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## THE CLASS OF 2014: Women of Achievement

Compiled by Bill Egan | Photographs by Mike Papp

### THE CLASS OF 2014: Women of Achievement

**Virginia Brax** (Cultural Enrichment) | **Ma Early** (Volunteer Leadership) | **Dr. Eva Frazer** (Community Health) | **Phyllis Langsdorf** (Creative Philanthropy) | **Diane Levine** (Health and Education) | **DiAnne Mueller** (Family Enrichment) | **JoAnn Shaw** (Health Advocacy) | **Linda Sher** (Child Welfare) | **Pat Whitaker** (Civic Responsibility)

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**Virginia Brax**  
(Cultural Enrichment)

**Ma Early**  
(Volunteer Leadership)



**Dr. Eva Frazer**  
(Community Health)

**Teri Griegle**  
(Health Awareness)



**Phyllis Langsdorf**  
(Creative Philanthropy)

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These women, committed volunteers through and through, will be honored as 2014 Women of Achievement on Thursday, May 15, at The Ritz-Carlton, St. Louis. Like dozens of others spotlighted in the past 59 years, the diverse women concentrate resourceful ingenuity to improve the lives of other people.

The tradition began when the St. Louis Globe-Democrat newspaper organized and sponsored the award to publicly honor 10 women of various neighborhoods and special interests. Under current media sponsors KMOX Radio, St. Louis Post-Dispatch and Ladue News, the tradition continues. Last year's honorees will escort the volunteers of 2014 while trumpets welcome honorees, varying each year by profession, culture and accomplishment, into The Ritz' St. Louis Ballroom.

**2014 Women of Achievement Luncheon**

**WHEN:** Thursday, May 15  
**TIME:** Doors open at 11:15 a.m.  
 Event starts promptly at 11:45 a.m.  
 Luncheon from 11:45 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

**WHERE:** The Ritz-Carlton, St. Louis  
 100 Carondelet Plaza, Clayton

**PRICE:** \$60 per person

**RESERVATIONS:** Reservations for seating are required: 314-422-2005

**INFORMATION:** Online [www.woastl.org](http://www.woastl.org), phone 314-422-2005

In 1993 the Women of Achievement became a not-for-profit organization overseen by previous honorees to perpetuate the selection of volunteers bettering their community. Committees of community leaders, sponsors and past recipients of the award select 10 honorees each year from dozens of nominees recommended by the community.

**INCENTIVE TO SOLVE CHALLENGES**

The spotlight may fall on needs overlooked. Other times volunteers forge new solutions to the human dilemma. Previous honorees have worked to better lives through improved health, awareness of racial and ethnic struggles, aids for challenged children and families, even alternatives to human trafficking.

Videos that introduce new honorees in their volunteer roles at the luncheon remain on the website <http://www.woastl.org> to motivate a broader public.

Honorees feed a responsibility to inspire. They know how to cry with those who cry and cheer for those who reach over obstacles to climb past them.

**Ma Early** (Volunteer Leadership) broadens her service as she discovers outlets to help. She feels volunteer work is fulfilling for her, too, especially when it impacts families and the health and welfare of children.

"The community is only as good as the work people put into it," she says.

**FOCUS ON CHILDREN**

Improving children's lives is a recurring objective among Women of Achievement.

**Dr. Eva Frazer** (Community Health) stepped into her own shoes as a physician to walk in the footsteps of her father, a general internist and family practitioner. She calls volunteerism, especially when it helps the underserved gain access to health care and education, crucial to the community.

She sees the fallout from volunteering glow on the volunteer's forehead long after she has served.

"Not only are you helping the community," she says, "but doing it brings such a wealth of riches into your own life. It's so important for women to be role models in the community."

**GENEISITY LIGHTS THE WORLD**

Artful experience is the aim of **Phyllis Langsdorf** (Creative Philanthropy). She thinks it is important to bloom lavishly where planted.

"Art instills a feeling of beauty and it allows you to see what other people are expressing. It expands your horizons and gives you a different perspective," Langsdorf says.

The paths of Women of Achievement are not always direct.

**Diane Levine** (Cultural Enrichment) brought concern for the Latino community with her from Argentina; the death of friends suffering from HIV in Washington, D.C., saddened **DiAnne Mueller** (Health and Education) and **DiAnne Mueller** (Family Enrichment) experienced social injustice in Mississippi and deplorable health conditions in Central America.

Each of the three times **Teri Griegle** (Health Awareness) had cancer, she decided the illness would not defeat her spirit. The mammoth has run - literally - through treatments and now speaks for advocacy as an ambassador for hope. People identify with her struggle.

**Pat Whitaker** (Civic Responsibility) extends the positive influence and example of her architecture and design company throughout her own community.

"It's important to give back to the community that you were able to succeed in," Whitaker notes. "You have to recognize you wouldn't have this success, lifestyle and these opportunities in other places," she notes.

**SERVICE BIG AND SMALL**

Nurturing children short-term moved **Linda Sher** (Child Welfare) and her husband to adopt their 8th foster child. "After having her for four months, then one, two and three years, I didn't think it would be fair to move her," she explains.

**JoAnn Shaw** (Health Advocacy), another cancer survivor, continues to advocate for the health field. Her heart sings when a child with cancer is comforted. In one of her projects, she leads groups in making child-friendly pillowcases.

"It's amazing what a little pillowcase can do to make children smile," Shaw notes. "If you can make a difference in one person's life, then that's a good day."

The 2014 Women of Achievement president is **Nancy A. Bobrow**, Ph.D. *Interim chair* is **Nancy Harris** with **Karen Castellano** vice chair.

**Virginia Brax** (Cultural Enrichment)

Eighty-eight-year-old Virginia Brax, a retired nurse, is one of the most accomplished women in St. Louis. She has been a member of the St. Louis County Board of Health since 1998. She is also a member of the St. Louis County Board of Health since 1998. She is also a member of the St. Louis County Board of Health since 1998. She is also a member of the St. Louis County Board of Health since 1998.

**Ma Early** (Volunteer Leadership)

Ma Early has been a volunteer for 30 years. She has been a volunteer for 30 years. She has been a volunteer for 30 years. She has been a volunteer for 30 years. She has been a volunteer for 30 years.

**Dr. Eva Frazer** (Community Health)

Dr. Eva Frazer is a physician and a volunteer. She has been a volunteer for 30 years. She has been a volunteer for 30 years. She has been a volunteer for 30 years. She has been a volunteer for 30 years.

**Teri Griegle** (Health Awareness)

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**Phyllis Langsdorf** (Creative Philanthropy)

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**Diane Levine** (Health and Education)

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**DiAnne Mueller** (Family Enrichment)

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**JoAnn Shaw** (Health Advocacy)

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