HEIMANN, Hans

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Hans L. Heimann

Holocaust survivor helped other survivors move to Israel

CRANSTON — Hans L. Heimann, 73, of 444 Meshanticut Valley Parkway, a Holocaust survivor who helped other survivors move to Israel after World War II, died yesterday at Miriam Hospital. He was the husband of Mildred (Bromberg) Heimann.

Born in Vienna, Austria, a son of the late Sigmund and Helene (Weiss) Heimann, he lived in Cranston for 13 years, previously living in Providence.

After the war he was a member of the American Joint Distribution Committee, from 1945 until 1951. In that role he helped organize illegal transport ships from Italy to Palestine, now Israel, to bring in Holocaust survivors.

He was the assistant administrator for the Tuberculosis Hospital for survivors in the Italian Alps. He was also commissioned to travel throughout southern Italy to find survivors hidden in insane asylums.

He was a bookkeeper for 25 years, retiring 10 years ago. After retiring he worked part time as a security guard for 8 years, and was a salesman at Benny's Auto Store for 2 years.

He attended Bryant College. He was a member of Redwood Lodge 35 AF & AM.

He was a former editor of the Large Newsletter and wrote articles in the Masonic Freemason newspaper. He also wrote articles about his experiences in the Rhode Island Jewish Herald and the Italian Echo. In April he was an invited guest at the opening of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington.

Besides his wife he leaves a daughter, Rienette Wasserman of Cranston, and three grandchildren.

A Masonic service will be held tomorrow at 11:45 a.m. and a funeral service at noon at the Max Sugarman Memorial Chapel, 458 Hope St., Providence. Burial will be in Sharon Memorial Park, Sharon, Mass.

HEIMANN, Hans L.

June 12, 1993. Residence 444 Meshanticut Valley Parkway, Cranston. Beloved husband of Mildred (Bromberg) Heimann. Devoted father of Rienette Wasserman of Cranston. Loving grandfather of Adam, Lindsay and Tori. Masonic service Monday at 11:45 am followed by Funeral service at 12 noon at the MAX SUGARMAN MEMORIAL CHAPEL, 458 Hope St. (corner of Doyle Ave). In lieu of flowers contributions in his memory may be made to The RI Holocaust Museum, 130 Sessions St., Providence RI 02906. Shiva will be observed at the home of Mr. & Mrs. Arnold Wasserman, 42 West Blue Ridge Rd., Cranston Monday through Wednesday 7-9 pm.

— THE RHODE ISLAND JEWISH HERALD, THURSDAY, JUNE 17, 1993

In Memory: Hans Heimann

by Cindy Halpern

I first met Mr. Heimann through the pages of the *Rhode Island Jewish Herald* as he told his saga to his readers: his journey from Nazi Vienna to freedom in Venice, his adventures as a handsome young man in the midst of Italian hospitality, of friendship and protection from the barbarian threat, the death of his beloved father with memories of his brave mother, and his involvement in helping other Holocaust survivors escape the nightmare and reach the shores of the ancient homeland of the Jews.

My mother's life closely paralleled these footsteps Mr. Heimann described so eloquently. So I easily identified with his writings and bonded with Mr. Heimann, as a friend who shared a common history with my family, a role model I admired and respected.

As a guardian of history, he taught me that one must remember both the evildoers and the heroes of the Holocaust and apply the lessons of the Holocaust to what is happening in the world today.

He believed that he had to defend any minority group that had been judged too harshly by the majority and that only Hashem could pass judgment on individuals' lifestyles.

Not everyone accepted Mr. Heimann's philosophy of life, yet he presented his viewpoints every week in the *Herald*. He was particularly grateful to Anne Davidson, editor of the *Herald*, for allowing him to share his opinions with the readers of the *Herald*.

I express my deepest condolences to his wife, Mildred, his daughter, Rienette, his three grandchildren, and the readers of both the *Jewish Herald* and the *Italian Echo*. He will be missed, but also remembered, by countless readers, including myself, for his humanity, wisdom and insight.