

May 17, 2002

Dr. Betty Aronson

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Obituaries

Dr. Betty Aronson; established state's first virus laboratory

REHOBOTH, Mass. — Dr. Betty Aronson, 82, of Elm Street, a physician, scientist, and writer, died May 17 at home.

She was the wife of Dr. Stanley M. Aronson, with whom she wrote a column on medical topics for the former *Rhode Island Jewish Herald* and the *Jewish Voice & Herald*. They had been married for 58 years.

Born in Brooklyn, N.Y., the daughter of the late Fred Ellis and Edna-Louise (Shurtleff) Ellis, she had been a resident of New York for many years before moving to Rehoboth in 1970.

Dr. Aronson received her undergraduate degrees from the City College of New York and New York University. She received her medical degree from New York University.

She was trained at the Sydenham, Bellevue and Mount Sinai Hospitals, all in Manhattan, and was a professor of research medicine at the State University of New York College of Medicine until 1970.

In that year she joined the medical faculty at Brown University as a professor of pediatrics and worked full time at Miriam Hospital. She was also on the staff of Rhode Island Hospital.



Dr. Aronson established the first virus-disease laboratory in Rhode Island 31 years ago. She was a member of Temple Beth-El and the Wednesday Club, and a volunteer for Hospice Care of Rhode Island and the Interfaith Healthcare Ministries.

Besides her husband, she leaves three daughters: Susan Symons, of Providence, Lisa Aronson, of Rehoboth, and Dr. Sarah Aronson, of Lake City, Pa.; and three grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held at a later date. Contributions may be made to Temple Beth-El, 70 Orchard Ave., Providence, 02906.