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MORGENTHAU, RUTH

(SCHACHTER)

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Ruth Morgenthau was also a candidate for Congress, challenging former Rep. Claudine Schneider in 1988.

BY GREGORY SMITH
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

Ruth Morgenthau, a political scientist and specialist on world hunger and an unsuccessful candidate for the U.S. House of Representatives against former Rhode Island Rep. Claudine Schneider in 1988, has died. She was 75.

After a long illness, Morgenthau died Saturday night in a hospital in Boston, according to her lawyer and longtime friend, Melvin L. Zurier.



MORGENTHAU

Morgenthau, who was recognized as a global authority on the politics of the developing world, was the Adlai Stevenson Professor Emeritus of International Politics at Brandeis University. She was chairman of the board of PACT, an international-development enterprise with programs in 20 nations that focused on combating hunger, mostly in Africa.

She also was the founder of Food Corps International, a multinational program to help low-income populations learn to help themselves.

A funeral was held yesterday at the Levine Chapel in Brookline, Mass., and she was interred in Mount Pleasant Cemetery in

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Author

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Hawthorne, N.Y.

Morgenthau was recruited to be the Democratic candidate for the House District 2 seat in Rhode Island in 1988, to take on the popular Republican incumbent, Schneider, and lost a competitive race.

"She put on a very spirited campaign," recalled Zurier, who served as her campaign treasurer. "She was a remarkable lady."

Born in Vienna, Austria, in 1931, the former Ruth Schaecter and her family fled the Nazis, going to Cuba and ultimately landing in the United States in 1941 at the age of 10. She graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Barnard College in New York and won a Fulbright Scholarship. She achieved a doctorate in politics at Oxford University in England.

She did field research in sub-Saharan Africa in the 1950s and authored the prize-winning book *Political Parties in French-Speaking West Africa*. She also was the biographer of the late John O. Pastore, U.S. senator from Rhode Island.

After returning from doing her research, Morgenthau gave advice on African policy to the presidential campaign of John F. Kennedy, an experience that sparked her taste for partisan politics. She also advised President Jimmy Carter on foreign policy and was involved in numerous Democratic campaigns.

Morgenthau was a confidante of the late Eleanor Roosevelt, wife of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, served as a member of the U.S. delegation to the United Nations, advised the World Bank and served as a trustee of Barnard College and the University of Massachusetts, which awarded her an honorary degree.

A resident of Saunderstown and Cambridge, Mass., Morgenthau was the wife of Henry Morgenthau III, a TV producer and author; close friend of the former Rhode Island Sen. Claiborne Pell; daughter of the late Henry Morgenthau, secretary of treasury under FDR; and sister of Robert Morgenthau, longtime Manhattan district attorney.

Besides her husband, she is survived by three children, Sarah Morgenthau Russell of Montclair, N.J.; Dr. H. Ben Morgenthau, a pediatrician in San Francisco; and Kramer Morgenthau of Los Angeles, a documentary TV and movie producer, by a sister, Alice Schaecter Barzilay of New York and three grandchildren.

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ELSEWHERE

MORGENTHAU, RUTH (SCHACHTER), of Cambridge, MA, on Saturday, November 4, 2006. Beloved wife of Henry. Loving mother of Sarah Wessel and her husband Carlton, H. Ben Morgenthau and Kramer Morgenthau. Cherished grandmother of Edward, Henry, and Mizia Wessel. Dear sister of Alice Barzilay.

Services at the Levine Chapel, 470 Harvard Street, Brookline, MA, on Monday, November 6 at 10 a.m. Interment at Mount Pleasent Cemetery, Hawthorne, NY. Shiva at her late residence through Friday. In lieu of flowers, remembrances may be made to Pact, Inc. (WORTH), Pact 1200 18th Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20036 or Class of 1952 Memorial Fund, Barnard College Institution Advancement, 3009 Broadway, New York, NY 10027.