



News Release

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Junior Service League Announces Award Winners

March 20, 2008

SPRINGFIELD, Ohio – Junior Service League will honor three past members at its 75th Anniversary Gala Dinner in April with its first-ever Award for Distinctive Service.

The league will recognize Lori Bartell, Mary Lu Noonan and Gretta Runyan for their spirit of community service at the dinner, which will be held Saturday, April 19, at 6:30 p.m. in the ballroom of the Courtyard by Marriott in downtown Springfield. In addition to the award presentation, the dinner will include live music, entertainment, dancing and special guest speakers State Rep. Ross McGregor, R-Springfield, and Mayor Warren Copeland. A photo of the league's past presidents will be taken at the event. The gala dinner costs \$50 per person and is cocktail attire. A portion of the proceeds will be given back to the community through grants.

“Lori Bartell, Mary Lu Noonan and Gretta Runyan have demonstrated leadership, compassion and community service. They have directly and positively impacted the Springfield community,” said Tracy Rafferty, chairwoman of the award nominating committee. “Their generosity of spirit inspires others to take an active role in our community.”

Bartell, a member of league from 1976 through 1981, served on various committees, including Community Research and Nominating. She also published the league's newsletter as chairwoman of publicity. Bartell participated in several league community service projects, including Ridgewood Nursing Home, Meals on Wheels, Mercy Medical Pediatrics and Springfield Arts Council Costume Closet. She also participated in the league's fund-raising projects. She was the department chairwoman for Bargain Big Top, a large-scale garage sale that was both a fund-raiser and a community service project. In addition, Bartell was the general chairwoman of the Follies from January 1978 through May 1979. Bartell has continued to support Junior Service League as a sustainer, caring deeply about its mission and future success. She has inspired others to take on active roles as members and sustainers.

Bartell has continued to support the Springfield community. She was a member of the original committee to restore and save the historic Hertzler House in George Rogers Clark Park before the establishment of a National Trail Park District. She also has supported the Ridgewood School, the Springfield Symphony Orchestra and the Clark State Performing Arts Center. She also served on the board of Mercy St. John's

Center when the retirement and senior living complex Oakwood Village was developed. She has been a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution since 1982.

As a member of the Wittenberg Guild, Bartell chaired the Martha Rodgers Benefactors' Fund in 2000. The fund provides scholarships for local students to Wittenberg University. Bartell's leadership also benefited the Springfield Museum of Art. She served as president of the Board of Trustees from 1996 to 1998. She also served as a board member for many years. She chaired two Art Balls, worked on the capital campaign for expansion and participated in the accreditation process from art center to museum status.

Noonan, a charter member, was the league's second president in 1935. She was the first Follies chairwoman. Noonan volunteered at the hospital and in community schools as part of the league. Since her involvement with league, Noonan has served on multiple boards, including Oesterlen Services for Youth, Opportunities Industrialization Center (O.I.C.), Community Hospital Independent Endowment Fund (C.H.I.E.F.), Clark County Council for Retarded Children, Mental Health Board of Clark County, the Wittenberg University Alumni Association and the Wittenberg University Board of Directors. Wittenberg University has honored her with The Class of 1914 Award (1979), The Wittenberg Alumni Citation Award (1977) and The Wittenberg Medal of Honor (1985).

A donor to her alma mater, Wittenberg University, Noonan helped establish Kissell Auditorium in Koch Hall in honor of her father, Harry S. Kissell. She has given to many other causes through the Noonan Foundation, which she chairs. Inspired by the plight of her handicapped brother, Roger, her greatest passion has been for those in disadvantaged situations. Noonan, 93, served as president of the Young Women's Mission in 1942, participating in all of the organization's projects. She is oldest living member and continues to attend the mission's annual meetings. She also is a member of Covenant Presbyterian Church and the Republican Party.

Passionate about horses, Noonan has been involved in horse racing for 30 years. She is a member of Keeneland, a thoroughbred horse racing facility and sales complex in Lexington, Ky. Founded as a nonprofit entity, Keeneland uses its proceeds to further the thoroughbred industry and contributes money back to the surrounding community. Likewise, Noonan continues to provide support, encouragement and funding to many organizations throughout Springfield, including schools, churches and other nonprofit organizations.

Runyan served 10 years in the league from 1967 to 1977. She hosted the Membership Invitational Tea in her home, chaired the fund-raiser Bargain Big Top, co-chaired the Follies, chaired the membership drive and served on the nominating committee for league officers. She also co-chaired the first Junior Theater and helped with the theater "Puppet Show." Runyan participated in several service projects for league, including Volunteer Service Bureau, Meals on Wheels, Children's Library, Thanksgiving baskets and Christmas baskets.

Diagnosed with breast cancer in 1985, Runyan has worked tirelessly to assist others throughout the community. She has been the co-coordinator of Pink Ribbon Hospital Visits, in which she meets and counsels pre and post-mastectomy women. She has organized and chaired various seminars, educating women on breast health and breast cancer. From 1992 to 2001, she co-chaired a two-day golf tournament classic, which ultimately led to the establishment of the Breast Cancer Endowment Fund of Clark County, Inc. The endowment fund provides financial assistance to women who reside in Clark and Champaign counties for breast health or breast cancer services. She serves as treasurer on both the allocation board and the trustee board of the fund. She assisted and established the HERS (Health Evaluation and Radiologic Services) Center in Mercy Medical Center, the Breast Cancer Support Group, which has been operating for 17 years, and the Men's Support Group. She also served on the Advisory Council and the Women's Health Board at The Community Hospital.

Runyan, who lost her 19-year-old son, Brian, in an accident, also began a support group for grieving mothers. Strong in her Christian faith, Runyan also has been active in her church, Springfield Church of Christ, in addition to serving on the Springfield Arts Council and the Zonta Club. She is a member of the Emmaus Community and is an inspirational speaker with the Christian Women's Club of Stonecroft Ministries. She received the first-ever Outstanding Citizens Award from the Springfield Kiwanis Club in 1990. In addition, the Women's Program Committee of Wittenberg University recognized her as one of three winners of the 1994 Women of Accomplishment Award.

Junior Service League, a nonprofit women's organization, was founded in 1933 by Mrs. Bertha Crabill, Mrs. Margaret Martin and Mrs. Laura Mae Carlisle. The league supports and enhances Springfield through community service projects and fund-raisers.

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