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GORDON, THELMA REBECCA (NEISTEIN)

CRANSTON

GORDON, THELMA REBECCA (NEISTEIN), of Cranston, Rhode Island passed away on Tuesday at the Oak Hill Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Pawtucket.



Mrs. Gordon, born in Kolk, Russia on September 15, 1912, was the daughter of the late Edward H. and Sarah M. (Rog) Neistein. She was the sister of the late Anne Lucille, Samuel and Esther Neistein. She came to Ellis Island in 1920, surviving the progroms of Russia and Poland, and lived in Milford, MA. After graduating Milford High School, she attended the Brooklyn Jewish Hospital School of Nursing. In 1936 she married the late Harry Gordon and moved to Providence, RI. She worked as a secretary for Providence Window Cleaning Co., New England Pest Control, and while a full time wife, mother and care giver for her mother, worked for the Providence Police Department in the Communications Department.

At the age of 62, Thelma went to work for the State of Rhode Island as a Ward Clerk Aide at the Eleanor Slater Hospital, formerly the R.I. State Medical Center, leaving only after an accident disabled her at the age of 88. Thelma was an avid reader and a woman who loved children, and was especially proud of the work she did as a volunteer for CASA, the Court Appointed Special Advocate of the Family Court, where, for over fifteen years she acted as a court appointed guardian for children appearing before the Family Court.

In 1984 CASA honored her as an Outstanding Volunteer. She also gave her time as a Cub Scouts' Den Mother of Pack 20, a volunteer for the Red Cross as a "Gray Lady" and a volunteer at Travelers Aid. She was a Life Member of the Jewish Home for the Aged, the Miriam Hospital Auxilliary and Hadassah as well as a member of Temple Emanu-El and Kulanu along with the Jewish Federation, the Cranston Seniors Guild and the Majestic Seniors Guild. In 1984, at the age of 72 she studied and became a Bat Mitzvah from Temple Torat Yisrael.