OSTER, Ruth L.

PJ-B 10-22-1996

Ruth L. Oster, 85; philanthropist, co-founder of A.J. Oster Co.

PROVIDENCE — Ruth L. Oster, 85, of Blackstone Boulevard, a teacher, businesswoman and philanthropist for many years, died Sunday at home. She was the widow of Aaron J. Oster, with whom she had co-founded the A.J. Oster Co. of Providence.



Born in Providence, she was a daughter of the late Harry and Pauline (Greenberg) Leach.

Mrs. Oster was a graduate of the former Rhode Island College of Education, now Rhode Island College, where she had won awards for drama and public speaking. She taught in the Providence public schools before her marriage. She also taught Hebrew in her home to those unable to afford private tutors.

She was a life member of The Miriam Hospital Women's Association, Brandeis University Women's Division and Hadassah. She was a board member of the former Jewish Home for the Aged and the women's division of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island. With the latter group she participated in two leadership missions to Israel and was awarded, in Jerusalem, the Prime Minister's Medal for Distinguished Service to Israel.

Mrs. Oster was a member of the National Council of Jewish Women. She was a longtime contributor to the Massachusetts General Hosppital, The Miriam Hospital, Rhode Island Hospital, and the Rhode Island chapters of the American Heart Association, the American Diabetes Association and the American Cancer Society.

She was an accomplished painter in oils and watercolor, having studied under the late Herman Itchkawich. In 1956 she presented a one-woman show of her work in Wickford.

She leaves two sons, Richard M. Oster of Barrington and Stephen A. Oster of Greenwich, Conn.; a daughter, Judith Gorinberg of Providence; a brother, Max Leach of Providence, and nine grandchildren. She was the sister of the late Oscar A. Leach.

The funeral service will be held tomorrow at 10 a.m. at Temple Emanu-El, Morris Avenue, Providence. Burial will be in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick. ✓

OSTER, Ruth L.

October 20, 1996. Residence: 322 Blackstone Blvd., Providence. Beloved wife of the late Aaron J. Oster. Devoted mother of Richard Oster of Barrington; Stephen Oster of Greenwich, Ct.; and Judith Gonicberg of Providence. Dear sister of Max Leach of Providence. Loving grandmother of 9 grandchildren. Funeral services will be held Wednesday at 10 a.m. at Temple EmanuEl, 99 Taft Ave., Providence. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the American Heart Assn., 40 Broad St., Pawtucket, RI 02860. Shiva will be observed at her late residence Wednesday and Thursday 2-4 and 7-9. The family was assisted with the arrangements by MAX SUGARMAN MEMORIAL CHAPEL, 458 Hope St. (corner Doyle Ave.), Providence.