

# NOVEMBER 2016 FEATURE

## KATHARINE PHELPS AND HER LIFE- TIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The Katharine Phelps Lifetime Achievement Award stems from a founding member of the Junior League of Minneapolis and its first president, Katharine Phelps. The award celebrates an outstanding leader in the Junior League of Minneapolis who throughout her lifetime has used her talents and resources to improve the social and economic conditions of others. Through advocacy, collaboration, philanthropy, direct service or community education, the award recipient embraces her community and makes a unique and significant difference as a leader. She shares the founder's sense of social responsibility and giving spirit, as well as her ability to empower others to be effective volunteers. In recognition of our founding president's vision, the Junior League of Minneapolis Board of Directors established the Katharine Phelps Lifetime Achievement Award in 2005-2006.

## WHO WAS KATHARINE PHELPS?

Katharine Phelps was a founding member of the Junior League of Minneapolis and its first president in 1923. She and her colleagues established the Junior League of Minneapolis to prove that volunteers could be reliable, should be taken seriously and could impact significant change in the community. In addition to her Junior League activities, Katharine was deeply involved in the greater Minneapolis community.

### Past Recipients of the Katharine Phelps Lifetime Achievement Award

- 2006: Nancy Lindahl
- 2007: Sue Hodder
- 2008: Carol Truesdell
- 2009: Emily Anne Staples  
Tuttle
- 2010: Marilyn Carlson Nelson
- 2011: Marilyn Tickle Bryant
- 2012: Luella Gross Goldberg
- 2013: Maxine Wallin
- 2014: Barbara "Babs" Koch
- 2015: Diana Hageboeck
- 2016: Leslie Turner



She founded the Minnetonka Garden Club in the 1920s, was a member of the World Health Assembly in 1958, was President of the Friends of the Minneapolis Institute of Arts, had a leadership role during the Anglican Congress in 1954, was invited to the White House while President of the Colonial Dames of America from Minnesota and was Manager of Woodhill Country Club.

Phelps always felt that her Junior League experience helped her become a prominent and effective volunteer stating, "...the exchange of ideas, being together, learning what's going on in the city—it all broadens you."

*"This is the highest award that the JLM gives out to a member. It is a true reflection of the JLM "legacy of leadership" that has trained members to go out and give so much to the community while still maintaining their membership in the JLM," says MJ Hauser, 2016-2017 Katharine Phelps Sustainer Chair.*

## Who is Eligible for the Katharine Phelps Lifetime Achievement Award?

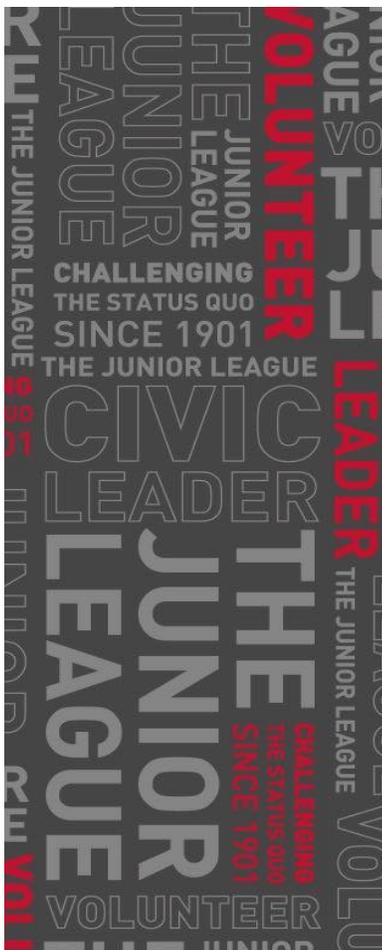
The Junior League of Minneapolis considers all nominations of members who have fulfilled at least 10 years of service in the League. Recipients are notified in September.

### Selection Process & Criteria

Active and Sustainer members of the Junior League of Minneapolis are encouraged to nominate members that embrace the qualities of this award. Nomination forms and applications are available on the JL Minneapolis website ([www.jlminneapolis.org](http://www.jlminneapolis.org)) and due by August 31.

To nominate a League member, you must complete an Award Entry Form and answer the following questions.

1. How does this member demonstrate Katharine Phelps' vision and the Junior League of Minneapolis' vision?
2. How has she made a difference in the League? What League issues has she addressed?
3. How has she made a difference in the community? What community issues has she addressed?
4. How has she motivated others to be a force for change or acted as a role model, mentor, catalyst and risk-taker?
5. Please provide any additional information you would like the selection committee to take into account. (For example, what significant and lasting contributions has she given to the League and to the community?)





## 2016 RECIPIENT - LESLIE TURNER

Leslie Turner, the recipient of this year's Katharine Phelps award, sadly passed away due to complications from a stroke on October 22, 2016. Her reception and ceremony were originally set for November 3rd but were postponed due to her passing. Information will be forthcoming about celebrating her "legacy of leadership" in Spring 2017.

Leslie became an active member with the Junior League of Minneapolis back in 1965 and became our League President from 1978-1979. Under Leslie's leadership the League narrowed in on the issue of protecting children from abuse and neglect. By collaborating with other organizations, bringing stakeholders along in the conversation, involving those most affected in the conversations and finding champions to carry on the work, Leslie paved the road for the critical involvement of the JLM in the founding of the Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery, a program that continues and has served many in the Minneapolis community to this day.

The Greater Twin Cities United Way (GTCUW) was also a focal point for her involvement in the community for over 40 years. Leslie and her husband, John, began volunteering for the United Way in the 1970s. She served on the Edina City Council from 1980 to 1988 and was involved with numerous other organizations such as the United States Golf Association; University of Minnesota Women's Athletic Advisory Council; Lakewood Cemetery Board; Edina Girls Athletic Association; Association of Metropolitan Municipalities, South Hennepin Human Services Council; Edina Community Education Advisory Board; Girl Scout Council of Greater Minneapolis; Methodist Hospital; University of Minnesota Medical Foundation and the Minnesota Women's Golf Association.

Leslie had a long history of service to the community and will be missed by many. She viewed volunteerism as a lifetime commitment and prided herself on leading women in civic, charitable, sports, academic and business organizations. Tom Ryan, Minnesota Golf Association's executive director and COO, told Play Golf Minnesota that, "[Leslie] spent a lifetime giving back, not only to the game of golf, but to so many institutions and causes she found meaningful and worthy of her time, support and contributions."

As you can imagine, Leslie's leadership and effectiveness influenced many through the years, but she wanted no acknowledgment. Members from the League stated, "She was a role model in that she embodied leading by example, without flash and without the need or desire for recognition." "She was the first to commit to a cause and to put her resources behind it and in taking on that role she inspired others to join her."

Sara Sternberger described her friend and JLM colleague, "Leslie lived as she advocated. She was an example for her children and grandchildren, her friends, and her fellow volunteers and donors. If something needed to be done in the community, Leslie would commit her talent and treasure to take action. She was quiet in her leadership, but forceful with her actions."

Leslie's legacy will certainly live on within Junior League and in the community.