



Photo: Vigo County Public Library

# Fannie Blumberg

*Terre Haute, Vigo County*

February 11, 1894 – July 9, 1964

Born in Indianapolis, Indiana, on February 11, 1894, Fannie Burgheim Blumberg was an author and artist. Writing mostly children's stories, her literary career included five published children's books and numerous short stories. At the age of 50, she resumed her interest and study in art. During her lifetime, she exhibited her paintings in several galleries throughout the world.

Prior to her marriage to Terre Haute attorney Benjamin Blumberg in 1916, Fannie completed the kindergarten and primary coursework from the Teacher's College of Indianapolis and taught kindergarten. Busy raising her four children (Morris, Rachel, Teresa, Gretchen), she had little time to write or paint during the 1920s and 1930s. In 1936, she and her husband sheltered two young boys from German Jewish families, including Gerhard Nellhaus to save them from the Nazi concentration camps. Later, Gerhard became their foster son.

She and her husband gave generously to individuals, creative endeavors, and charitable institutions. In 1956, she and her husband endowed DePauw University with funds to establish an art center. Blumberg Halls at Indiana State University and Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology bear their name as a testament of their dedication to education and the arts. Throughout their lives they made anonymous gifts and scholarships to charitable organizations, including the Girl Scouts of America, one of Fannie's favorites. After her death on July 9, 1964, Fannie Blumberg's philanthropic endeavors continued to live on in her large bequest to the Department of Special Education at Indiana State University and in the establishment of the Blumberg Center for Interdisciplinary Studies in Special Education in 1985.

- For more information about Fannie Blumberg, go to: <http://visions.indstate.edu:8888/cdm/ref/collection/vchs/id/243>.
- For more information about *Writing Her Story*, go to: <http://www.in.gov/icw/2440.htm>.

*Additional and more detailed references available at the end of Women's History Month*

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