

COHEN,

PATRICIA R.

(WHITE)

**COHEN, PATRICIA R.**, 63, of 431 Cole Ave., Providence and Narragansett, died December 27th. at home. She was the beloved wife of David A. Cohen. They had been married for 42 years.



Born in Springfield, MA, she was the daughter of the late Sol and Claire (Samdperil) White.

A graduate of Classical High School, Springfield, MA, she received an undergraduate degree from Rhode Island College, and a master's degree in counseling from the University of Rhode Island. Mrs. Cohen was a co-founder of Volunteers in Cranston Schools (VICS), an organization that coordinated volunteer opportunities in Cranston public schools.

She was active for over 30 years with the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island, where he was a former member of both the Jewish Federation board and the Women's Alliance board. She began her volunteer service with the organization in the 1970's, during which time she served as secretary, membership chair and advisory board member of the Young Women's Division. During the next decade, she chaired numerous educational programs for the Women's Division. Most recently she chaired the Women's Alliance campaign event in 2002.

Within the Jewish Federation, Mrs. Cohen served on the Planning & Allocations Committee and the Endowment Grant Committee, advocating for appropriate funding for agencies. She also chaired the Day School Committee of the Bureau of Jewish Education, which reviewed the schools' needs and helped determine funding allocation. Mrs. Cohen was a member of the editorial board of the Jewish Voice & Herald, where she encouraged the publication to feature the activities of its agencies. She also advocated for the publication to honor small and large donors alike.

In 1987, Mrs. Cohen received the prestigious Merrill L. Hassenfield Leadership in Community Service Award from Jewish Federation. The award honors an individual nominated by an agency as providing special leadership on its behalf.

A longtime member of Temple Beth El, she was a past board member there, serving as a vice president. In addition, she was a past board member of the Bureau of Jewish Education and Brown-RISD Hillel. A life member of Hadassah, she was a past president of the Jerusalem Chapter. She was also a life member of the Women's Association of the Miriam Hospital and the Jewish Seniors Agency Women's Association.

Mrs. Cohen was a past board member of the Jewish Home for the Aged, and then served for many years on the board of the Jewish Seniors Agency in numerous leadership positions, most recently as president from 2003 to 2005. During her involvement with the Jewish Seniors Agency, she oversaw the development and construction of Tamarisk Assisted Living facility in Warwick, RI.

Besides her husband, she is survived by a brother, Richard White of Cranston. She was the devoted mother of Andrea Reiser and husband David of Barrington; Meredith Fried and husband Gabriel of Needham, MA; and Michael Cohen of Sharon, MA. She was the adored "Mimi" of seven grandchildren, Benjamin, Jacob, Zachary and Matthew Reiser, Samuel and Margit Fried and Joshua Cohen. She is also survived by many treasured friends.

A funeral service will be held Wednesday, December 28th at 11 A.M. at Temple Beth El, 70 Orchard Avenue, Providence. In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to the To Life Campaign, c/o The Jewish Seniors Agency, 229 Waterman Street, Providence, RI 02906. Shiva will be observed at her late residence on Wednesday 7-9 P.M., Thursday 2-4 P.M. and 7-9 P.M. and Friday 2-4 P.M.