EB 3-11-86

Bernice E. Gerstein; active for 45 years on the amateur stage

PAWTUCKET — Bernice E. Gerstein, 67, of 52 Capwell Ave., active many years in theater and garden organizations, died at home yesterday. She was the wife Samuel M. Gerstein.

She was a founding member of the Trinity Repertory Theatre. For 45 years Mrs. Gerstein was a performer, director, writer and producer in amateur theater productions.

She was born in Lynn, Mass., a daughter of Mrs. Eva Finkelman of Providence and the late George Finkelman. Mrs. Gerstein lived in Pawtucket for 15 years and previously resided in Providence for 30 years.

She was a graduate Burdett College, Massachusetts, and also attended Providence College.

Mrs. Gerstein was a member of Temple Emanu-El and its Sisterhood, and was twice past president of its garden club.

A member of the Rhode Island Federation of Garden Clubs, she was editor of its newsletter, chairman of the junior's and awards committee, a member of its executive board and established the Bernice E. Gerstein Scholarship fund. She was corresponding secretary, vice president and past chairman of the life member group of the R.I. Federation of Garden Clubs.

Mrs. Gerstein was a member of the Women's Division of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island, a life member of the Womens Association of the Jewish Home For the Aged, and belonged to the Women's Association of the National Council of Jewish Women, B'nai B'rith, and the Brandeis University Women's Association.

Besides her husband and mother, she leaves a daughter, Mrs. Alva G. Portman of Beachwood, Ohio; a son, Alan D. Gerstein of University Heights, Ohio; a brother, Gerald C. Finkelman of Providence, and five grandchildren.

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

GERSTEIN, BERNICE E.