

CHESTER, SAMUEL J., 99, of 56 Dellwood Road, died Friday, July 6, 2012, at home. He was the beloved husband of the late Esther (Greenberg) Chester. Born in Providence, a son of the late Louis and Goldie (Rosen) Chester, he had lived in Cranston for 48 years.

He leaves a niece, Lynda Horenstein of Warwick, 1 great niece, 1 great nephew, 3 great great nephews and his close friend Anthony DelVecchio of Warwick. Sam was predeceased by his sister, Beatrice Horenstein.

Funeral services will be held Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. in **TEMPLE AM DAVID**, 40 Gardiner Street, Warwick. In lieu of flowers, contributions in his memory may be made to the American Cancer Society or Temple Am David. Shiva will be observed at his late residence Tuesday 4-7 p.m. Arrangements by **SHALOM MEMORIAL CHAPEL**, Cranston.

PASSAGES

Samuel Chester, 99; philanthropist, violinist

Founder of Standard Wire played for R.I. Philharmonic, gave to many causes

By **DONITA NAYLOR**
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

Samuel J. Chester was "one of the most religious men that I have ever met in my life," said Temple Am David's Rabbi Richard Perlman on Monday as he wrote the eulogy for Chester, who died Friday at age 99.

"He didn't really want to get into too much detail in regard to going to services and praying," Perlman said. "But, man, did he enjoy the opportunity to serve God by helping others."

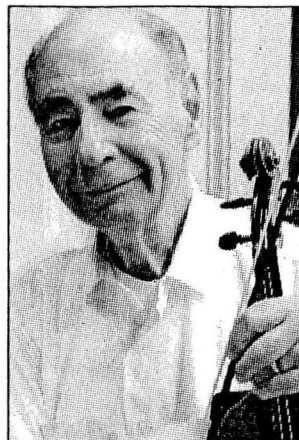
Chester, who lived in Cranston and founded the Standard Wire Co., then sold it to enter medical research, became a violinist for the Rhode Island Philharmonic at age 58 and played there for 28 seasons.

As a philanthropist, he helped preserve the Music Mansion on Providence's East Side, aided a kosher food pantry, and created arts centers at Warwick's Temple Am David and Toll Gate High School. He served as president of the East Greenwich Art Club because his wife, Esther, was a member.

"His heart broke after she died," at age 94 in February, Perlman said. "That's what he died of, a broken heart."

If everyone was put on Earth to make a small difference, Perlman said, "Sam, with all the research he did, and the things that he found that can save people from suffering, did so much that his legacy will live on for many years to come."

Perlman said Chester had



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Samuel Chester joined the philharmonic at age 58.

been "working tirelessly" since his wife died "to get the FDA to approve human testing" of the drug Naltrexone, which he promoted for use on melanoma. His wife had been given low doses of the drug to treat her melanoma. The drug has been approved by the FDA for use in com-

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Larry Rachleff, R.I. Philharmonic conductor

bating heroin and alcohol addiction.

"The day he died," Perlman said, "someone came to his home and told his caregiver that the FDA approved the study of his drug."

"That was enough for him.

He was satisfied. He wanted to be back with his Esther."

Rhode Island Philharmonic conductor Larry Rachleff had trouble with his voice for a moment after learning that Chester had died.

"One should only stand up and cheer when human will and good fortune allows someone to live such an expansive life," Rachleff said. "There were so many things, obviously, that he was gifted at, and playing the violin was certainly one of them."

Susan Adler and her husband, Steven, got to know the Chesters through home visits as part of the Jewish Seniors Agency of Rhode Island.

"Sam generously donated money to our kosher food pantry in honor of his parents," Adler said. The pantry was renamed the Louis and Goldie Chester Full Plate Kosher Food Pantry in 2009.

The Adlers grew as close as family. Sam stepped into the role of grandfather to the Adler children, Joshua and Shoshana, and, after Esther died, joined the family at Passover seders.

"I'm just beyond grateful that we can call him a friend," Susan Adler said Monday. "We were spoiled; he let us into his life."

One of the life lessons from Sam Chester, she said, was, "It doesn't matter what age you are — you love your family, you give back to the community, and you don't stop."

Chester's funeral will be held at 10 a.m. Tuesday at Temple Am David, 40 Gardiner St., Warwick.