

PALM BEACH

Society

OCTOBER 3-9, 2025



INAUGURAL PARTY UNDER THE PALMS

presented by Junior League of the Palm Beaches

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2025 | THE COLONY

Michelle Otremba, Kathryn Vecellio, Julie Rudolph, Wendy Cox and Kate Stamm

85 YEARS OF PURPOSE

JUNIOR LEAGUE OF THE PALM BEACHES AN INSPIRING TESTAMENT TO THE POWER OF WOMEN WORKING TOGETHER TO BETTER THE COMMUNITY

Join the Celebration at the Inaugural Party Under the Palms on October 16th

Headlined by an evening under the palms featuring cocktails, colorful prints and a celebration of community impact, Junior League of the Palm Beaches will mark the start of its 85th year with its inaugural *Party Under the Palms*, in partnership with Lilly Pulitzer, at The Colony on Thursday, October 16th.

"As we head into our 85th year, we have more than ever to celebrate as we honor the organization and the women whose influence has shaped Palm Beach County for decades," shared **Kate Stamm**, President of the Junior League.

The event is presided over by Honorary Chairs, **Kathryn Vecellio**, a past president of the Junior League, and **Wendy Cox**, Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees at the Cox Science Center & Aquarium; as well as Event Chairs, **Julie Rudolph**, also a League past president, and **Michelle Otremba**, who will lead the celebration.

This year's kick off will highlight the League's long-standing partnership with the **Cox Science Center**, from its founding by the League in 1959, to its support today. A portion of proceeds from *Party Under the Palms* will establish a Junior League *Little Libraries* on the Center's new campus, bringing books and the joy of reading to children.

MORE THAN A NONPROFIT — IT'S A CATALYST FOR CHANGE

Founded in 1941 by 15 women who believed service could transform their community, Junior League remains fully volunteered with the same vision that still guides the league today. Its focus on literacy, healthcare and children's services has been matched by a commitment to developing women leaders through training, governance and philanthropy.

IMPACT THAT LASTS

The League's contributions can be felt across Palm Beach County, with some of the League's signature partnerships becoming community touchstones.

In addition to the Cox Science Center, the league has been instrumental in establishing **Quantum House** for families receiving medical treatment; funding expansions and renovations at **Vita Nova** for young adults transitioning out of foster care; for its **Eye and Ear Alert** program which has screened thousands of preschoolers for hearing and vision, and they have distributed more than one million feminine hygiene products to women and girls through partnerships



Diane Retzer and Julie Rudolph



HOST COMMITTEE: Linsey Desich, Sandra Failla, Virginia Oatley, Alexandra Chase, Kate Stamm and Xiomi Murray; Not pictured: Kelly Armentano, Dr. Noemi Coltea, Maureen Hurley, Cheryl Lindsay and Melissa Schumacher

with the **Food Bank of Palm Beach County** and **Education Foundation of Palm Beach County**.

The League's newest initiative, *Little Libraries*, has quickly become a signature project, establishing more than 25 *Little Libraries* at elementary school campuses in local underserved neighborhoods. Students can borrow, read and keep free books, sparking a love of literacy from a young age.

CELEBRATING TOGETHER

What began as a small circle of women who wanted to improve their community has evolved into an influential organization with over 600 members and sustainers whose legacy of service is powerfully woven into the fabric of Palm Beach County in more ways than most realize.

"As we look back on 85 years, I feel honored to be part of something so significant," said past president and Event Co-Chair **Julie Rudolph**. "It's about caring for others, and what a blessing to be able to serve our community with women equally passionate about making a difference and helping others."

As Junior League enters its 85th year, it celebrates a proud history while embracing a bright future under the palms, ready to continue shaping Palm Beach County through vision, service and leadership.

To learn more about Junior League of the Palm Beaches, to purchase tickets for *Party Under the Palms*, or how you can be part of its 85th celebration, visit jlpb.org.

COVER PHOTO / PHOTOS: CAPEHART