PJB 4-4-01 WEIDENFELD Selma

An auto salesman during his hock-

St. Anthony Church, Mineral Spring Avenue. Burial will be private.

Selma Rose Weidenfeld, 91; pioneering perfume chemist

NARRAGANSETT — Selma Rose Weidenfeld, 91, of Pier Village, a pioneer among women in the 1930s in the perfume chemistry field, died on Saturday at home.

She was the wife of the late Daniel Weidenfeld. She was born in Roanoke, Va., on Oct. 30, 1909, daughter of the late Isaac and Esther (Shapiro) Katz. She was born upstairs from her father's five-and-dime store and grew up on the family farm, attending schools in Roanoke.

She graduated from the College of William and Mary, in 1930, with degrees in chemistry and Latin. While in college, she ran the hurdles and enjoyed horseback riding.

After graduation, she moved to New Jersey to work for DuPont, where she was employed for many years.

After leaving DuPont, Mrs. Weidenfeld went to work as a perfume chemist for Rhodia, a division of the French company Rhone-Poulenc, in New Brunswick, N.J., where she manufactured pleasing scents for soap, detergents and cosmetics. She created products to mask smells from canners, renderers and sewage-disposal plants. She also produced leather scents to enhance plastics and "new-car" smells to entice those who were shopping for a used car.

Among her projects at Rhodia was working on the Aromarama process developed by the company for use in the movies. It created a "smell track" so that moviegoers could experience the smells of what they were seeing on the screen. For the 1959 film *Behind the Great Wall*, a documentary on China, Mrs. Weidenfeld created smells to simulate wine, tobacco, different flowers, a burning torch and a trapped tiger.

She was able to duplicate just about any smell, by working with about 2,000 basic scents. "A single smell may have up to 70 ingredients," she once said.

Mrs. Weidenfeld retired from Rhodia in 1975.

After her husband died in the early 1980s, she moved to Narragansett to be near her daughter and grandchildren.

She became an active volunteer in the South County area, with Seniors Helping Others. She worked as a volunteer library assistant, elementary school tutor, and a "Friendly Visitor" for elderly shut-ins. She was a member of the board of Senior Helping Others, and had served for a time as its president.

Mrs. Weidenfeld was also active in the South County chapter of Hadassah, and served as the group's historian.

She enjoyed line dancing and had traveled extensively with the Narragansett Seniors and Elderhostel.

She is survived by her daughter, Iris Falck Donnelly of Saunderstown; a sister, Florine (Frada) Kessler of Silver Spring, Md.; two brothers, Bernard Katz of Myrtle Beach, S.C., and Sol Katz of Nashville, Tenn.; and two grandchildren. She was a sister of the late Sidney and Ralph Katz.

A memorial service in celebration of her life will be scheduled at a later date.