TONKONOGY, Rosamond

12-22-94 RI HER

ROSAMOND HENDEL TONKONOGY

NEWPORT — Rosamond Hendel Tonkonogy, 86, of Gibbs Avenue, owner of the What Not Shop, Franklin Street, for many years, died Dec. 21 at home. She was the former wife of the late Mordecai Tonkonogy.

Born in Buffalo, N.Y., a daughter of the late Albert and Esther (Braff) Hendel, she moved to Newport in the 1940s.

She attended Barnard College, New York City. She was a violinist with the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, and taught piano in Buffalo for several years. During World War II she was a program director for the Jewish Welfare Board, working in the New Orleans area for 1 1/2 years during World War II, and then in Newport, where she covered southern New England.

During the war, she also operated the former Texas Lunch on Broadway. She later opened the Bella Vista Guest Lodge/Manor, which she operated for 42 years. She opened Treasure Island Gift Shop on Spring Street, which moved to Bellevue Avenue and was renamed the What Not Shop. The shop later moved to Franklin Street.

She was director for 17 years of the Community Center on Marlborough Street. She also helped organize the first Mothers March for the March of Dimes and was a charter member of the women's division of the Newport Chamber of Commerce and an honorary member of Touro Synagogue.

She leaves a son, Jason S. Tonkonogy of Newton, Mass.; a daughter, Paula A. Tonkonogy Smith of Newport; five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. She was the sister of the late Jason Hendel and grandmother of the late David A. Smith.

The funeral was held Dec. 23 at the Hoffman Jewish Memorial Chapel, Fowler Avenue. Burial was in Beth Olam Cemetery, Middletown.