

Piper

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A PUBLICATION OF THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF PALO ALTO•MID PENINSULA, INC.



Rise Up



Piper

SPRING 2025 | VOLUME 43, ISSUE 3

PIPER IS PUBLISHED QUARTERLY BY THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF PALO ALTO•MID PENINSULA, INC. (JLPA•MP). It is distributed free of charge to members, advertisers and community partners.

CONTRIBUTORS

Meredith Whelan, Editor
Kris Spencer-Jones, Designer
Amanda DiTullio, Nichole Ederer,
Alexandria Kenyon

2025–2026

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COVER — CLOCKWISE FROM THE TOP LEFT: Kristy Bonham represents the JLPA•MP at the AJLI Annual Conference, CalSPAC Delegates at the Capitol in Sacramento, League volunteers packed 20 backpacks with school supplies donated by League members for school-age children and teens for One Life Counseling, There With Care receives one of four grants at our May Annual Membership Meeting.

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Lynna Do, *President*

Dear Fellow Members, Friends, Family, and Community Members of the Junior League of Palo Alto•Mid Peninsula,

It is my honor and privilege to write my first President's Message for the Summer Edition of *Piper*. I am especially excited that the theme for this edition is Rise Up—a reflection of our 2025–2026 League Year theme: **“Ready For It? ... Rise Up!”**

For those who know me—and who know I'm a fan of both *Hamilton* and Taylor Swift—you'll recognize the inspiration behind this theme. It evokes passion, excitement, and a fierce sense of determination. More importantly, it represents a challenge, a call to action, and a spirit of empowerment that I believe defines who we are as a League.

As you read this issue of *Piper*, you'll see how our members are rising up—answering the call to lead, to serve, and to uplift one another and our broader community. This is reflected in:

- Our grants and community partnerships with organizations serving critical needs across the region;
- The leadership of our California State Public Affairs Committee (CalSPAC) delegates, who advocate for policies aligned with our five core focus areas: Health, Education, Family Support, Violence Prevention, and Anti-Human Trafficking—through conferences and Day at the Capitol;
- And through efforts like our teddy bear drive, supporting youth in our community who have experienced trauma.

I am so proud to be part of this incredible League and deeply honored to lead a group of women who are not only making meaningful change in our communities—but in each other's lives. I am inspired every day by the passion, purpose, and leadership within JLPA•MP.

To those not yet connected with us—whether you're considering joining as a member, partnering with us as a community organization, or supporting our mission financially—we welcome you to be part of our journey. Together, we can rise up to empower women leaders, strengthen our communities, and build a more equitable future for all.

Thank you for being part of this important work.

With deep appreciation,

Lynna Do

President, Junior League of Palo Alto•Mid Peninsula



555 Ravenswood Avenue, Menlo Park, CA 94025
(650) 321-5026 | www.thejuniorleague.org | TAX ID NO 94-1603047

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THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF PALO ALTO•MID PENINSULA, INC. (JLPA•MP) is a network of empowered female civic leaders working with community partners to address and solve pressing issues. We're part of an international network of 298 Leagues comprised of over 150,000 women, in the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, Mexico, France and Kenya, engaged in similar work in their own communities. This provides us with a unique and powerful depth of knowledge and resourcefulness to bring about the changes we strive to accomplish.

Since 1965, the Junior League of Palo Alto•Mid Peninsula has supported more than 100 community projects, awarded grants to more than 200 local nonprofits, contributed thousands of volunteer hours to our community and trained generations of peninsula women who have gone on to serve on nonprofit boards and found their own nonprofit organizations.

We've played a key role in starting several local nonprofits including:

- The Tech Museum of Innovation
- Rebuilding Together Peninsula
- Daybreak Shelter
- East Palo Alto Charter School
- The Stanford Health Library
- Rosalie Rendu Center

OUR MISSION: The Junior League of Palo Alto•Mid Peninsula is an organization of women whose mission is to advance women's leadership for meaningful community impact through volunteer action, collaboration, and training.

FOCUS AREA: The Junior League of Palo Alto•Mid Peninsula focuses on improving the wellbeing of its community through programs and community partnerships that address the impacts of systemic poverty on the physical and mental health of individuals and families, including the lack of sufficient housing, food, and provisions.

SERVICE AREA: We serve Silicon Valley.

INCLUSION STATEMENT: The JLPA•MP invites women over the age of 21 of all backgrounds including, but not limited to, race, national origin, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, religion/beliefs, ability and sexual orientation who demonstrate an interest in and commitment to voluntarism to join our League. The JLPA•MP understands that the impact and integrity of our work will thrive when our members can express their whole selves while living our mission. We are committed to inclusive environments of diverse individuals, organizations and communities.



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FROM THE EDITOR



Meredith Whelan, *Editor*

Rise Up!

Dear Members,

As we step into summer, this issue of *Piper* invites us to Rise Up—to celebrate progress, embrace connection, and look ahead with purpose. From League highlights and award winners to CALSPAC and Teddy Bear Tea, this edition reflects the energy and impact of our community.

Special thanks to our contributors—**Alexandria Kenyon, Amanda DiTullio, and Nichole Ederer**—for helping bring these stories to life.

Here's to a summer of rising together.

Warmly,

Meredith Whelan
2025–2026 *Piper* Editor

AROUND THE LEAGUE



Our **2025 GALA** was a night to remember—vintage Hollywood glitz and glamour! Guests dazzled as they struck a pose in the photo booth and enjoyed a delicious Italian-style dinner.

This spring, League volunteers assembled **20 BACKPACKS FOR ONE LIFE COUNSELING** and friends, family and community volunteers packed **400 CARE BAGS FOR THERE WITH CARE.**



On April 19, 125 women attended our 4th annual **BLOOM WELLNESS RETREAT** held at Canopy Menlo Park. It was a day dedicated to confidence—the confidence to lead boldly, live authentically, and thrive in every aspect of our lives. Attendees enjoyed self-care stations, keynote speakers, workshops and breakout sessions for networking.



JLPA-MP Past Presidents gathered on April 11 for the annual **PAST PRESIDENTS' LUNCHEON** to welcome incoming President Lynna Do into the role.



At our **MAY INTEREST GROUP MEET-UPS**, members enjoyed a hike and happy hour treats at Eureka! in Mountain View and the next weekend had brunch and took a market stroll at State Street Market in Los Altos.



The Endowment Fund Board co-hosted the **NEXT GENERATION NONPROFITS** Training in partnership with PNC Bank, inviting members and local nonprofit leaders for a discussion of the top challenges and opportunities faced by nonprofits today and how to navigate these times of uncertainty.



Our Incoming President-elect, Community Vice President, Membership Vice President, and Recruitment & New Member Chair represented JLPA-MP at the **AJLI ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN ORLANDO, FL**. They networked and learned from fellow AJLI members from all over the world.



LET'S TALK SHOP!
Visit www.theshopmenlopark.org/blog to read the latest blog post from The Shop. Check back every couple of weeks to keep up to date on what's happening at The Shop.



Celebrating the 2025 Grant Recipients

Investing in a Stronger Community

The Junior League of Palo Alto•Mid Peninsula (JLPA•MP) is proud to celebrate the 2025 community grant recipients—four outstanding organizations whose missions align with our commitment to supporting families in transition and advancing the well-being of women and children.

Thanks to the thoughtful work of our Grant & Partnership Team and the generosity of our members and supporters, **we awarded a total of \$100,000 in grants this year.**

These funds will fuel the efforts of nonprofits making a meaningful, local impact.

Congratulations to our 2025 Grant Recipients!

HIP Housing

HIP Housing received our largest grant of \$50,000 to further its mission of providing affordable housing solutions to individuals and families facing financial and situational hardship. With this support, HIP Housing will continue to empower community members to live independently in safe, stable environments.

There With Care

There With Care was awarded \$25,000 to expand its vital support services for families facing serious medical crises. By relieving daily burdens—such as transportation, meals, and childcare—There With Care provides a lifeline to families when they need it most.

Hope's Corner

Hope's Corner was granted \$15,000 to sustain its nourishing meal and hygiene programs in Mountain View. Through this funding, the organization will continue creating a welcoming, judgment-free community for those experiencing food and housing insecurity.

CORA

CORA (Community Overcoming Relationship Abuse) received \$10,000 to support its mission of ending domestic violence through intervention, education, and compassionate care for survivors.

Each of these organizations exemplifies the power of community partnerships and the spirit of service. We are honored to support their work and to be a small part of the big change they bring to our region. Congratulations again to this year's recipients!

FROM THE TOP: 2024-2025 Grants Team (L to R) Amanda Okamoto, Gina Goozey, Kendrice Newman (Lead) and Lauren Pusateri. Maddy Locke from Hope's Corner. Laura Fanucchi from HIP Housing. Emily Patz from CORA. Lorraine Michelle from There With Care.



Stepping into Advocacy

Our League at CalSPAC Conference 2025

By Alexandria Kenyon

In May, members of our League had the privilege of attending the Junior Leagues of California State Public Affairs Committee (CalSPAC) Spring Conference—a dynamic gathering that brought together over 40 women from across California to influence meaningful, non-partisan public policy.

Representing 17 member Leagues and approximately 6,500 League women, CalSPAC has served as a powerful voice in Sacramento since 1971, advocating for legislation that aligns with five core focus areas: Health, Education, Family Support, Violence Prevention, and Anti-Human Trafficking.

Our League was proudly represented by **Alexandria Kenyon**, Senior Delegate, and **Tara Borejka**, Junior Delegate. Both delegates came prepared with legislation they analyzed—and they made an impact!

The delegation voted to support three bills brought forward by our members:

AB 65, advocating for paid parental leave for public school and community college employees (Alexandria)

AB 551, which would establish a Reproductive Health Emergency Preparedness Program in rural communities (Alexandria)

AB 621, focused on addressing AI created deepfake pornography (Tara)

Adding to the excitement, Alexandria received the **CalSPAC Above and Beyond Award**, an incredible honor that recognizes a Senior Delegate who has demonstrated

outstanding leadership and gone far beyond the call of duty. Alexandria's initiative and dedication not only elevated the profile of our League within CalSPAC but also helped advance the committee's work in substantial ways. Her passion and commitment are an inspiration to us all!

In addition to the conference, Alexandria and Tara were joined by fellow League members **Kristy Bonham** and **Alison McKee** for the much-anticipated **Day at the Capitol**. The day was packed with incredible learning and networking opportunities with Junior League members from around the state. Attendees heard directly from political consultants, State Assembly Members, and Senators. They even visited legislators' offices to share more about the mission of the Junior League and the vital advocacy work done through CalSPAC.

This experience was eye-opening. Being part of the legislative process in real time, hearing from elected officials, and seeing how League-supported issues can truly influence lawmaking was as empowering as it was educational. Being surrounded by a vibrant community of women leaders who are passionate about change, was inspiring and showed that together we can make a difference for all of California.

We are proud of our delegates and grateful for their inspiring efforts on behalf of our League. Our League looks forward to continuing our involvement in CalSPAC to help shape a brighter future—one voice, one bill, and one League at a time.

PHOTOS: (L to R) The CalSPAC Delegation at Day at the Capitol 2025. Kristy Bonham, Alison McKee, Tara Borejka and Alexandria Kenyon at the state capitol. Alexandria was honored by CalSPAC with the Above and Beyond award.



Honoring the Heart of Our League

2025 Member Recognition Award Recipients

Each year, the Junior League of Palo Alto•Mid Peninsula (JLPA•MP) honors the members who bring our mission to life through their extraordinary service, leadership, and commitment. These awards recognize not only the time and talent these individuals contribute, but the heart, courage, and inspiration they share with our entire League community. We are proud to congratulate our 2025 Member Recognition Award recipients!

President's Cup

It is our distinct privilege to present the President's Cup, the highest honor our League bestows, to:

Kris Bish

(Pictured on facing page, top left). This award recognizes a member whose sustained and outstanding contributions go far beyond expectations—and Kris embodies this spirit in every way.

Throughout her years with JLPA•MP, Kris has been a pillar of strength, dedication, and inspiration. Her leadership has elevated every placement she's held, and her unwavering commitment to our mission has left a profound impact on our League and our community. She sets a shining standard for service and generosity, always leading with heart and a can-do spirit that lifts others around her.

Kris, thank you for your extraordinary service and for inspiring all of us to lead with purpose and passion. We are proud to honor you with this well-deserved recognition—congratulations!

Shining Star Award

The Shining Star Award honors a member who consistently goes above and beyond her placement, and this year we're thrilled to recognize:

Susan McClernan

(Pictured on facing page, second from the top left). Susan's love for the League and dedication to her fellow members shine through in every interaction. She brings joy, reliability, and a deep sense of care to all she does—qualities that make her an essential part of our community. Thank you, Susan, for being a true beacon of light in the League!

Rising Redwoods

Our Rising Redwood Award celebrates New Members who already demonstrate strong alignment with our mission and show great potential as future leaders. Congratulations to:

**Amanda DiTullio
Lea Ann Hutter
Emma Symons**

(Facing page, center right; not pictured, Emma Symons). We're so excited to watch you continue to grow and lead in the years ahead.

Welcome, New Actives

We proudly welcome our graduating June Cohort into Active membership! Pictured facing page, center left (L to R):

**Lea Ann Hutter
Amanda Benton
Jaclyn Verducci
Camille Paquette
Lisa McCandless
Goldy Saroay**

Not pictured:

**Margaret Canary
Amanda DiTullio
Parine Fowler
Lauren Goodkind
Kaitlyn Spears**

We look forward to the energy and ideas you'll bring as you begin this next chapter in your League journey.

New Sustainers

We also celebrate our newest Sustainers, whose years of impact as Actives have shaped the League's path forward. Congratulations to:

**Maddy Lehman
Michelle Rick Pearson
Jenny Rutherford
Bena Vohra**

A special note of gratitude goes to **Bena Vohra**, whose leadership this year has been nothing short of heroic. Even while facing personal health challenges, Bena never wavered in her service to the League. Her resilience, grace, and unwavering spirit have inspired us all. Thank you, Bena, for showing us what true leadership looks like—not just in moments of triumph, but in the face of adversity. You are the heart of our League.

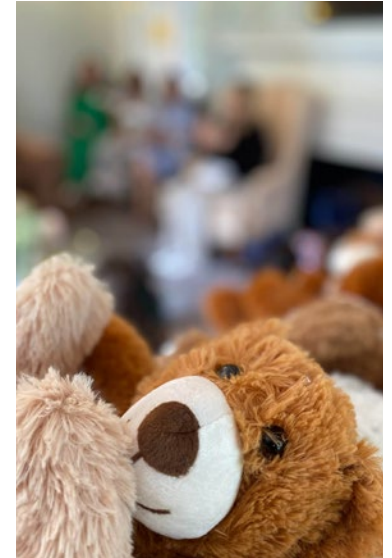
To all of this year's honorees: thank you. Your passion, strength, and dedication continue to light the way for our mission and our members. We are endlessly proud to recognize your contributions. ♥



CLOCKWISE FROM THE TOP LEFT: Presidents' Cup honoree Kris Bish. Shining Star Award recipient Susan McClernan, flowers at our welcome table, Redwood Rising recipients Lea Ann Hutter and Amanda DiTullio. Past, present and future JLPA•MP Presidents in attendance at the Annual Membership Meeting included

(L to R) Marfrisa Geronimo Gipner (2016-2017), LaShonda Kennedy (2020-2021), Bena Vohra (2023-2025), Lynna Do (2025-2026) and Michelle Melen (2019-2020). Sustainer Anne Vitullo and Office Manager and Graphic Designer Kris Spencer-Jones celebrated Kris' anniversary. JLPA•MP swag.

NEW MEMBER PROJECT



A Day of Giving Supporting Children in Crisis and Learning the Power of Fundraising

By Amanda DiTullio

The Junior League recently hosted an inspiring event centered around the theme of fundraising and community impact. The event highlighted two important conversations: one about providing comfort to children in crisis through Trauma Bear and another about the power of fundraising with Alpha Kappa Alpha (AKA).

We had the privilege of learning about Trauma Bear, a program within the At-Risk Youth Foundation, founded by Tully Wachtelborn, who spent years working alongside first responders and witnessing firsthand the impact of traumatic events on children. After seeing countless young children on emergency scenes experiencing fear and distress, she wanted to offer them a source of comfort—teddy bears. Trauma Bear provides first responders with bears to give to children in distress, offering a small but meaningful sense of peace in difficult moments. To date, over 2,400 bears have been collected, and the Junior League has already donated 194, surpassing our goal of 100. Many of these will stay within our community: Santa Clara County recently requested a refill to help children here on the Peninsula.

The second part of Sunday's event featured a discussion with the Ivy & Pearls Foundation of Alpha Kappa Alpha Palo Alto Chapter Rho Delta Omega on the fundamentals of fundraising. Ivy & Pearls Board Member Natalie Walker emphasized that fundraising isn't just about asking for donations – it's about sharing a cause you believe in and inviting others to be part of it. Other Ivy & Pearls Foundation members in attendance supporting the discussion consisted of: Ivy &

Pearls Foundation President Zina Slaughter, Rho Delta Omega Chapter President Jackie Welch, Ivy & Pearls Board members Teri Alugas, Leticha Hawkins, and Aleshia Poole White.

Three key takeaways stood out:

Fundraising is a team sport.

It takes each one of us to make an impact. Whether donating, volunteering, or spreading the word, every effort strengthens our mission in Junior League.

Relationships are everything.

Just as we build strong connections in the Junior League, fundraising is about trust and engagement. People need to see us, know us, and believe in our work before they are inspired to contribute.

You have to earn the right to ask.

Much like in our Junior League projects, we must show commitment and passion before making an ask. If someone says no, it may simply mean "not right now"—and continued engagement can turn that into a "yes" in the future.

Sunday's event was a wonderful opportunity to support a meaningful cause, gain valuable insights on fundraising, and connect with others who are passionate about making a difference. Whether through Trauma Bear or thoughtful conversations, it was a reminder of how small actions can have a lasting impact in our community.

An Easy Grapefruit Margarita for Summertime Sipping

By Nichole Ederer

This Spicy Grapefruit Margarita from Half Baked Harvest is my go-to spring/summer cocktail. I love how it balances bright citrus with a subtle kick of heat – refreshing and bold in every sip. The fresh grapefruit juice

(or your fruit of choice) adds a tangy twist that feels tailor-made for warm evenings, while the chili-salt rim gives it a fun, flavorful edge. It's easy to make, beautifully vibrant, and always a crowd-pleaser.

Whether you're hosting a backyard gathering or enjoying a quiet patio moment, this margarita brings just the right amount of sunshine to your glass.

Spicy Grapefruit Margarita

From: Half Baked Harvest Blog. Serves 6 or 1.

INGREDIENTS

BIG BATCH (serves 6)

1 1/2 cups (12 oz.) silver tequila
2 cups (16 oz.) grapefruit juice
3/4 cup fresh lime juice

1/4 cup agave nectar (or honey)
1-2 jalapeños halved*
Sliced lime + grapefruit for serving

JUST ONE (serves 1)

1 1/2 – 2 ounces silver tequila
2 1/2 oz. grapefruit juice
1 oz. fresh lime juice

1 tablespoon agave nectar (or more to taste)
1-2 slices jalapeno*
Sliced lime + grapefruit for serving

SPICY CHILI SALT RIM**

1 tablespoon chili powder
1 tablespoon kosher salt

2 teaspoons granulated sugar

**Depending on how spicy you want your drink*

***I like to use Tajin*

INSTRUCTIONS

SPICY CHILI SALT RIM: In a bowl, combine the chili powder salt and sugar. Mix well to combine. Use this mixture to rim your glasses.

BIG BATCH MARGARITA: Combine all the ingredients in a pitcher and stir to combine. Keep chilled in the fridge for 1-3 hours. Taste the drink every hour to check for spiciness. The longer you leave the jalapeño in the drink the spicier the drink will become. Once the drink is spiced to your liking, remove the jalapeños.

When ready to serve, salt the rims of 4-6 glasses. Add ice to each glass and pour the margaritas over the ice. Add a grapefruit and a lime wedge.

JUST ONE DRINK: Salt the rim of your glass. Combine all the ingredients in a cocktail shaker and fill with ice. Shake until combined and then strain into your prepared glass. The longer you shake the drink, the spicier it will become. Add a grapefruit wedge and a slice of jalapeño if desired.

MAKE IT A MOCKTAIL: Omit the tequila or substitute with sparkling water.

GRAPEFRUIT NOT ON YOUR LIST? Try another citrus fruit like blood orange, lemon or lime.



IT'S YOUR TURN!

Try this recipe, share photos of your creation and tag us @JLPAMP.



JUNIOR LEAGUE OF PALO ALTO-MID PENINSULA, INC.

Advancing Women's Leadership for Meaningful Community Impact

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upcoming events

THE SHOP SUMMER SALE VOLUNTEER & SHOP

FRI, JUL 18, 25% OFF ALL MERCHANDISE
SAT, JUL 19, 50% OFF ALL MERCHANDISE
TUE, JUL 22, 75% OFF ALL MERCHANDISE
RESTOCK WED, JUL 23

The Shop Sale is a great way to volunteer, connect with our community, and sneak in a little retail therapy in for yourself. Sign up for a shift on our member calendar or email Tracy at theshop.menlopark@gmail.com.

FOODIES: NOELANI'S

THU, JUL 24, 6:30 PM, SAN CARLOS

Join the Foodies Interest Group for a tropical night out at Noelani's Island Grill.

NEW MEMBER & TRANSFER SOCIAL GIRLS JUST WANNA HAVE FUN

FRI, JUL 25, 5:30 PM, REDWOOD CITY

Grab your girls, throw on your boldest look, and get ready for a night that's *totally* your vibe—80s style!

Join us in Downtown Redwood City for Music on the Square featuring Careless Whisper – the ultimate 80s cover band that'll have you dancing to all your favorite throwback hits. Plus, shop Art on the Square featuring local artists and makers!

This event is open to prospectives and members who want to show up to welcome and connect with New Members.

THERE WITH CARE VOLUNTEER TRAINING

SAT, MAY 24, 9:15 AM VIRTUAL AND IN-PERSON IN REDWOOD CITY

This training offers an overview of There With Care's mission, as well as guidance on volunteer roles, safety protocols, and how to compassionately assist families in need. By completing one training (sessions offered monthly), you'll gain the flexibility to volunteer on your own schedule—whether it's delivering groceries or supporting families in other impactful ways.

SAVE THE DATE! FIND THE GOOD DAY

THU, SEP 18

Join us in celebrating Find the Good Day—an international movement dedicated to spreading kindness, connection, and positivity in our communities.

FLOURISH NEW MEMBER & TRANSFER ORIENTATION

SAT, SEP 20, 10 AM-2 PM, LOCATION TBA

New Members & Transfers are invited to FLOURISH, our Junior League Orientation Event! This training event is tailored to give you the resources and knowledge to ensure a meaningful and rewarding JLPAs-MP experience.

Here's what you can expect:

- Interactive Training Sessions
- Mentor Group Breakout Sessions
- Project Planning Launch
- Fun and Fellowship

**AFTER
hours**
AT **THE SHOP.**
**A Sustainer
Gathering**
THU, AUG 14, 5:30-7 PM

SUSTAINERS, join us for wine, light bites and a chance to connect with your Sustainer friends at The Shop! Bring a friend and shop seasonal clothing, accessories, and home goods, knowing that all proceeds support the League.

SHOP WITH A PURPOSE: MINTED

Enjoy 20% off stationery and gifts at www.minted.com with promo code **FUNDRAISEPALOALTOJL** and Minted will donate 10% of each purchase back to the JLPAs-MP. Share this exclusive promo code with friends, family, and supporters. The more people who use it, the greater the impact on our fundraising efforts!

How to sign up: For member events, sign up at: <https://members.thejuniorleague.org/calendar>
For prospective member or public events, sign up at: <https://www.thejuniorleague.org/events/>