouraging. She may have had frustrations, but she remained patient and calm, yet thorough, consistent, and steadfast in moving the League forward.

## Susan R. Anderson Award - Brooke Amadon

The Susan R. Anderson Award is given to an active or sustaining League Member whose interest, contributions, and promotion of the Bodley-Bullock House are and have been "above what is expected."

Brooke has made outstanding contributions to the Bodley-Bullock House. As a dedicated Sustaining member, Brooke chaired the successful Centennial Open House, securing over \$1,000 for the Friends of the BBH Giving Society. Her passion for historic preservation and tireless efforts, from organizing volunteers to securing donations and funding, have significantly supported the House's preservation. Brooke's leadership

and commitment have enriched our community's appreciation for this historic site, making her a deserving candidate for this prestigious award. We are so lucky to have someone like Brooke in the League who so openly and willingly gives her time, talent and treasure.

## Volunteer of the Year Award - Christy Jane Woodruff

The Volunteer of the Year Award honors an outstanding Active Member who has demonstrated exceptional commitment, dedication, and impact through their volunteer efforts. This award recognizes a volunteer who goes above and beyond in contributing to our organization's mission, making a significant difference in the lives of those we serve.

Anyone who has had the pleasure of meeting Christy Jane knows immediately that she has a deep, unwavering passion for caring for others. This genuine spirit of service is evident in her long-standing role as Exhibitor Hospitality Chair, a position she has held for many years due to her love for it. Beyond her work with the Horse Show Committee, a commitment that is no small feat in terms of hours and effort, Christy Jane has also volunteered an impressive 152 hours this year alone to current and past funded agencies. Christy Jane's selfless contributions, not only to the League but also to our community, are a true testament to her character. Her tireless dedication is something she can and should be immensely proud of, and we are fortunate to have her as such an integral part of our organization.

## CURRENT FUNDED AGENCY SPOTLIGHT



A Sense of Place is one of the Junior League of Lexington's 2024 funded agencies, receiving a \$2,500 grant to support the campaign bringing together

many partners in the community to remember and celebrate the history of Fayette County's rural Black hamlets. Funds will be used to repair and restore the only remaining Rosenwald School in Fayette County and to create a permanent location within the building to display related artifacts, stories and oral histories.



# CELEBRATING OUR 100-HOUR VOLUNTEERS!



We are thrilled to recognize the incredible dedication of the women who have achieved the Centennial Volunteerism Challenge as of November 28, 2024. Since January 1, these women have each volunteered over 100 hours with a variety of organizations, including funded agencies, past funded agencies, agencies we have not yet funded, and through their work with League committees:

Megan Adams*	Opa Johnson
Natalie Ahmed	Jessica Kadle
Brooke Amadon*	Heather Kane
Kendall Anderson*	Emily Keaton
Marcey Ansley	Kaitlin Key
Cynthia Barnes	Emily Lawrence*
Addie Barret	Megan Lee**
Elizabeth Belcher	Jenna Lowe
Alice Murray Bowen	Lydia McManus*
Leanna Brignola	Lindsay Medley
Abigail Brotherton	Tanzi Merritt
Megan Brown	Kara Miller
Rachel Bugaris*	Michaela Mineer
Kelsey Carter*	Emily Pence
Alisha Chaffin	Shelley Porter
Tamara Davis**	Camisha Boyd Powell
Rachel Elam	Ann Mary Quarandillo
Myranda Elliott	Erin Jones Roth
Ashleigh Felts	Amanda Sarratore
Autumn Goderwis	Beth Shockley**
Vanessa Grossl*	Amanda Siegelin*
Grace Hahn	Lauren Sword
Melissa Hammer**	Bridget Szczapinski
Amy Heckenberger	Marissa Webb
Samantha Howard	Christy Jane Woodruff
Carrie Cowart-Johnson	Jessica Young
Jessica Johnson Jones	* Denotes 250+ Hours
Megan Jones	** Denotes 500+ Hours



# PROVISIONAL SPOTLIGHT: HOLLY RATLIFF

By Krista Kimmel, Provisional

Last year, like many young professionals, **Holly Ratliff** was managing the difficult transition from undergraduate student to the working world. Holly mentioned to a coworker that she “did not have many working friends or friends that are working moms and could provide guidance in the future when I decide to have a family one day on how to balance everything that we face as women.” Her coworker suggested that Holly attend a provisional open house, and Holly accepted. She submitted her application to the League that night, a decision Holly calls “the best decision I ever made.”

So far, Holly has most enjoyed the connections she’s made with other women in the League. She says, “I love the little things the most about the JLL. I really enjoy going to brunch club each month and connecting with the ladies of the League on a regular basis. I also enjoy impromptu coffee dates just getting to know people.”

Holly works as an Administrative Support Associate at UK HealthCare in the Hospital Administration office, where she provides administrative support to leadership in a variety of tasks. She also just started work on her Master of Public Health degree at the University of Kentucky in the Fall of 2024. She earned a Bachelor of Health Sciences in Clinical Leadership and Management from UK in May 2023.



When asked what she loves most about her job, Holly shared that “We get to play a small role in helping people live their healthiest lives. I feel privileged to have held many different roles across the healthcare system and gotten to see what adequate access to healthcare can do for our patients.”

Outside of work, Holly loves to read and recently got two kittens this past July. She says, “They keep us on our toes for sure, but we love them so much!”

Holly says she is grateful to be part of the League and is looking forward to all that is yet to come!

## EMPOWER HOUR: THE TRANSFORMATIVE POTENTIAL OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE FOR NON-PROFITS

Join the Association of Junior Leagues on Monday, December 9, at 12 p.m. ET for *The Transformative Potential of Artificial Intelligence (AI) for Non-Profits*, featuring **Erika Lovegreen**. This session will explore how AI can revolutionize non-profit operations—enhancing fundraising, streamlining administrative tasks, and boosting community outreach. Erika will demystify AI and provide actionable insights tailored to our unique mission, empowering us to leverage cutting-edge

tools to amplify impact and make data-driven decisions.

As the Senior Vice President of Marketing and Communications for ICUC.social, Erika brings a wealth of experience partnering with global brands like Starbucks and Disney. A 15-year Junior League Member, Erika has served in leadership roles across multiple chapters and attended ten AJLI conferences. <https://www.myajli.org/trainings-meetings/empower-hour/>

# IN THE JLLX KITCHEN

By Alice Bowen, Centennial Ad Hoc Committee Chair

## Chess Squares

ALICE BOWEN

### Ingredients

- 1 Duncan Hines Butter Recipe Yellow cake mix
- 1 stick melted butter
- 1 box (16 oz) confectioner's sugar
- 1 8oz pkg cream cheese
- 4 eggs



### Directions

1. For the crust: mix cake mix, melted butter and one egg, press into greased 9x13 pan
2. For the topping, soften cream cheese. Add sifted confectioner's sugar and 3 beaten eggs, mix and pour over crust.
3. Bake for ~40 min at 350 degrees, or until top is light brown and center doesn't jiggle.

### Notes

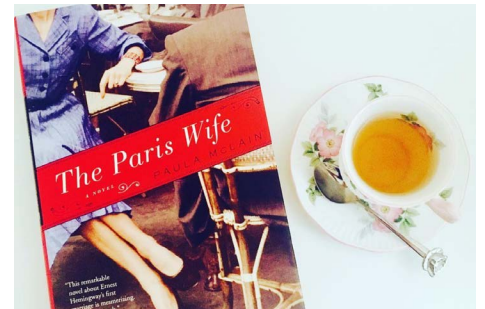
Wait until cool to slice and serve.

# COZY BOOK CORNER

By Jenna Lowe, Sponsorship Vice Chair

Join the Lexington Junior League Book Club for our upcoming book club discussions! Please know the book club is open to all members of the League and you do not need to attend every (or any) discussion to join the Facebook group. Find us on Facebook at Lexington Junior League Book Club to learn more about each of the titles below and stay up to date on the events for each discussion. The selected books will be 20% off for all members who are part of the Joseph-Beth Book Club.

**December Book Club Discussion:** *The Paris Wife* by Paula McClain



Hosted by **Melissa Hammer** on **December 14, 2024 from 12 - 2 PM** at **Papi's at Palomar**.

*Dates and times subject to change; check each Facebook event for the most accurate information. Find us on Facebook, "Lexington Junior League Book Club," to stay up to date on the events for each discussion and connect with other League members for more book recommendations.*

If you are interested in hosting a book club discussion, or simply suggesting a book, please email **Jenna Lowe** at [JennaLowe.JuniorLeague@gmail.com](mailto:JennaLowe.JuniorLeague@gmail.com).

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# JUNIOR LEAGUE *of* LEXINGTON

*Empowering Women of the Bluegrass  
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## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Date	Event
<b>December Community Basket - Salvation Army Angel Tree</b>	
December 2, 6:30 - 7:30 pm	General Assembly
December 9, 12:00 - 1:00 pm	Empower Hour
December 9, 6:30 - 7:30 pm	League Board Meeting
December 11, 6:30 - 7:30 pm	DE&I Committee Meeting
December 12, 6:00 - 8:00 pm	Cookie Exchange
December 14, 12:00 - 2:00 pm	Book Club Discussion
December 18, 6:30 - 7:30 pm	Headquarters Committee Meeting
December 18, 6:30 - 7:30 pm	Finance Committee Meeting

