

FRANK, Belle S.
(Summer)

October 20, 1992. Beloved wife of the late Haskell Frank. Residence 395 Angell St. Dear mother of Melvin S. and H. Alan Frank, Providence, and the late Arnold Frank. Devoted grandmother. Funeral Services 2 pm Wednesday at TEMPLE EMANU-EL, Morris Ave. at Sessions St. Relatives and friends are invited. In lieu of flowers contributions may be made to the Haskell and Belle Frank Endowment Fund, c/o Temple Emanu-El or the Robbie Frank Fund, c/o The Jewish Community Center. Memorial observance at the home of Mr. and Mrs. H. Alan Frank, 126 Hartshorn Rd., Wednesday 7-9 pm, Thursday 2-4; 7-9 pm; Saturday 7-9 pm, Sunday and Monday, 2-4; 7-9 pm. Arrangements by MOUNT SINAI MEMORIAL CHAPEL.

195-10/20/1992
OBITUARIES

Belle Frank, 91; community service volunteer many years

PROVIDENCE — Belle S. Frank, 91, of 395 Angell St., painter, pianist, champion golfer and unflagging volunteer who continued to entertain patients at the Jewish Home for the Aged after she turned 90, died this morning at home. She was the widow of Haskell Frank.

Mrs. Frank lost a leg to cancer in 1983. That ended her golf playing, which had garnered numerous Ledgemont Country Club championships. But she obtained an artificial leg and resumed her extensive volunteer efforts.

"I wanted to do something besides playing cards every day," she said in an interview last summer.

An operation last spring could not keep her long from the Jewish Home for the Aged. Last July she resumed playing piano for patients, many of whom suffer from Alzheimer's disease. She drove herself to the home, and she often brought cookies and treats she baked herself.

"She adds a dignity to their lives," said Bonnie Ryvicker, the home's director of volunteer services.

"It's unbelievable the joy one person can bring," said Patricia Meagher Dwyer, the home's vice president for development and public relations. "She's an inspiration for all of us, the young people and the old people."

A slight woman with blonde hair, Mrs. Frank left people decades her junior marveling at her abundant energy.

"I keep going," she said. "I have an awful lot of go."

She visited Israel eight times and went around the world three, and yet she found adventure in her regular visits to the nursing home. In 1991 she was one of six Rhode Islanders chosen for the JC Penney Golden Rule Award for Volunteer Service.

In September last year, Temple Emanu-El honored her for her many years of community service. She also was honored for her outstanding service for women's golf by the Honors Committee of Ledgemont Country Club, where she was the women's club champion 10 times. Last May she received the Jewish Home for the Aged Chairman's Award for outstanding commitment to the home.

She was a nurse's aide and a driver for the American Red Cross during World War II, sold United States Savings Bonds, organized dances for servicemen, sent packages overseas, and was called a "one-woman USO." The government presented her with a commendation for "distinguished services above and beyond the call of duty."

She took up painting in the late 1960s while visiting a friend in Florida, who began painting after she

lost her husband. Mrs. Frank took a few lessons, wound up spending more time at the easel than her friend did. She later held exhibitions, and was accepted into the Providence Watercolor Club.

She taught art to emotionally disturbed children at Bradley Hospital in East Providence and was honored by the hospital for her outstanding volunteer effort.

Long before she lost her leg, she was a founder of the Paraplegic Association of Rhode Island, and for her services with Friends of the Handicapped she was named Woman of the Year in 1983.

She was a former vice president of Temple Emanu-El and had been honored by the State of Israel for her promotion and bond sales.

A lifelong Providence resident, she was a daughter of the late Joseph and Anne (Bernstein) Summer.

She was a member of the Women's Association of the Jewish Home for the Aged and did volunteer work for the Patrick I. O'Rourke Children's Center, the Coalition for Children's Rights and various organizations for the blind.

On May 8, 1985 Mrs. Frank received the National Council of Jewish Women award for community service.

Her friend, Rabbi Leslie Y. Gutterman once said of her: "Hers is the kind of heroism that does not make headlines, but her quiet, good values are what propel the world."

She leaves two sons, Melvin S. and H. Alan Frank, both of Providence, and numerous grandchildren. She was the mother of the late Arnold Frank.

The funeral service will be tomorrow at 2 p.m. at Temple Emanu-El, Morris Avenue at Sessions Street, Providence. Burial will be at Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick.

FRANK,
BELLE