PJ-B **Newport** 7-3-198

HELFNER, Benjamin

BENJAMIN HELFNER, 72, of 78 Kay St., an engineer at the Naval Underwater Systems Center for 30 years, retiring in the 1980s, died unexpectedly Wednesday at Newport Hospital. He was the husband of Marian (Danzis) Helfner.

Born in Brooklyn, N.Y., he was the son of the late Samuel and Ruth (Wechsler) Helfner.

Mr. Helfner was a Navy veteran of World War II and a 1950 graduate of Illinois Institute of Technology.

He was past president of Touro Synagogue, and at the time of his death, he was president of the B'nai B'rith and president of the Chevra Kadisha Association of Newport County. He was a 33rd-degree Mason, St. John's Lodge 1.

Besides his wife, he leaves three daughters, Francine Helfner Mitchell of Providence, Dr. Deborah Greenwood of Minneapolis, Minn., and Barbara Cohen of San Diego, Calif.; a son, Robert S. Helfner of Watertown, Mass.; a sister, Shirley Arlen of Phoenix, Ariz; and 10 grandchildren.

The funeral will be held today at 1 p.m. in Hoffman Jewish Memorial Chapel, Fowler Avenue. Burial will be in Beth Olam Cemetery, Wyatt Road, Middletown.