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KAPLAN, ROBERT M.

KAPLAN, ROBERT M., of 90 Taber Avenue, Providence, founder and president of Patapak-a packaging manufacturer, died May 31, 2005 after a long illness. He was the beloved husband of Susan (Adler) Kaplan. Born in Sayre, PA, he was the son of the late Lee (Blostein) and Ben Kaplan, radio editor of the Providence Journal.



Kaplan worked as a musician in New York following his education at Providence College. He was the choral director of Finian's Rainbow and High Button Shoes on Broadway as well as choral director of the famous radio and television weekly show "Your Hit Parade". He served in World War II as an Army Medic on warships in Europe and as a musical conductor of the Armed Services Orchestra.

Always maintaining his interest in the musical theater, he was the guest director of many musical shows at Brown University and directed several productions at the Barker Players, the Orleans Arena Theatre and other theatres. He was one of the founders of Trinity Square Repertory Company.

Besides his wife of 42 years, he leaves daughters, Deborah Kaplan Cohen and her husband Norman of Brookline, MA, and Patricia Kaplan Bowen of Providence, a son, Jonathan Kaplan and his wife Martha, of Peachham, VT and 6 grandchildren, Danielle and Amy Cohen, Emma and Olivia Kaplan, Samantha Bowen and Daniel Kaplan. He was the father of the late Bruce Kaplan and father-in-law of the late William Bowen.

The funeral will be held on Friday at 11:00 a.m. at Temple Beth El, 70 Orchard Avenue, Providence, RI 02906 with burial at Temple Beth El Cemetery. Contributions in his memory may be sent to Brown University Medical School Parkinson's Research, Box 1893, Providence, RI 02912 or the Temple Beth El Library Fund. Kindly omit flowers.

Shiva will be observed at his late residence on Saturday from 7-9, Sunday from 2-4 and 7-9 and Monday from 2-4 p.m. Shiva will also be observed at the home of Deborah and Norman Cohen on Sunday and Monday from 2-4 and 7-9 p.m. The family was assisted with the arrangements by SUGARMAN-SINAI MEMORIAL CHAPEL.