HIRSCH, David

PJ 10-21-1999

DAVID HIRSCH, 69, of Fifth Street, professor emeritus of English and American literature and Judaic studies at Brown University, died Tuesday in St. Barnabas Medical Center, Livingston, N.J. He was the husband of Roslyn (Zipper) Hirsch.

He had been attending his mother-in-law's funeral in New Jersey when he became ill with septic poisoning. Emergency surgery was performed and he died two weeks later from complications.

Born in Brooklyn, N.Y., a son of the late Abraham and Esther (Zipper) Hirsch, he lived in Providence since 1961.

Professor Hirsh was an Army veteran of the Korean War. He received his bachelor of arts degree in 1951 and master's degree in 1953, both from New York University, and his doctorate from Ohio State University in 1961.

Professor Hirsch began his career at Brown University in 1961 as an instructor and became a full professor in 1972. He served as graduate director of the English department from 1972 to 1975 and, from 1978 to 1981, he was chairman of the department and the Nicholas Brown professor of oratory and belle letters in English.

He served on many committees at Brown. In 1966 and 1967, he was visiting associate professor, Bar-lian University, Israel.

Professor Hirsh, a prolific writer, authored and researched numerous books and edited collections and articles. He served as editor-in-chief of Modern Language Studies, a publication of the Northeast Modern Language Association, and edited the Special Holocaust Literature Issue, Modern Language Studies, Fall 1994.

Besides his wife, he leaves a son, Joseph Hirsch of Brooklyn; a daughter, Helene Wingens of West Caldwell, N.J.; a sister, Rosalyn Suchow of Fort Lee, N.J.; and two grandsons.

The funeral will be held today at 1 p.m. from Jewish Memorial Chapel, 841 Allwood Rd., Clifton, N.J. Burial will be in Menorah Cemetery, Clifton.

NYTIMES Oct 27, 1999

David H. Hirsch, 69, a Professor Emeritus

David H. Hirsch, a professor emeritus of English and American literature and Judaic studies at Brown University, died on Oct. 19 at St. Barnabas Medical Center in Livingston, N.J. He was 69 and lived in Providence, R.I.

He had been hospitalized for several weeks for intestinal surgery, his family said.

Professor Hirsch wrote many articles on American literature for such publications as The Sewanee Review, The Southern Review and Modern Language Studies. He was the editor, with Eli Pfefferkorn, of "Auschwitz: True Tales From a Grotesque Land," by Sara Nomberg-Przytyk, a Holocaust memoir translated by his wife, Roslyn. His other credits included "Ideas in the Early American Novel," "Biblical Patterns in Modern Literature," with Nehama Aschkenasy, and "The Deconstruction of Literature: Criticism After Auschwitz."

He is survived by his wife; a daughter, Helene Wingens of West Caldwell, N.J.; a son, Joseph, of Brooklyn; a sister, Rosalyn Suchow of Fort Lee, N.J., and two grandchildren.

HIRSCH, David

David Hirsch, Professor of Literature, 69

FORWARD OCT 1999

FORWARD STAFF

David Hirsch, a professor emeritus of English and American literature and Judaic studies at Brown University, died October 19 at St. Barnabas Medical Center in Livingston, N.J. The cause of death was sepsis. He was 69.

Hirsch grew up in Greenpoint, Brooklyn, the son of Polish immigrants who owned a neighborhood butcher shop. His wife, Roslyn, told the Forward that she had met Hirsh on a neighborhood street in 1949 and that he then became her English tutor. The two were married in 1955. Hirsch received his bachelor's degree from New York University in 1951 and completed his master's degree there in 1953. He received his doctorate in American literature from Ohio State University in 1961. He served as chairman of Brown's English department from 1978 to 1981. Hirsch was a visiting associate professor at Bar-Ilan University from 1996 to 1997.

When Hirsch first came to Brown in 1961 as a professor in the English department, there was very little public dialogue about the Holocaust. It was his wife, a survivor, who ignited Hirsch's interest in the subject. "He didn't understand how people could be so inhuman to each other," Mrs. Hirsch said. He taught his first class in Holocaust literature in 1966 and went on to make Holocaust literature his second area of focus, joining the staff of Brown's Judaic studies program in 1982.

Many of Hirsch's written contributions to the field of Holocaust studies were made in conjunction with his wife. They collaborated on English translations of Holocaust literature from Yiddish and Polish. Their projects included the poems of Avram Sutzkever, the stories of Isaiah Spiegel and a first-person account of the Nazi occupation of Krakow, "Justyna's Narrative."

"David contributed greatly to making more material on the Holocaust available to the English-speaking public," said an associate professor of Judaic studies at Brown, David Jacobson.

Hirsch's other work included the "Deconstruction of Literature: Criticism After Auschwitz," which examined postwar European philosophers' treatment of the Holocaust. At the time of Hirsch's death, he and his wife were at work together on a book titled "The Pillars of Samson," a translation of Sara Przytyk's story written in Polish of the Bialystok Ghetto during the Nazi occupation. Mrs. Hirsch said she plans to see the work through to completion. Hirsch was also working on an anthology of Holocaust literature.

Hirsch is survived by his wife, Roslyn Hirsch of Providence, R.I.; a daughter, Helene Wingens of Caldwell, N.J.; a son, Joseph of Brooklyn; a sister, Rosalyn Suchow of Fort Lee, N.J., and two grandchildren.