JVH 3-21-08

LAPIN, SYLVIA

Sylvia Lapin, 96

WAKEFIELD — Sylvia Lapin, 96, died March 2. Born in New Haven, Conn., she was the daughter of the late Benjamin and Jennie (Barnett) Lapin of New London, Conn.

She leaves her long-time friend, Barbara Mandell of Vero Beach, Fla.; her niece, Beth Lapin and grandniece, Kay Lapin Hammerson, both of Middletown, Conn.; a niece-in-law, Sue Lapin of West Chester, Pa.; and cousins, Amy Hyman of Freehold, N.J., and Carole Kurtz of New London, Conn.

Miss Lapin was a graduate of the Harriet Mills School and studied at Vassar College. A kindergarten teacher for many years in Groton, Conn., she was the head teacher at parent-teacher cooperative nursery schools in New York City and Springfield, Mass. She entered academics as an assistant professor at SUNY in Cobleskill, N.Y., and continued at the University of Rhode Island, where she was also the director of the laboratory nursery school.

Miss Lapin traveled widely. She retired from URI in 1978 after 20 years. She made many lifetime friends among her colleagues and students around the world.

She was president of the Rhode Island Chapter of the National Association for Education of Young Children (NAEYC), served on its national board, was director of seven Head Start programs, and regional Head Start director for Rhode Island and Connecticut. She severed her relationship with NAEYC when she was 92 because she felt the group was not refuting the No Child Left Behind Act.

She was an avid reader. After her retirement, she took up sewing, creating items for friends and family.

Contributions may be made to Hadassah, Attn: Miriam Levy, 50 West 58th St., New York, N.Y., 10019, or Home and Hospice Care of Rhode Island – South Office, 143 Main St., Wakefield, R.I., 02879.