SMITH, Jacob

Jacob Smith, 85, math teacher and third-generation cantor

B 3-B 4-7-1998

EAST PROVIDENCE — Jacob S. Smith, 85, of Edmund Place Health Center, formerly of Cranston and Providence, cantor *emeritus* of Temple Torat Yisrael, Cranston, and a teacher of mathematics at East Providence High School for 23 years before retiring in 1981, died Sunday at the center. He was the husband of the late Edith (Rotenberg) Smith.

Born in Providence, a son of the late Rev. Meyer E. and Annie (Long) Smith, he lived in Providence for most of his life, moving to Cranston in 1971.

Cantor Smith, whose father and grandfather were also cantors, served his congregation for 25 years before retiring in 1979. He was also the cantor at the former Ohawe Shalom Synagogue, High Street, Pawtucket. With his father's encouragement, he decided to become a teacher and, in his mid-40s, entered Rhode Island College, where he received his master's in guidance and counseling in 1963. He had earned a bachelor's from William and Mary College in Williamsburg, Va., in 1935.

He was a member of the former Providence Fraternal Association and the Majestic Senior Guild. He was a member of Temple Torat Yisrael and its Men's Club; the Cantors' Assembly; the National Education Association; the National, Rhode Island and East Providence Mathematics Teachers Associations; and the Providence and South Providence Hebrew Free Loan Associations. In the late 1940s and early 1950s, he had been a radio announcer on "The Jewish Hour," broadcast on WRIB and other local stations.

He leaves two sons, Michael D. Smith of Warwick and Robert M. Smith of Barrington; a daughter, Sondra Meyer of Sacramento, Calif.; four sisters, Gertrude Kantrowitz of Jamaica Plain, Mass., Eva Zucker of Pawtucket, and Miriam Brown and Sarah Friedman, both of Deerfield Beach, Fla.; 10 grandchildren, and a great-granddaughter. He was the father of the late Alan Paul Smith, and brother of the late Abraham I. Smith.

The funeral service will be held tomorrow at 2 p.m. at Temple Torat Yisrael, 330 Park Ave., Cranston. Burial will be in Lincoln Park Cemetery, Post Road, Warwick.

SMITH, Jacob S.
Cantor Emeritus of
Temple Torat Yisrael

April 5, 1998. Residence Edmund Place Health Center, East Providence, formerly of Juniper Dr., Cranston. Beloved Husband of the late Edith (Rotenberg) Smith. Devoted Father of Sondra (Smith) and Ronald Meyer of Sacramento, CA, Dr. Robert N. and Patricia Smith of Barrington, Michael D. and Marilyn Smith of Warwick and the late Alan Paul Smith. Dear brother of Gertrude Kantrowitz of Jamica Plain, MA, Eva Zucker of Pawtucket and Miriam Brown and Sarah Friedman, both of Deerfield Beach, FL. and the late Abraham I. Smith. Loving grandfather of Joshua, Benjamin and Daniel Meyer, Dr. Michelle (Smith) and Manuel Goncalves, Dr. Nicole (Smith) and Matthew Steckler, Sharon and Danielle Smith and Jeremy, Adam and Joel Smith. Adored great grandfather of Alexa Steckler. Funeral Services Wednesday 2 p.m. at TEMPLE TORAT YISRAEL, 330 Park Ave., Cranston, RI. In lieu of flowers contributions in his memory may be made to Temple Torat Yisrael or your favorite charity. Shiva will be observed at the home Dr. and Mrs. Robert N. Smith, 3 Martha Circle, Barrington, Wednesday 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. and Thursday 1 p.m. to 8 p.m. Arrangements by The Brezniak-Rodman Funeral Directors, 1251 Washington St., West Newton, MA (1-800-554-2199).