GALKIN, Joseph

P.J. 1-22-1999

OBITUARIES

Joseph Galkin, 89, dies, first director of Jewish Federation, resettled refugees

PROVIDENCE — Joseph Galkin, 89, of 355 Blackstone Blvd., the first executive director of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island and a key figure in the resettlement of Jewish refugees from Nazi persecution during the 1930s and 1940s, died yesterday at home. He was the husband of Fredda (Solomon) Galkin, and the late Rosetta (Wasserman) Galkin.

Born in Providence, he was a son of the late Samuel and Pauline (Schendel) Galkin.

Mr. Galkin's concern for those in need stood out among his friends and colleagues, said Steven Rakitt, the executive vice president of the Jewish Federation. "Joe was a pioneer who blazed a trail for Jewish communal professionals throughout the country," Mr. Rakitt said. "He had a vision for a better world, a better community and a better Jewish community. He practiced *tikkun olam* (the Hebrew term for "repairing the world") his entire life."

He was a graduate of Brown University and Columbia University School of Social Work. After graduating, he was a psychiatric caseworker for the Jewish Board of Guardians in New York, the assistant director of the Hawthorne Cedar Knolls School, a field representative for the National Refugee Service, and later, the director of field service, where he played a large role in developing a resettlement program for Jewish refugees in Europe.



He was director of the Jewish Family and Children's Service, now the Jewish Family Service. As director of the agency, he worked closely with other Jewish leaders to establish a central fundraising and planning organization for the Jewish community.

Those efforts came to fruition in 1945, with the creation of the General Jewish Committee, the forerunner of the Jewish Federation, which named him its first executive director. After his tenure in 1976, he was named executive director of the Federation's Endowment Fund, a position he held for 13 years, and remained a consultant. He served as a representative from the Jewish community on the Narragansett Council of the Boy Scouts of America.

In 1949, he was appointed to the Rhode Island Parole Board, which he chaired from 1958 to 1980, and served as chairman of the Rhode Island Committee on Children and Youth from 1961 to 1974. He was president of the Rhode Island Conference of Social Work from 1954 to 1956. He participated in alumni affairs at Brown University, where the Class of 1931 named him chairman of its 25th Reunion Gift Fund. In 1996, he served as class president during his 65th reunion, and established the Joseph Galkin Scholarship.

He received numerous awards, including the B'nai B'rith International for "outstanding community service," the National Committee for Labor Israel and the Rhode Island Jewish Bowling Congress, which in 1973 named him "Rhode Island Jewish Man of the Year."

His passions were fishing, gardening and woodworking.

Besides his wife, he leaves two sons, Richard M. Galkin of Boca Raton, Fla., and Gary L. Galkin of Saunderstown; a brother, Theodore Galkin of Providence; and a grandson. He was a brother of the late Caroline Mamis and Arthur, Ira, Herman and Leo Galkin.

The funeral will be held Sunday at 2 p.m. in Temple Beth-El, Orchard Avenue. Burial will be in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Warwick.

CHANGED NOTICE

GALKIN, Joseph

January 21, 1999. Beloved husband of Fredda (Heyman) Galkin and the late Rosetta (Wasserman) Galkin. Residence: 353 Blackstone Blvd., Providence. Dear father of Richard M. Galkin, Boca Raton, FL and Gary L. Galkin, Saunderstown. Loving brother of Theodore Galkin, Providence and the late Caroline Mamis, Arthur, Ira, Herman, and Leo Galkin. Devoted grandfather of Zachary. Funeral service Sunday, 2PM at Temple Beth-El, Orchard at Butler Avenues. Relatives and friends are invited. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to The Jewish Federation of Rhode Island Endowment Fund, 130 Sessions St., Providence, RI 02906 or the Joseph Galkin Scholarship Fund, c/o Brown University, P.O. Box 1877, Providence, RI 02912. Memorial observance at the home of Mrs. Galkin, 355 Blackstone Blvd. -#445, Providence Monday and Tuesday 2-4, 7-9. Arrangements by MOUNT SINAI MEMORIAL CHAPEL.