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DRAZIN

RABBI MOSHE

Rabbi Moshe Drazin dies at 91

*Teacher, shochet, founder of
Chevra Kadisha*

LOS ANGELES — Rabbi Moshe Drazin, 91, formerly a shochet (ritual slaughterer) in Providence, died Aug. 30 in Los Angeles.

A son of the late Rabbi Moshe ben Zvi Hirsh and Sora Mina Drazin, he was married to the late Busia (Bertha) Halperin, who died in 1990.

He was born in 1913 and grew up in Globoka, Poland. He attended several yeshivas, among them the Lubavitcher Yeshiva in Warsaw.

World War II found Drazin and his wife trapped in Poland. They fled just before the Nazis raided their house. For three years, they hid in White Russia in woods, barns and graves. When the war ended, they returned to Vilna barefoot and dressed in rags, only to find their home ransacked and destroyed.

They ended up in Ferenwald, a displaced persons' camp near Munich, where they remained until they were able to secure passage on a ship to America. They landed in New York on July 15, 1946.

Drazin and his wife settled with relatives in Worcester, Mass. He responded to an ad looking for a shochet, and moved to Providence.

Over the next 42 years, Rabbi Drazin served the Providence community as a shochet for the Vaad HaKashrut and later for Greylawn Poultry, Baal Koreh and Baal Tefilah of Congregation Anshe Kovna. He also served as rabbi of Congregation B'nai Zion and Congregation B'nai Yakov.

Rabbi Drazin was a mashpia (mentor), congregational rabbi, teacher, sofer (scribe), mashgiach (kashrut supervisor), cantor and Torah reader.

He was also a student of the previous Lubavitcher Rebbe, Rabbi Yosef I. Schneerson.

He volunteered as the unofficial chaplain of The Miriam Hospital in Providence, visiting patients and monitoring the kashrut of the kitchen. He also served as the unofficial chaplain of the Jewish Home of Rhode Island. He was one of the founders of the Chevrah Kadisha of Rhode Island.

In 1988, he and his wife moved from Providence to live near their son in Los Angeles. In California, Drazin became a respected member of the Chabad community.

He leaves a son in Los Angeles and was also the father of Sarah Shulie, who died in 1952.