Nancy H. Gewirtz, 59, social worker and activist

PROVIDENCE — Nancy (Horwitz) Gewirtz, 59, an academic and social activist, died Nov. 14. She was the wife of Dr. Henry Gewirtz. They had been married for 35 years.

Born in Boston, she was the daughter of the late Hyman and Silvia (Wolf) Horwitz.

She was brought up in Newton and graduated from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. She earned a master's degree in social work from the State University of New York at Buffalo, and a master's degree in public administration and a doctorate in political science from the University of Connecticut.

For over 25 years, she taught social work at Rhode Island College (RIC) and was chairperson of its master's degree program.

Gewirtz worked with other advocates and members of the legislature and state government for the benefit of the working poor and welfare recipients. She and Linda Katz, an advocate for low-income families, co-founded the Poverty Institute at RIC's College of Social Work.

She spent much time at the State House, often creating holes in the traditional attitudes of the lawmakers and government officials, letting in the light of reason. Known for her ability to get her points across with humor and pragmatism, she accomplished much in her battle against social injustice.

She was honored by many groups for her contributions to the Providence community.

In the *Providence Journal* of Monday, Nov. 15, Elizabeth Burke Bryant, executive director of Kids Count/Rhode Island, the child advocacy organization, said, "She has taught a couple of generations of social workers...and really changed the lives of many of her students." Her legacy will live on in their work on issues of social justice."

Besides her husband, she leaves a son, Aaron Gewirtz of Narragansett; a daughter, Rebekah Gewirtz of Somerville, Mass., and a brother, David Horwitz of Salem, Mass.

Contributions may be made to the Poverty Institute at Rhode Island College, 600 Mt. Pleasant Ave., Providence, RI 02908 or the Pancreatic Cancer Society, (PanCan) 2221 Rosecrans Ave., suite 131, El Segundo, CA 90245.

PJB 11-15-04

GEWIRTZ,
Nancy H. (Horwitz)

November 14, 2004. Beloved Wife of Dr. Henry Gewirtz. Residence 155 Everett Ave., Providence. Dear Mother of Aaron Gewirtz and his wife Ashley, Narragansett and Rebekah Gewirtz, Somerville, MA. Loving Sister of David Horwitz and his wife Susan, Salem, MA. Funeral Service Monday at 12:00 Noon at Temple Beth El, Orchard at Butler Ave., Providence. Relatives and Friends are invited. In lieu of flowers contributions may be made to the Poverty Institute at Rhode Island College, 600 Mt. Pleasant Ave., Providence, RI 02908, or the Pancreatic Cancer Society (PanCan), 2221 Rosecrans Ave., Suite 131, El Segundo, CA 90245. Shiva to be observed at her late residence Monday 7-9 and Tuesday-Wednesday 2-4 and 7-9 PM. The family was assisted