KARTEN, ESTHER

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Esther Karten, 87

BROOKLINE, Mass. – Esther Karten, a Jewish educator, died Jan. 11. Born in Winthrop, Mass., she and her late husband, Israel, were among the founders of the Cranston Jewish Center and was the first teacher in its Hebrew School. She taught at Temple Beth-El in Providence for many years. She became the Director of Religious Education at Temple Beth Elohim of Wellesley and then joined the staff of the Bureau of Jewish Education of Greater Boston, where she served until her retirement in 1988 as a consultant to the lay and professional leadership of congregational schools. In retirement, she was an active member of Temple Israel of Boston.

She leaves her children, Carol and David Mersky of Newton, Mass., and Ruth and Norman Spack of Brookline, Mass.; eight grandchildren, Adam Mersky and Abigail Harmon of Needham, Mass., Rebecca and Arthur Sneider of Brookline, Mass., Rachel and Craig Woda of Providence, and Jonathan Spack and Hagar Berlin of San Francisco, Calif. She also leaves seven great-grandchildren, Moriah and Isabel Mersky, William, Zachary and Annabelle Sneider, and Jordan and Elias Woda; her brother and sister-in-law, Reevan and Natalie Levine and her sister, Florence Abramson.