

Elizabeth “Bette” Bille Adler

“Bette” as she is known to all of her friends in Marshfield, was the second child born to John P. and Rosamond Victoria (Bille) Adler. She was born on June 2, 1919 and educated in Marshfield public and parochial schools. She remembers when she first started attending St. John’s School during the fifth grade, after leaving the public school system. Her sister, Anne, and she, would walk to school every day, rain or shine, snow or sleet, except if they were really sick. Bette also remembers wearing knickers, high top boots, sheepskin jackets, helmets and mittens to keep warm on those walks to school. Bette also recalled walking back home every noon for lunch and the freight train that came through every day just about the time they had to go back. One day, they were still a block away from the tracks, when they heard the whistle. They started running as fast as they could, but made it, just as the train bore down on them. She added then, that if Anne hadn’t grabbed her by the hand and pulled, she wouldn’t be around to tell this story.



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She later attended McKinley High School and was elected to the National Honor Society upon graduation. Her education continued at Milwaukee Downer College and the University of Wisconsin - Madison, where she received her Bachelor’s Degree.

After working for some years as a chemist with Kimberly Clark Corporation at Neenah, Wisconsin, she returned to Marshfield and took up duties in family enterprises and community services. The family continued to run the consortium of businesses that “J.P.” had built during his more than fifty years of dedication to the work ethic.

A perennial student, Bette feels strongly compelled to try to make the world a better place. She has had the privilege of living fully in it, with extraordinary opportunities to learn and serve.

Her hobbies include history, playing Bridge, architecture and interior decorating, however her interests lie in investment clubs and medical research. One of those interests, is the Marshfield Area Community Foundation. Bette and her sister, Anne, have worked together, to help it become a reality and leave a legacy to their home town. Community Foundations like the one established for the Marshfield Area, by Bette and Anne, build their endowments through contributions from generous people who want to give back to the community. These donations support charitable activities focused on local assistance for the arts, education, environmental projects, health, and social services.

Bette has made her home in Marshfield, where she continues to live and serve a number of civic organizations including the Marshfield Leadership Council. Also, she is an active member of a variety of service clubs including Altrusa International of Marshfield and the National Business and Professional Women’s Club of Marshfield.

*Submitted by Elizabeth “Bette” Adler
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