

Natalie Feld Scholarship Awards Fund

Natalie Feld was born in 1908 at the family home on Prospect Place in Avondale. Her grandfather, Nathan Feld, was a Russian immigrant. He co-founded the Avondale Synagogue, serving the Adath Israel Congregation, and had a thriving furniture business. He was succeeded by Natalie's father, Abraham Feld, who established a store on West Fifth Street downtown.

Natalie graduated cum laude from Walnut Hills High School in 1924 at the age of 16. She was bestowed with a prestigious Alliance Francaise membership awarded to the student with the highest average in four years of French. In 1927, she received her Bachelor and Master of Arts degrees in Mathematics from the University of Cincinnati, receiving Deans Honors for an A average.

For the next 23 years, she taught mathematics at Rothenberg, Woodward, and Walnut Hills schools. In her early years of teaching, she often drove with her sister to California to spend the summer attending the theatre. Her mother traveled with them after her father's death in 1936.

After the prolonged illnesses and eventual deaths of her mother and sister in the early 1950s, Natalie offered her resignation from teaching, but was convinced instead to take a leave of absence. Her friends suggested she take a long vacation and travel.

Travel she did, some trips lasting for months. She was on the maiden voyage of the HRMS Queen Elizabeth II. She regularly attended performances of the arts during her travels and kept detailed logs of her travels. On one cruise, she met Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton. Upon each return, Natalie narrated her adventures in slide shows at luncheons for her friends. She never returned to teaching. Eventually she decided to sell the family home and she donated the furnishings to the Jewish Hospital School of Nursing.

Natalie, a lifelong resident of Cincinnati, was a member of the National Council of Jewish Women, Wise Temple, Friends of the Plum Street Temple, and Friends of the Public Library. She was a volunteer for the Cincinnati Opera Guild, the University of Cincinnati Foundation, the Cincinnati Historical Society, and WCET Channel 48. She was a long-time resident of the Vernon Manor and the Cincinnati Club, and she resided at One Lytle Place until her death on January 14, 1999 at the age of 90.

She willed all her assets to the affiliations that were dear to her throughout her life - her Jewish community, educational institutes, and the performing arts, especially the Cincinnati Opera. Included was a generous grant to the University of Cincinnati to establish scholarships.