
PROVIDENCE

BRAUNSTEIN, BELLA

HALPERT died in Seattle, WA, on August 19, 2010 at age 96.

She was born and lived much of her life in Providence and East Providence, Rhode Island before moving to Royal Palm Beach, Florida, and, for her last 2 years, Seattle, Washington.

A gifted musician who studied piano from an early age, she attended the Vienna Conservatory of Music in Austria after high school and studied with her master teacher in Boston for many years. Encouraged by her father, she became an accompanist and a soloist in her own right. She was long active in Rhode Island music groups, performing frequently with the Schubert Club and the Chopin Club, of which she was president for a time in the 1960s. She also was a piano teacher to many children and adults. She continued to play as often as she could until her death.

Bella was married to Murry Halpert of Providence, for 45 years, until he died in 1981. Together they had three children: Jonis, Ruth, and Samuel. She remarried to Harold Braunstein in 1985. They resided in East Providence and Royal Palm Beach, Florida. After his death in 2002, she stayed in Florida until her move to Seattle in 2008.

She is survived by her children, Jonis and Charles Davis of Seattle, Ruth and Don Hamann of Summit, New Jersey, and Sam and Judy Halpert of Plymouth, Michigan, as well as Harvey Braunstein of Larchmont, NY, and Susan Braunstein Hedvat of Ashkalon, Israel; grandchildren, Jeffrey and Katy Davis of Seattle, Rachel and Jordan Packer of Bayside, California, and Hillary Hamann and Wayne Buschmann of Boulder, CO, and five great grandchildren, Micah and Piper Davis, Kaden, Bellagrace and Avery Packer.

Memorial donations may be made to Exeter House, 720 Seneca Street, in Seattle 98101, the Chopin Club of Providence, RI c/o Robert Salmani, 130 Wheeler Street, #1, Cranston RI 02905, or a charity of your choice.

A graveside burial service will be held at the Temple Beth El cemetery in Providence on August 27 at 11:00 am.