KATZ,
Rabbi Ely

PJ-B 2-10-1998

# Rabbi Ely Katz, 100; Newport cantor of 40 years

Rabbi Ely Katz, cantor at Touro Synagogue in Newport from 1944 until his retirement in 1986, died Feb. 2 on his 100th birthday, in Israel.

Born in Romania in 1898, he studied at a seminary in Romania before coming to the United States with his wife and infant son in 1921.

Before coming to Newport he served as cantor with congregations in Europe, in Savannah, Ga., Terre Haute, Ind., and St. Paul, Minn. At Touro Synagogue in Newport he taught at least two generations of Newport Hebrew School students before retiring from teaching in 1976. Rabbi Katz was ordained in 1977 at the age of 78. In recognition of Rabbi Katz's love of learning and his long service to the congregation, The Rabbi Katz Library was established in the Touro Community Center in 1978. He moved to Israel in 1988.

He leaves one son, Harold Katz in Israel; one daughter, Hannah Schlamowitz of Houston; one sister, Rachello Engler in Israel; three grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

KATZ
Ely

R.I. JEWISH HERALD 2-19-98

# Rabbi Ely Katz Dies at Age 100

Rabbi Ely Katz died on Feb. 8, after having celebrated his 100th birthday on Feb. 2.

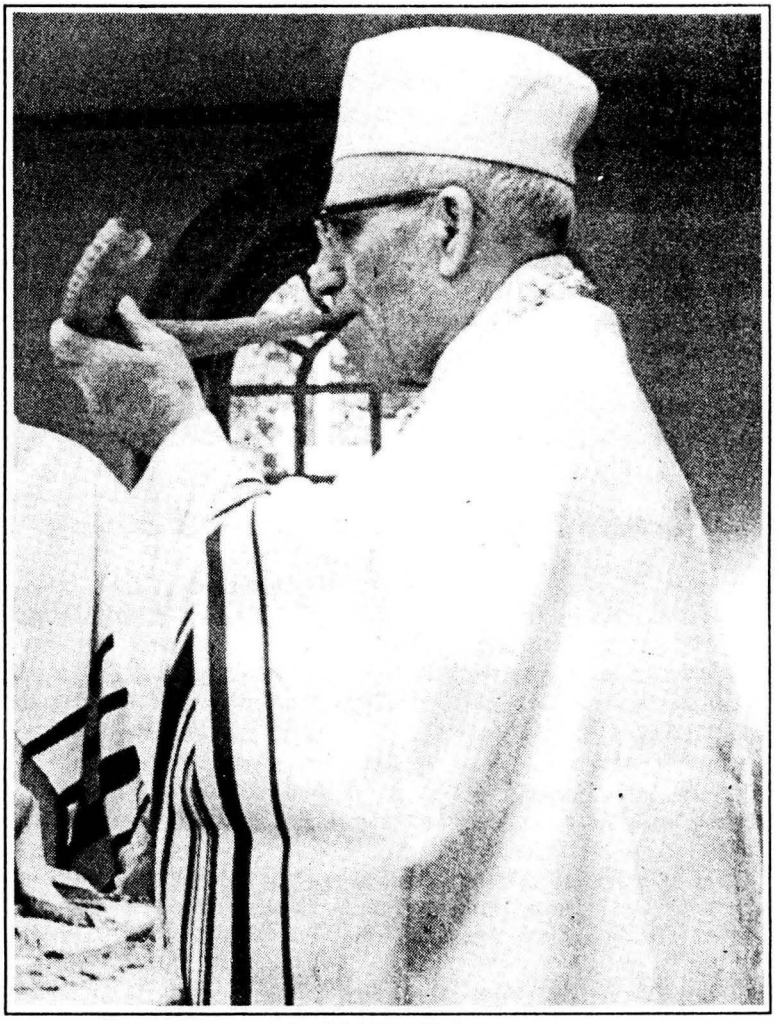
Rabbi Katz served as a cantor at Touro Synagogue in Newport from 1944 until his retirement on Oct. 30, 1986. In 1998 he moved to Kfar Saba, Israel where he died and is buried.

Before coming to Newport he served as cantor and teacher with congregations in Europe, Savannah, Ga.; Terre Haute, Ind.; and St. Paul, Minn. At Touro Synagogue in Newport he taught at least two generations of Newport Hebrew School students before retiring from teaching in 1976. At that time he decided to fulfill a cherished dream to become ordained as a rabbi. He was given a two-year study assignment by Rabbi Savitsky of Boston, a highly esteemed authority in Orthodox Judaism. By sheer desire and determination, Rabbi Katz completed the assignment in less than one year, and was ordained in 1977 at the age of 78, an inspiration to all who knew him.

Rabbi Katz was born in Romania in 1898, the only son and oldest child in a family of seven. He studied at a seminary in Romania before coming to the United States with his wife and infant son in 1921. After the death of his father in 1921, Rabbi Katz and his wife, Mavina, undertook the responsibility of helping to support his family in Romania even during the years of the depression. After World War II they arranged for his mother and sisters to move to Israel.

Rabbi Katz leaves a son and daughter-in-law, Harold and Mimi Katz of Israel; a daughter and son-in-law, Hannah and Max Schlamowitz of Houston, Texas; a sister, Rachello Engler of Israel; three grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, and many friends, both in the United States and in Israel.

In recognition of Rabbi Katz's love of learning and of his long and valued service to the congregation, The Rabbi Katz Library was established in the Touro Community Center in 1978.



Rabbi Ely Katz