



## **Betty Stein**

Betty Edlavitch was born December 10, 1916, in Fort Wayne, Indiana. She graduated from Central High School in 1933, attended Ohio State University, and graduated from Saint Francis College (now the University of Saint Francis) in 1965.

But it is her volunteer service that truly distinguishes Betty Stein. She has given generously of her time and talents to an astonishing number of community organizations. She has served on the boards of the Urban League, Catholic Social Services, the YWCA, Family and Children's Services, Gingerbread House, the League of Women Voters, Heartland Chamber Chorale, and Woman's Reading Club. She has been a PTA president. Betty was the first woman chair of the Leadership Prayer Breakfast, the first woman to serve on the Fort Wayne Police Merit Commission, and the first chairperson of the Fort Wayne Board of Safety appointed by Mayor Win Moses.

She has undertaken many activities for the Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne, including as a board member, annual People of the Book lecture series, and the Minority Literature Project. She filled many roles during a long tenure of service to Congregation Achduth Vesholom, where she is a lifelong member: Sisterhood president, first woman elected to the Congregation Achduth Vesholom board, and first woman to serve as president.

Betty helped establish the Holocaust Memorial at the entrance to Achduth Vesholom. She also assisted in bringing a Holocaust Torah Scroll saved from destruction by the Nazis to the congregation, which was restored for their 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 1998.

Governor Evan Bayh named Betty a Sagamore of the Wabash in 1996.

***A Country Doctor*** was written by Betty for the Indiana Jewish Historical Society about her beloved father Baruch Mordecai Edlavitch. She said, and we quote, "I believe my father exemplified the highest precepts of a fine, honorable human being."