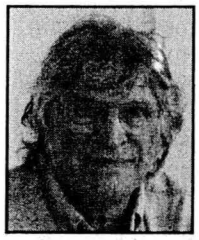
NATHANSON, ABRAHAM
JVH 6-11-10

Abraham Nathanson, 80

NARRAGANSETT – Abraham Nathanson, of Narragansett and Cranston, died at his beachfront home on June 6.



The son of Joseph and Anna Nathanson, he is survived by his three children, Brenda Moore of Devon, Penn.; Dana Nathanson of East Providence; and Rena Nathanson of London, England; four grandchildren; and his former wife and constant friend, Sandra Nathanson. He also leaves two brothers, Morris and Nathan Nathanson, and a sister, Rachel Shuchman. Another sister, Shirley Ruth Nathanson, died in 1969.

He was born Nov. 26, 1929 in Pawtucket, and attended the local public schools, graduating from Pawtucket East Senior High School.



He served in the U.S. Army and then attended Pratt Institute, in Brooklyn, N.Y., where he studied graphic and industrial design.

He later returned to Pawtucket, where he and his brother Morris founded a commercial design studio. He worked several years as a jewelry designer, purchased an historic mill complex in Centerdale and founded George Nathan Design.

He later sold George Nathan Design and spent the following years working on art and photography, and illustrating children's books. He was a celebrated member of the Providence Art Club.

At age 76, he created a new company, Bananagrams, with the help of his daughter, Rena, and her children, Aaron and Ava. The success of his word game was immediate and sensational, and in 2009 Bananagrams was the recipient of the "Game of the Year" award from the Toy Industry Association.

Contributions may be made to Crossroads Rhode Island or the Rhode Island Food Bank.