

Maxine Phyllis Brown Feibelman, Class of 1952

A look at Phyllis's nomination form reveals a woman who sets a great example for how one should serve one's community. While a student here at Murphy, she participated in the Student Government Association as Sophomore Class president and junior class representative. She also belonged to the Four Arts Club, Gate Club, Argument, Inc., and Junior Speakers. She was secretary for the Inter Club Council, too. Her achievements earned her membership in the National Forensic Society, National Honor Society, and Quill and Scroll.

She left Murphy and attended Stephens College (AA in Child Study), Newcomb College of Tulane University (BA in Psychology), and Bryn Mawr (MA in Education). Her choices of study give a good indication of where she would focus most of her energy.

Phyllis's nominator stated that her sons, who both had special needs, were the moving forces that directed her into serving the needs of not only her own children but all children who shared these traits. The two areas she concerned herself with were Learning Disabilities and Hearing Impaired. In the 1970s, she was active in the Learning Disabilities Association of Mobile. She was active on both local and state levels, and acted as an advocate to help parents and teachers learn about this educational challenge before it was widely recognized. Phyllis and her husband were also instrumental in starting the Mobile Pre-School for the Sensory Impaired. They reached out to other parents and to organizations in the city to make this happen, and she remains a resource to the program and has held an annual Easter Egg hunt for the school's students for 31 year! Her volunteerism seems boundless: She has served as a Board member for 12 organizations including Mobile Public Library (treas.), Mobile Mental Health Assoc., L'Arche Mobile, Child Day Care Assoc., Mobile County Dept. of Human Resources (20 yrs/10 as pres.), Parents as First Teachers, and the International Parent Section of the Alexander Graham Bell Assoc. (IPABA) for the Deaf.

She has served more than our community's children. Through her temple, where she served as president of the congregation and Temple Sisterhood, she connected with the National Council of Jewish Women, the Southern Jewish Historical Society, and has been a local speaker on Judaism to churches agencies and universities. She was one of the 1<sup>st</sup> members of Mobile's Jewish-Christian Dialogue, and is also a member of a newer group, Trilogue, which brings the Muslim faith into dialogue.

Her service has been recognized many times—M.O. Beale Scroll of Merit 5 times, National Association of Social Workers' Public Citizen of the Year, First Lady of Mobile, DHR Commissioner's Merit Award, Volunteer Activist Award, Volta Award of the Bell Association, and more.

We are proud to add to her honors' list by inducting her into our Alumni Hall of Fame.