

COMMUNIQUE

The Newsletter of the Central New York Community Foundation

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New Scholarship Fund To Reward Top Students

Adeline Maltzan's \$250,000 Charitable Bequest a Tribute to Hard-Working Parents

To Adeline Maltzan, responsibility and hard work were the keys to success, both in academics and in life. Before succumbing to cancer on January 4, 1996, she took an important step toward assuring that her philosophy would live on.

Through a provision in her will, Adeline established a \$250,000 fund with the Central New York Community Foundation. The fund will award ten scholarships annually to the top ten graduates of her alma mater, Sherburne Earlville High School, as a reward for outstanding academic performance.

Instead of naming the fund for herself, Adeline chose to honor her two greatest inspirations - her parents - by designating it the Ferdinand & Emilie Maltzan Memorial Scholarship Fund.

Perseverance Overcomes Obstacles for Young Immigrants

Separately and as husband and wife, Ferdinand and Emilie were living examples of what can be achieved through hard work.

One of nine children, Ferdinand was born in 1874 in Skvernova, Poland (which was at that time a part of Russia). After spending his early years helping out on the family farm, he was apprenticed to a blacksmith at



With their tenacity and old-world sense of responsibility, Ferdinand and Emilie Maltzan set an example for all their children of what it takes to lead a happy, successful life.

the age of 16. Two years later, he left home to seek his fortune.

Traveling across his homeland, he worked as a farm hand and a blacksmith, and at 21, served in the Russian army. His first wife died giving birth to their only child, Olga. In 1903, he emigrated with his daughter to the United States. Although he spoke fluent Russian, German and Polish, he neither spoke nor read English. Regardless, he was

able to find work in and around New York City, including a job at a Brooklyn brewery.

It was while he was living in Brooklyn that Ferdinand met Emilie Schmidt, who at 17 had left her home in Poland to travel alone to America. One of eight offspring, Emilie had only two years of formal education and had been working since she was eight. At 12, she was a domestic; at 14, a milkmaid.

Shortly after their marriage in 1907, Ferdinand was injured in an accident at the brewery. The couple left New York City and eventually settled in Sherburne, New York, where they would live the rest of their lives.

Carrying on the Family Tradition

Together, the Maltzans had ten children. Even through the Great Depression and two world wars, the household was alive with creativity and learning. Ferdinand spoke three languages, was musically talented and, although a strict disciplinarian, was a warm and social person. His wife was a bright, capable woman. She helped with the farm chores, taught herself to speak and read English, and could copy a dress just by looking at a picture of it. She also

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had a delightful sense of humor (an essential quality, no doubt, for a mother of ten).

Their second-youngest child, Adeline, was born in 1925. Displaying a penchant for diligence at an early age, she excelled throughout her school years. In June of 1943, as valedictorian of her class at Sherburne Central School, she addressed what she saw as the two biggest challenges facing her and her classmates -- winning the second world war and reconstructing the post-war world.

"Each person becomes an Atlas with the whole world resting on his shoulders," she said of the impending reconstruction. "If an individual fails to shoulder his full responsibility, he has failed not only himself, his country and his community, but the whole world."

Building a Better Society

Adeline felt that each person is responsible for creating a better society -- and she took hers seriously. From high school she went on to Syracuse University to major in both

chemistry and education, becoming the first person in her family to earn a college degree.

After graduating from Syracuse magna cum laude, she began teaching high school science while continuing her own education, and received a master's degree in education in 1950. She was an excellent teacher, rising to become head of her science department and receiving a General Electric Science Fellowship in chemistry. But she soon became disillusioned.

It wasn't the school or the students, but the concept of grading on a curve that frustrated her. She believed in achieving academic excellence through hard work, as she had done, and that grading on a curve did not properly reflect her students' abilities.

Consequently, she left teaching in 1952. Drawing on her scientific background, Adeline launched a career as an allergy technician, working first for the City of Syracuse, then for University Hospital, until retiring in 1984.

An outgoing but reserved woman, Adeline remained active

throughout her retirement, supporting the Syracuse Symphony and volunteering as an adult reader at Rockwell Elementary School in Nedrow. Even when she became quite ill, her spirit never flagged.

A Vision of Tomorrow

In her original will, Adeline made provisions to establish a private foundation to award scholarships. Shortly before her death, however, she and her younger brother, Robert, learned more about private foundations -- their administration and complex reporting requirements as well as the fact that scholarships would be distributed only until funds ran out.

Adeline's attorney then referred them to the Central New York Community Foundation. Started in 1927, the foundation now oversees more than 180 charitable funds and \$23 million in assets. Staff members help donors structure charitable gifts that are easily administered, offer maximum tax benefits, and allow for maximum use as identified by the donor.

In addition to Adeline's original bequest, the fund has received a number of donations in her memory. Additional contributions can be made at any time to the Ferdinand & Emilie Maltzan Memorial Scholarship Fund, in care of the Central New York Community Foundation, 500 S. Salina St., Suite 428, Syracuse, N.Y. 13202-3302.

Adeline Maltzan may have intended the fund as a tribute to her courageous, hard-working parents, but it stands as a tribute to herself as well -- for having a vision of a bright future, for wanting to reward graduates for their academic achievements, and for encouraging students everywhere to maintain the highest standards throughout their lives.



According to her brother, Robert, Adeline Maltzan was a strong woman, committed to excellence in all of her endeavors. She was "a private person, outgoing, but not too showy."