



## Natalie Paula Fink Bockian

February 21, 1933 - March 21, 2020

Natalie Paula Fink Bockian was born in Cleveland, Ohio on February 21, 1933 to Israel and Blanche Fink. She had an older sister, Barbara, and they ended up moving to Cincinnati where the girls attended the prestigious Walnut Hills High School. Natalie received a degree in teaching at Miami University. One summer while working as a camp counselor, she overcame her nerves to go on a late-night canoe ride with Herbert Bockian, the Head Lifeguard. The romance culminated in marriage on August 15, 1958 and a subsequent move to Memphis, TN where they settled while Herb attended the University of Tennessee College of Medicine and received the Verstandig award for surmounting the greatest difficulty in obtaining a medical education. Natalie was his support all through this endeavor and along the way gave birth to their first child, Phyllis Ann Horning. While completing his residency in Nashville, TN at Vanderbilt University and his internship at St. Thomas Hospital, Natalie had three more children, David Alan Bockian, Barry Israel Bockian and Steven Teo Bockian. Four children in four years!

In support of Herb's career, the family moved to Miami, FL where Natalie succeeded as a Homemaker raising her family. The opportunity for Herb to be Director of the Bristol Regional Mental Health Center arose, and in late 1973 the family relocated to East Tennessee. The family matured in this nurturing environment, the kids spread their wings and migrated to find their own paths. In the Spring of 1994 Natalie buried her lifelong love at the Jewish Cemetery in Bristol.

After her Mother's death and a thirty-year absence Natalie returned to Nashville, Tennessee to start the next chapter of her life. It wasn't long before she was an active member of the West End Synagogue and the Gordon Jewish Community Center. She continued to master her Bridge skills and spent hours with her friends playing Maj Jong and kibitzing over the day's current events.

She enjoyed the opportunity to give back to her community and switched her volunteer efforts from the Bristol Memorial Hospital where she was a "Candy-Striper", to St. Thomas West where she volunteered in the Library. She was honored to have earned the KOVOD Award as Senior of the Year at the Jewish Community Center soon after returning to middle Tennessee. Fellow members of the prestigious century old Inquirers' Book Club selected her as President to lead the organization for three terms. These events and the

numerous others that directed the new chapter of her life allowed her to find her footing and grow her inner strength as an individual.

Though Mom always said that she would rather have lived in a smaller house and had her husband around for a few more years, the depression era mindset of sacrifice for family was too deeply engrained. Her wit, generosity and kind nature in addition to her love for her husband Herb, her children Phyllis (Her partner Larry), David, Barry, Steven (his wife Teri), her grandchildren Aaron, Rachel, Sara-Rose, Alex, friends and acquaintances are her legacy. She was loved and cherished by many and will be greatly missed. Natalie will be buried next to her loving husband who cherished everything about his wife at the Jewish Cemetery in Bristol.

The graveside funeral service will be conducted at 11:00 am, Wednesday, March 25, 2020 at B'NAI Sholom Congregational Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be sent to the Jewish Federation of Nashville, <http://www.jewishnashville.org> or a senior center of your choice.

Condolences may be sent to the family at [akardfuneralhome.com](http://akardfuneralhome.com)

Akard Funeral Home 1912 West State St., Bristol, TN (423) 989-4800 is serving the family of Mrs. Bockian.

# Events

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**MAR** **Graveside** 11:00AM

**25**

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B'NAI Sholom Congregation Cemetery  
TN, US

# Comments

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“ We received the May Observer today (delay getting to NJ) and learned of Natalie's death. Natalie was such a good friend during our time in Nashville. We especially enjoyed sharing the experience of a visit to Israel with her (and family) in 2000. She was warm, caring, quick-witted and engaging. We are so sorry for your loss.  
Rabbi Ron and Rhonda Roth

Rhonda Roth - May 14, 2020 at 07:33 PM

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“ Natalie was the source of straightforward common sense during many pivotal moments over the years. Tranquil, reliable and engaging were only a few adjectives. I will never forget the most beautiful Passover we had in her home 10 years ago. She was a splendid hostess while making it all seem effortless! It was a true blessing to have her in our world! A donation in her memory has been made to Abe's Garden in tribute to her generous spirit.

Michael and Marisa Mayhan

marisa mayhan - March 25, 2020 at 05:21 PM

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“ Oh my heart is breaking! I LOVED Natalie so much. She was my neighbor and a frequent Bridge partner on Monday nights at Windsor Tower. I loved her wit, her honesty and the set of Bockian bobbleheads in her apartment. They always cracked me up. I missed seeing her so much when she moved.

My condolences to all of you as you deal with her absence. May this time and forward be filled with wonderful memories that make you smile, laugh and, at times, cry.

Sending peace and comfort,

Liz Williams

Liz Williams - March 24, 2020 at 08:41 PM

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“ Thinking about all of you at this time. I have fond memories of your family in my dental practice. I have many memories of each, Herb and Natalie. Stories I remember of the boys. Prayers for each of you. Harvey and Sharon Jones

**Sharon Jones** - March 24, 2020 at 06:31 PM

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“ Phyllis, David, Barry and Steve, we miss you and the old days of playing basketball and how nice all of you were. You came from a good family. Wish we could live those days again. Come see us. Mary Jo and Harrison Gilley.

**Mary Jo and Harrison Gilley** - March 24, 2020 at 03:10 PM

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“ Please know that I am thinking of all of you during this time of sadness. Natalie was a wonderful person and a true friend. We will all miss her.  
Roger Young

**Roger Young** - March 24, 2020 at 11:03 AM

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“ Natalie was a close friend of my grandmother's and would always check in on me and my family. There was a piece of art that she loved from my grandmother hanging on her wall in her home. When she moved she gave me the picture knowing how much my grandmother meant to me. I still have it in my office at the Jewish Federation. I was so thankful to have had the opportunity to visit Natalie when we were at Abe's Garden for the Federation's Mission Possible. We had the opportunity to share one last shabbat service together. I will miss her smile and care. May her memory be for a blessing.

**Naomi Limor Sedek** - March 23, 2020 at 10:27 PM

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“ Phyllis and David,

Even though I didn't know your mom I know she (and your dad) raised a wonderful family because I know you all. My thoughts, love, and prayers are with you during this difficult time.

Stephanie Elswick  
THS ('77)

**Stephanie Elswick** - March 23, 2020 at 05:49 PM

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“ Natalie was a wonderful lady. I had the pleasure of working with her at Bristol Hospital when she volunteered in the pharmacy. I always looked forward to the days she would be there with us. Prayers for her family, I know she will be greatly missed.

**Linda Slagle** - March 23, 2020 at 08:48 AM

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“ Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Natalie Paula Fink Bockian.



March 23, 2020 at 08:29 AM

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“ From the Tulloss Family.

We are praying and hurting for the Bockian family as you manage through this difficult time. Natalie's life seemed full indeed and she was blessed to have all of you. As Steve's brother-in-law (Teri's brother, Rob), I can attest to the enduring power of Natalie's love for family and service in the impact Steve has made in our family since his marriage to our Teri. Steve has been a source of great resourcefulness, knowledge and love to my family in our most difficult times. He has certainly attained these gifts naturally, from his parents. We send God's love and the strength of our prayers to you now as help to sustain you during this great loss.

You were blessed to have Natalie. She was amazing.

Love,

Rob Tulloss (Lisa, Robert Jr. and Maggie)

As well as, brothers/sister: Frank, John (Sarah) and Kathy. Niece/nephew: Kimmie, Frank (Katie and Tyler).

**Rob Tulloss** - March 23, 2020 at 08:04 AM