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WOLF, RUTH

PROVIDENCE

WOLF, RUTH HARRIS

91 of Providence died Sunday, August 29, 2010. Born in Worcester, Massachusetts, she was the daughter and only child of the late Samuel and Dorothy Harris. She was the devoted wife of W. Irving Wolf Jr., and beloved mother of son Scott Wolf and his wife Joyce Krabach of Providence. Ruth was predeceased by her beloved son



David Harris Wolf. She is also survived by her beloved daughter in law Dorothy Wolf of Port Chester, NY, beloved grandchildren Jamie Wolf and his wife Kim of Greenville, RI, Scott Gurfein and wife Allison of Manhattan, Heather Gurfein also of Manhattan and by her beloved great grandchildren Morgan and Dylan Wolf and Kyle Botelho.

Ruth began her career as a staff professional for the Girl Scouts of America. A natural social worker, Ruth practiced in this field for several years as a young woman employed by the Army in Atlanta, Georgia during World War II, but she operated as an unofficial but highly effective social worker for all of her adult life, providing informal counseling, networking assistance and encouragement to hundreds, if not thousands of individuals. Ruth was also a teacher for part of her career, having received a Masters in Teaching from Rhode Island College at age 55.

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Fund, and has provided dozens of scholarships for post secondary education over the past several years to deserving Laurelmead workers and their family members.

Beyond her commitment to education and lifelong learning, Ruth was a passionate advocate for the visual and performing arts. She served as President of the Pawtucket Arts Council for several years, expanding the organization's membership and program offerings dramatically. She was also was an active volunteer for the Rhode Island Philharmonic Children's Concerts program.

A consistent advocate for the underdog, Ruth joined Black Atlantans at the back of a public bus during the World War II era of Jim Crow segregation and brought her then 11 year old son Scott in 1964 to a State House debate about establishing a Fair Housing Law for Rhode Island. She displayed her deep belief in social justice in many other ways, including service as a volunteer in the 1970's for the Rhode Island Attorney General's Office Criminal Diversion program for non-violent offenders.

Ruth abhorred superficiality, insincerity and dishonesty and was frustrated at humankind's tendency to perpetuate cruelty and violence.

Throughout her life, Ruth was an outgoing, people oriented person with a quick wit, an impeccable sense of style, natural charisma and eloquent public speaking ability. In many ways, Ruth was a natural politician who could "size up a room" adroitly and "work it"mas-