KERN, SYBIL

PJB 10-1-05

KERN, SYBIL BLISTEIN, 81, ardent liberal, interior designer, art collector and historian, died at home, comfortable and witty to the end, on September 29, 2005. The passing occured a few months prior to the sixtieth anniversary of her marriage to her beloved husband, Arthur.

She leaves him, daughter Ronnie Kern of Santa Monica, CA; sons, David Kern of Camden, ME, and Jonathan Kern of Carmichael, CA, and grandchildren Jonas, Eli, Cody, David, Sasha, and Tyler.

Born in Pawtucket, RI on May 19, 1924, the daughter of Philip and Lena (Melnick) Blistein, she graduated from East (Tolman) High in 1942. She attended Pembroke College on a Pratt-Whitney Engineering Fellowship, and was elected president of her class all four years. She married in December 1945, a few weeks before her graduation with honors. She then moved with her husband to New York City where she worked in the office of Colonial Williamsburg. Early in 1949 she and her growing family returned to Pawtucket, where she lived for the rest of her life.

During the fifties and sixties she was deeply involved in the League of Women Voters and local politics; and at one point considered running for Mayor of Pawtucket. In the late sixties she became a professional interior designer.

Initially collectors of modern art, she and her husband were later intrigued by early American folk art. This was followed by a career in research with publication of many articles on little-known painters in this field.

A Memorial Celebration of Sybil will be held on Sunday, October 2, 2005 at 2:00 P.M. at the Brown Faculty Club, One Magee Street, Providence.

Arrangements by Dyer-Lake Funeral Home, North Attleboro, (508)695-0200.