SPITZMAN, RACHEL

JVH 7-22-11

Rachel Spitzman

JAMESTOWN – Rachel Spitzman died July 3, surrounded by her children, David Spitzman and Francine Fink; her grandchildren, Lisa Angilly, Amy Fink, Andrew Fink, Shana Spitzman, Meredith Lindberg and Emily Spitzman, and her great-grandchildren, James Golden, Arianna Angilly, Samarah Lindberg, Meyer Fink and Ezra Spitzman Waugh. Family, including her late husband Meyer Spitzman, meant everything to her.

The daughter of Fruma and Israel Turgel and sister of Isser and Herschel, she was born in Vilna, Lithuania on Nov. 17, 1922. The only person in her entire family to survive the Holocaust, she was an incredibly courageous person who had the perseverance to continue to live following the atrocities she experienced.

She came to the U.S. after meeting her husband at the Bergen Belsen Displaced Persons Camp. They arrived in New York City with their baby, Francine, and their few belongings; her indestructible spirit got her through it all.

An inspiration to all who knew her, she was an example of fortitude and determination. She outlived those who took her relatives and broke so many families.

Having lived through the Holocaust and being plagued with the memories in the years that followed, she did not have an easy life. In her last years, she laughed and loved a lot, while being an inspiration to her family and friends. "Enjoy your life," she would always tell her family. Her stories and strength will live on.

Donations may be made to the Holocaust Education and Resource Center of RI.