



league lines
Spring & Summer 2023



league lines

THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF HUNTSVILLE

OUR MISSION

The Junior League of Huntsville, Inc. is an organization of women committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women, and improving communities through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. The Junior League welcomes all women who value our Mission. We are committed to inclusive environments of individuals, organizations, and communities. Our purpose is exclusively educational and charitable.

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League Lines Chair
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Thank you for reading our Spring/ Summer 2023 edition of League Lines! Inside you'll find content on the work the Junior League of Huntsville does in support of our community, as well as member news, event photos, and more!

You'll also see hyperlinks that will take you right to our website and additional resources. Interested in advertising in any of our 2022-2023 issues? Contact us for rates and other information at communications@JLHuntsville.com.

Thank you, and enjoy League Lines!

League Lines Staff

IN THIS ISSUE

- Page 3
President's Message
- Page 4
Executive Vice President's Message
- Pages 5-8
2023 Book Ball
- Page 9
Butterfly Boutique
- Pages 10-12
JLH Training
- Page 13
Rainbow Rhythm Band
- Page 14
Annual Celebration
- Page 15
Sisterhood Events
- Page 16
DEI+B Spotlight and Special Vote
- Page 17
In Our Community
- Page 18
GMM Overview, Book Club, and Congratulations

President's Message

Congratulations on another League year - and what a year it's been! We've made major changes. Starting the 2023-2024 League year, we will be implementing a brand new



strategic plan to help out League grow and thrive into the future! We will also have two provisional classes, and we've added a DE&I representative to the board to represent the needs of all League members. We kicked off Project Impact and gave out a \$50,000 grant to provide ShowerUp with a second mobile showering unit. GMMs had pre-COVID turnout, and we brought back all sorts of sisterhood and training events (including Launch Your Leadership), allowing members to spend time together again. We even got made the

decision to step away from Digital Cheetah to Member Essentials, and moved into a keyless future with a new keypad unlocking office door! As we look to the 2023-2024 year and even bigger and brighter goals, I encourage you to think about your own goals and how your time in the League can help you meet them. Here, you can learn leadership, service, communication, organization, how to be a contributing member of a team - the list goes on and on.

In my time in the JLH, I've had opportunities and experiences I could never have had elsewhere - and I'm a better League member, employee, friend, and person because of it. My lessons have ranged from how to obtain a liquor license from the city and that there are no less than 30 different apple scent options for candles to how to listen even when you disagree and

to realize my way might not always be the best.

Even better than all the lessons I've learned in the League, are the friends I've made. Late night phone calls, and Friday lunches, and texts just saying "Hi" when it's been awhile since you've seen each other. People who let you vent when you need to, but also aren't afraid to let you know when you might need to reevaluate. And if this all sounds a little cliché and cheesy, it's cause it is - but it doesn't make it any less true.

Thank you for letting me be your President. It was an honor, and I cherished it. And I look forward to seeing what's next to come!

Best,
Amy Roark
JLH President

Executive Vice President's Message



Wow, we made it! As we come to the end of another League year, I think we should all take this time to reflect on the past year and assess what was and envision the year ahead to make choices on what can be. We took this year to work together, continued our eagerness for knowledge, shared our experiences, and embarked on changes that in my opinion grew our sisterhood.

This year taught me so much about myself as a leader but more importantly as a member. I learned the importance of doing the right thing, at the right time, for the right reasons. The importance of knowing when to lead from the front and when to take a step back. But, most importantly, that change and growth are never easy, so when in a leadership position it is vital to not only be transparent but to be understanding. We had some highs and lows this year, but I truly believe we took it all in stride and all I can say is look at us now.

I encourage each and every one of you to continue to use your voices because change can only happen when you live life courageously! I look into the coming days with great optimism – because I look at the women around me and the community we serve and I see the hills we have climbed and will climb together.

I truly believe there is no mountain too high for our League as long as we stay committed to climb it. The future of our League is bright, so let us continue our march forward as we ROCKET for change in this ever-growing community, because the sky is the limit.

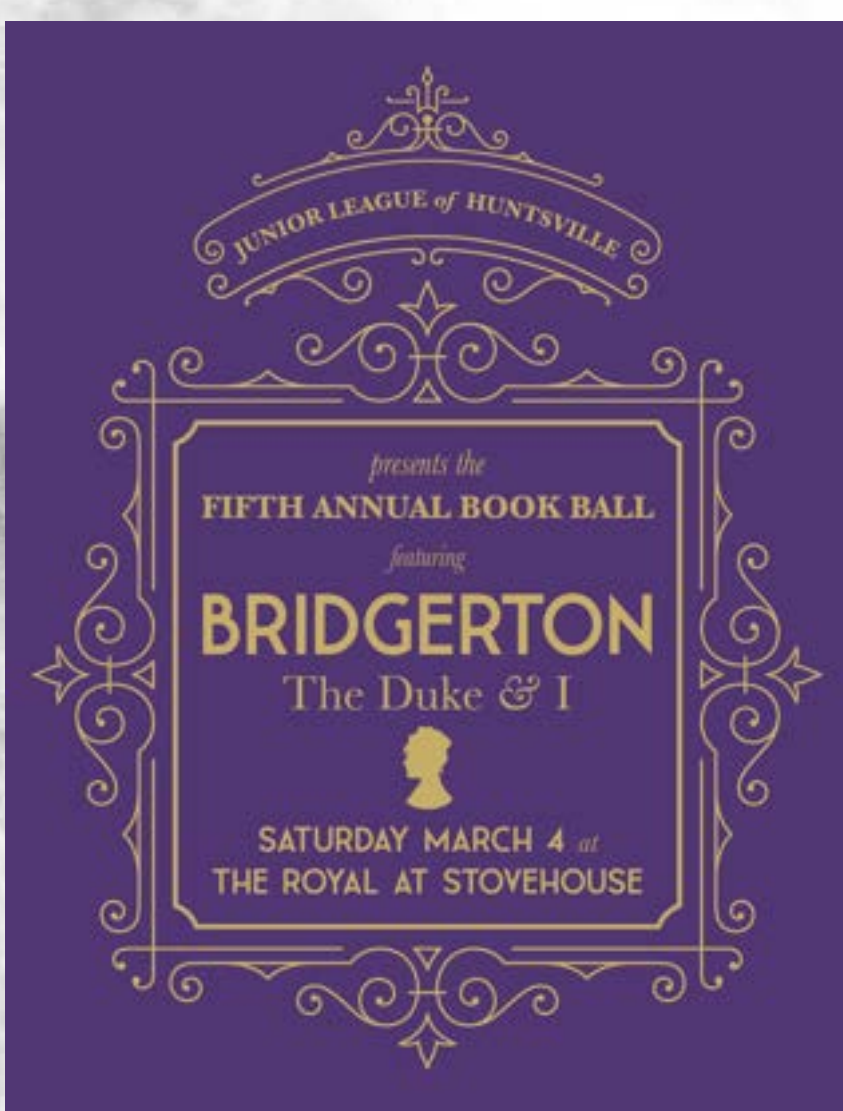
So, from the bottom of my heart, it was a pleasure serving as your Executive Vice President this year.

We, The Junior League of Huntsville are truly greater TOGETHER than we are apart!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brittany J. Pruitt". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

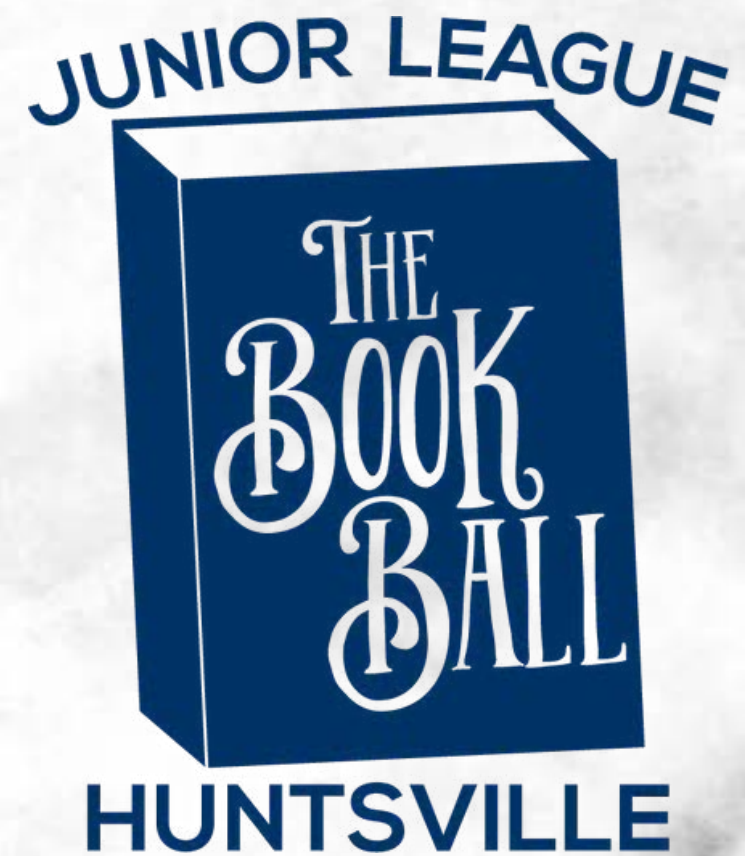
Brittany Pruitt

JLH Executive Vice President



Dearest Readers,
The Junior League of Huntsville's 5th annual Book Ball was the soiree of the season! The pink and white décor along with the beautiful flowers made the Royal at Stovehouse go back in time to the regency era. There was delicious food, fun Bridgerton themed cocktails, and an exciting silent auction. So many attendees had a blast playing their odds with the parlor games, while others danced the night away along to the DJ. There were so many tiaras being worn and we all felt like royalty. Our very own president, Amy Roark, was named "The Diamond of the Season." There were no scandals, just fun had by all.

*Yours truly,
Lady Whistledown*





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GENERAL AND COSMETIC DENTISTRY

Butterfly Boutique

The Butterfly Project committee hosted this year's 17th Butterfly Boutique at Parkway Place on February 24th- 25th. Of the over 100 Butterflies that were nominated from high schools in Madison and Limestone counties, 60 came and selected approximately 120 dresses -- along with shoes and accessories -- donated by League members, as well as agencies and members of the community. Young ladies with the Alabama Foster and Adoptive Parent Association (afapa.org) also came out and "shopped" at the boutique.

We welcomed a visit from Claire Aiello with the Huntsville/Madison County Chamber of Commerce who shared the following: "Your store is beautiful with so many options for young ladies in our community! A job well done!"

This was also said from one of the Butterflies served during the Boutique: "Thank you all so much for today, everyone was so kind and heartwarming. I felt so beautiful in the dress I chose and I can't wait for prom day!"

The Butterfly Project committee extends heartfelt gratitude to all who helped to make this year's Butterfly Boutique a memorable event for these young ladies. Your donations, time, and heart were greatly appreciated!



training

This year, the JLH Training committee introduced Industry Roundtables -- a small group of industry specific league members (15 or less) that meet casually to chat about their professional goals, successes, and challenges over drinks and a delicious meal! These casual dinners were a wonderful opportunity to gain insight into a new industry and build relationships with potential business partners vendors, mentors, and friends. Industries highlighted this year included Healthcare, Government Contracting, Real Estate, Human Resources, Woman Owned Small Businesses.

The Training Committee also partnered with the Book Club to host an event covering Ian Morgan Cron's "The Story of You: An Enneagram Journey to Becoming Your True Self". This training covered the basics of the Enneagram and provided an analysis of the Book Club book.





This year, several of our members attended the AJLI Winter Forum! This provided a great opportunity to virtually meet and collaborate with members from different leagues as an abundance of information, ideas, and lessons were shared. Friday's speaker prompted some really positive and fruitful breakout sessions while Saturday's speaker was uplifting and encouraging.

"They shared lots of gems from their own league experiences, did not hold back or sugar coat the ups and downs of the league, and helped leaders advocate for themselves while empowering others," said Tenesha Thomas. "There were many similarities when it came to league challenges such as member retention, growth, and always seeking to provide positive experiences for JL members."

THE Career Toolbox Series:

"Basic Interview Etiquette", a career building workshop held February 6 at Lanier Ford Office, focused on the basics of interview etiquette, how to deal with difficult and/or inappropriate questions, and how to offer negotiations. Discussion was centered around humor and real life situations people have experienced.

The next installment of the Career Toolbox Series titled "LinkedIn Training" was held on March 29 at Lanier Ford Office. Members learned tips for creating a great LinkedIn profile that gets noticed by the right people in the right way!



Launch into Leadership

FEATURING WOMEN LEADERS IN THE GREATER HUNTSVILLE COMMUNITY

Mar 31

The Canteen at Stovehouse

11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.



Patty Yancey
Owner / CEO
Stovehouse



U'Meeka Smith
Assistant Director, DEI
City of Huntsville



Michelle Jordan
Executive Director
TARCOG



Lana Smith
Management Analyst
U.S. AMC

The JLH Training Committee proudly presented the Launch Into Leadership luncheon on March 31 at the Canteen at Stovehouse. The event featured a moderated panel of women leaders in the Greater Huntsville community, including Patty Yancey (Owner/CEO of Stovehouse), U'Meeka Smith (Assistant Director, DEI, City of Huntsville), Demetria Horton (Executive Director, AUM Foundation), and Lana Smith (Management Analyst, U.S. AMC). The discussion was moderated by JLH Training VP Jillian Miles-Massey.

The panelists began by delving into their backgrounds. Each guest shared the personal and professional challenges and opportunities that have helped shape her as a woman and leader. Authenticity, self-reflection, and women supporting women were themes of the day. The power of mentorship and coaching was another hot topic as the panel shared advice on how to identify potential mentors and make the most of those relationships. The luncheon concluded with time for Q&A giving members the opportunity to ask specific questions.

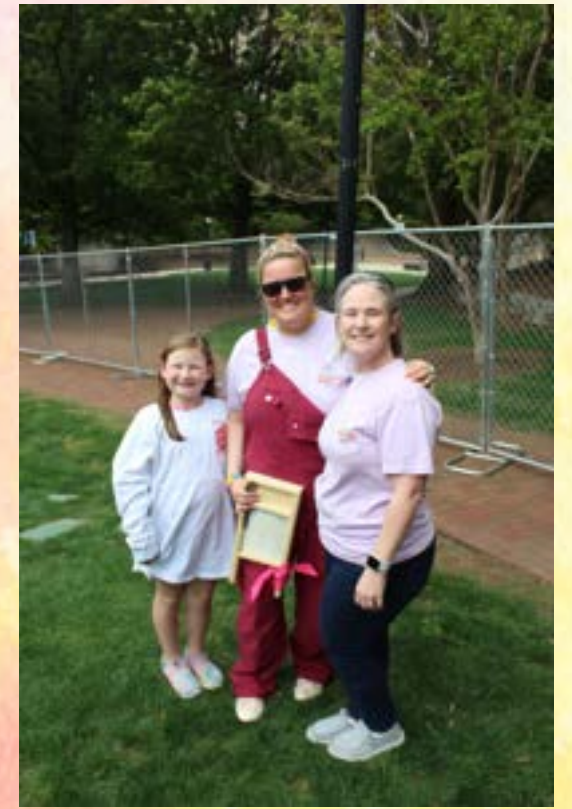
The passion these women have for leadership and the community was palpable throughout the presentation, and we are so thankful for their participation.



R A I N B O W

RHYTHM *Band*

This year Rainbow Rythm Band celebrated 40 years with a performance at Panoply!



ANNUAL CELEBRATION

Thank you for joining the Junior League of Huntsville's 2023 Annual Celebration! This event was held on Thursday, May 18 at the Valley Hill Country Club. During this event, we celebrated the League's successes, recognized our new Active Members and Sustainers, and installed the 2023-2024 Board of Directors and Management Team.



Sisterhood Events

This Spring, the Junior League of Huntsville hosted a number of Sisterhood Events to include:

Wednesday, January 25 - Paso Robles Wine Tasting; featuring live music from Connor McMurray

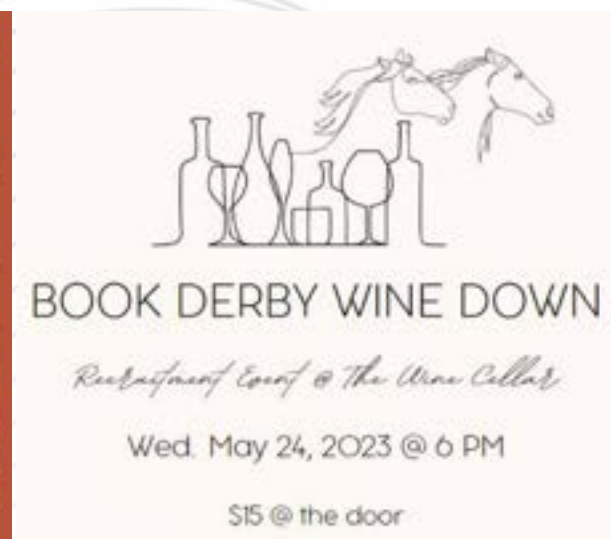
Friday, February 3 - First Friday Dinner; Members joined Amy Roark and Brittany Pruitt for dinner at Prohibition Rooftop Bar & Grill. This was a casual opportunity to get to know League leadership in a personal setting and to share feedback of how the League year was going.

Thursday, February 16 - Mini Charcuterie Class & Wine Tasting at The Wine Cellar; members learned fun techniques for folding meats, cutting cheeses, and incorporating design into their charcuterie boards. Wine tastings were also enjoyed throughout the class.

Thursday, April 13 - Women in Wine Night

Wednesday, May 24- Book Derby Wine Down at The Wine Cellar

Wednesday, May 31 American Wine Down Tasting at the Wine Cellar



DEI+B SPOTLIGHT

In the fall of 2022 the DEI+B ad hoc committee set out to understand the makeup of our League and where we could improve. During our first meeting we collaboratively wrote the mission statement of the committee, "The mission of the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, & Belonging (DEI&B) committee is to identify, develop, and implement sustainable goals and metrics of DEI&B into the Junior League of Huntsville.

Through focused volunteerism, cooperative collaborations, and the solidarity of our sisterhood, we are commissioned to advocate for and maintain diverse and inclusive community involvement opportunities and league experiences". We met throughout 2022 and 2023 to formulate questions that were eventually implemented into the Strategic Plan Survey. Based on answers from the survey we recommended the committee receive a full placement with a chair on the Board of Directors. The League voted on this recommendation and it was passed. The first DEI+B chair will be on the Junior League of Huntsville Board of Directors in in 2023-2024 League Year.

SPECIAL VOTE!

2023 Special Voting Request was closed on May 13.

The following JLH Membership Policies and Bylaw changes were included on the ballot:

- Vote 1: Two provisional classes a year
- Vote 2: Allowing members over 40 to go sustainer after 3 active years
- Vote 3: Lowering age for membership to 23
- Vote 4: Adding Past President as non-voting member of the board
- Vote 5: Adding EVPE as non-voting member of the board
- Vote 6: Adding a DE&I representative to the board with full board responsibilities including voting
- Vote 7: Removing a focus area

All votes passed and will be implemented during the 2023-2024 League season!

PROJECT IMPACT

During the February General Membership Meeting, the Junior League of Huntsville presented ShowerUp with their check for \$50,000! This presentation of the check was televised on local news, and will go towards funding a new portable shower unit that will be setup in areas around Huntsville/Madison County very soon!



CHILDREN FIRST

Children First has been busy working with First United Methodist Church shopping, prepping, packing, and delivering food to the kids at Morris Elementary School. We've also had people decorating the bags the food is packed in with inspirational words of encouragement for a great school year!

May events included a Teacher Appreciation Breakfast, and an end-of-year Foam Party for the Kindergarten through second graders.

DONATING

Calling all JLH Members! Please consider giving \$49 to the Annual Giving Fund in 2023. This is the Junior League of Huntsville's 75th year, so we have set a goal for 75% league participation! All the funds raised by Annual Giving will go directly towards helping The Junior League of Huntsville with operating expenses.

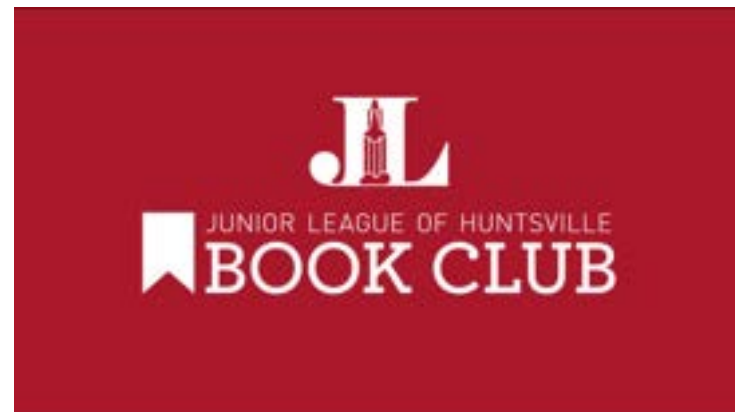
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS 2023

This year all General Membership Meetings took place at the Embassy Suites Hotel and Conference Center in downtown Huntsville. Cottage Meetings were hosted by League members at their houses.

February 13- Voting Meeting, Galentine's Social after

Cottage Meetings held the week of March 6-10 with locations in Huntsville, Madison, and Hampton Cove

April 10- Placement Fair took place during the Social Hour



Met on January 26 to discuss Elsewhere by Alexis Schaitkin at Stovehouse at The Booth.

Met April 6 to discuss The Department of Rare Books and Special Collections by Eva Jurczyk at The Booth at Stovehouse.

Congratulations TO OUR MEMBERS

Anna Blaxton welcomed a sweet baby boy!

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