KUSINITZ, Bernard

Bernard Kusinitz, 78; active in civic and religious organizations

NEWPORT — Bernard Kusinitz, 78, of 52 Toppa Blvd., owner and operator of Kusinitz Foods & Liquors for many years, died yesterday at home. He was the husband of (Emily Rosenfield) Kusinitz.

Born in Newport, he was the son of the late Max and Dora Kusinitz. Mr. Kusinitz grew up in Newport, where he graduated from Rogers High School. He received his bachelor's and master's degrees from Brown University.

He was an Army veteran of World War II.

He was a faculty member of the Newport Business and Secretarial School and of the United Hebrew School.

He was three times president of the Congregation Jeshuat Israel at Touro Synagogue; president of Judah Touro Lodge No. 998, B'nai B'rith; president of the Newport Zionist District; founder and chairman of the Jewish Planning Council of Newport County; founder of the Newport Extension of the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island; organizer and president of Chevra Kadisha Association of Newport; founder of the Jewish Cemetery Unification Association of Newport; and chairman of the Restoration Committee of the Colonial Jewish Cemetery of Newport of the Society of Friends of Touro Synagogue. He was named B'nai B'rith Man of the Year in 1979.

Mr. Kusinitz was also chairman of the Archives and Museum Committee of Congregation Jeshuat Israel and historian of Touro Synagogue, Judah Touro Lodge and Mason St. John's Lodge No. 1, where he was a 32nd degree Mason.

He was also a member of the Excelsior Lodge No. 49 International Order of the Odd Fellows; member and vice president, board of officers of Rhode Island Jewish Historical Society; member, board of directors of World Affairs Council; member, board of directors of Newport Historical Society; member, board of directors, American Sephardic Federation in New York and a corresponding member of the American Lodge of Research in New York.

Mr. Kusinitz worked for many charitable causes and non-denominational drives such as the Salvation Army, Bonds for Israel, and the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island. He was the Rhode Island State chairman of the American Veterans Committee.

He was a founding member and on the board of directors of the Aristides de Sousa Mendes Society; the chairman of the reception committee honoring President and Mrs. Mario Soares of Portugal upon their visit to Touro Synagogue in 1989. He was organizer and chairman of the committee receiving the flag of Portugal from the Presidential Palace via the Count of Botelho in 1992.

In recognition of his work in promoting closer relations between the Jewish and Portuguese communities, Mr. Kusinitz was honored with membership in the Order of Merit of Portuguese Communities, bestowed by the Portuguese government in Lisbon in 1993. He also received the Order of Prince Henry the Navigator Award from the first lady of Portugal.

Mr. Kusinitz was author of *This History of Judah 'Touro Lodge of B'nai B'rith, Independent Order of B'nai B'rith 1924-1979*, as well as numerous articles on Newport Jewish history which were published in Providence, New York and Belgium.

Besides his wife, he leaves three sons, Barry J. Kusinitz of Cranston, Alan R. Kusinitz of New York City, and David L. Kusinitz of Chicago; a brother, Maury Kusinitz of Fall River, Mass.; a sister, Edith Levin of Coconut Creek, Fla., and four grandchildren.

The funeral will be held Sunday at 2:30 p.m. at the Jewish Memorial Chapel, Fowler Avenue. Burial will be in Beth Olam Cemetery, Middletown.

PJ. B 11-1-1996 ✓

KUSINITZ, Bernard

In Newport, October 31, 1996. Husband of Emily (Rosenfield) Kusinitz. Father of Barry J., Alan R., and David L. Kusinitz. Brother of Maury Kusinitz and Edith Levin. Grandfather of four. Residence 52 Topa Blvd., Newport R I. A funeral service will be held Sunday November 2, in the Jewish Memorial Chapel, Fowler Ave., Newport at 2:30 pm. Visiting hours will be held at the Kusinitz residence, Sunday 7-9, Monday through Wednesday 2-4, 7-9. In lieu of flowers donations may be made in his memory to the Touro Synagogue Archive Fund, 85 Touro Street, Newport R I 02840, or Hospice c/o of R I, 11 King Charles Drive, Portsmouth, R I. 02871.

Bernard Kusinitz '41, Newport, R.I.; Oct. 31. He owned and operated Kusinitz Foods & Liquors in Newport for many years and was a faculty member at the Newport Business and Secretarial School and the United Hebrew School. Named B'nai B'rith Man of the Year in 1979, he was a three-time president of Congregation Jeshuat Israel at Touro Synagogue, founded the Newport extension of the Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island, and was chairman of the archives and museum committee of his congregation. He was author of *The History of Judah Touro Lodge of B'nai B'rith, Independent Order of B'nai B'rith 1924–79*, as well as many articles on Newport Jewish history. He was a U.S. Army veteran of World War II and state chairman of the American Veterans Committee. He is survived by his wife, Emily, 52 Toppa Blvd., Newport 02840; a brother, **Maury** '38; and three sons, including **Barry** '71.

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