HENRY SEGAL

ROCKVILLE. Md. — Henry Segal, 81, rabbi emeritus of Congregation B'nai Israel in Rockville who was active in Zionist groups, died of a heart ailment Sunday, May 27, 1990 at his home in Rockville.

In 1937, Rabbi Segal came to Washington as rabbi of B'nai Israel, then located in Washington. Under his leadership, the congregation grew from about two hundred families to more than a thousand.

He also founded the B'nai Israel Hebrew School. He became known for his oratory and pastoral counseling. When he retired as rabbi emeritus in 1973, he was dean of the Washington Rabbinate.

He was a past president of the Rabbinical Assembly Region of Greater Washington and the Jewish Educators Council of Washington. He also had been vice president of the Washington Board of Rabbis and had served on the steering committee of the Washington region of the National Conference of Christians and Jews.

He also was active in the Jewish Community Council of Greater Washington, the Jewish National Fund and the Louis D. Brandeis Zionist district of the Zionist Organization of America. He had been active in the Zionist movement since the 1930s.

Rabbi Segal was born in Jerusalem, where his father, Baruch Segal, worked as a scribe copying the Torah. The elder Segal came to this country in 1914 and established himself as principal of the Central Torah Talmud School in Scranton, Pa., before sending for his family. The family was caught in Vienna during World War I. It was not until March 1921 that the future rabbi arrived in this country. He spent the remainder of his youth in Scranton.

Rabbi Segal received an undergraduate degree from City College of New York in 1931 and a degree from the theological seminary of Yeshiva University in 1930. He not only attended both schools at the same time, but also worked as a librarian and Hebrew teacher during those years.

In 1931, he became rabbi of a congregation in Newburgh, N.Y. Two years later, he became rabbi at a synagogue in Albany, N.Y., where he served until coming to the Washington area.

Survivors include his wife, the former Yetta Tabachnick of Rockville; two sons, Amiel Segal of Potomac and Daniel Segal of Philadelphia; a daughter, Judith Robbins of Providence, R.I.; two brothers, Joseph Segal of Washinton, and Julius Segal of Bethesda; a sister, Mildred Harris of Scranton; eight grandchildren; and a great-grandchild.

SEGAL, HENRY

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