

PJB 11-8-02

Providence 11-8

ELEANOR (ROSENTHAL) BOHNEN, 86, of Clarendon Avenue, described by her children as a "one-woman social-service agency," died Wednesday at Rhode Island Hospital from complications after heart surgery.

She was actively involved in Temple Emanu-El, where her late husband, Eli Bohnen, had served as rabbi from 1948 until his retirement in 1973.

Born in Ellenville, N.Y., a daughter of the late Myer and Dora (Boyarsky) Rosenthal, she had lived in Buffalo, N.Y., with her husband from 1939 until 1948, and had resided in Providence for 54 years.

She was a graduate of Temple University.

Mrs. Bohnen spent much of her time caring for the elderly, the sick and the lonely. Although she had slowed in the last year, she was still driving people to doctor appointments, cheering up patients in nursing homes, and helping Russian immigrants learn English.

"She was totally into the Internet, e-mailing and forwarding messages. She'd send thank-you notes for thank-you notes," her son-in-law, Dr. Mayer Levitt, recalled yesterday with a chuckle.

He called Mrs. Bohnen an elegant lady who never looked for recognition for her good deeds. "Amazingly enough, she was also a real confidant to her grandchildren," he said.

When she wasn't helping others, she was enthusiastically pursuing figure skating, gardening, flower arranging, or sailing, or studying Hebrew.

She leaves a daughter, Judith Levitt of Providence; a son, Michael Bohnen of Newton, Mass.; five grandchildren and six great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

The funeral will be held today at noon in Temple Emanu-El. Burial will be in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick.

BOHNEN,
ELEANOR R.
(ROSENTHAL)

BOHNEN, Eleanor R. (Rosenthal)

November 6, 2002. Beloved wife of the late Rabbi Eli A. Bohnen. Residence: Clarendon Ave., Providence. Dear mother of Judith Levitt and her husband Mayer, Providence, and Michael Bohnen and his wife Joyce, Newton MA. Loving sister of the late Joseph and David Rosenthal and Alice Weinstein. Devoted grandmother of Jonathan and Marni Levitt, Debra and David Bly, Andrew Levitt and Anissa Kalinowski, Sharon and David Goldstein and Debbi Bohnen and Adam Wall. Caring great-grandmother of Joshua, Alexa, Ari and Noah Levitt and Daniel and Samantha Bly. Funeral service 12 noon Friday at Temple Emanu El, 99 Taft Ave, Providence. Contributions in her memory may be made to the charity of the donor's choice. At the request of the family, Shiva will be private. The family was assisted with their arrangements by the SUGARMAN-SINAI MEMORIAL CHAPEL.