STERN, Rabbi Malcolm

# Rabbi Malcolm Stern, 78

Rabbi Malcolm Stern died at age 78 on Jan. 5 in New York City. Rabbi Stern revitalized Jewish genealogy in 1960 when Hebrew Union College published his book *American Families of Jewish Descent.* The book's third edition, *First American Jewish Families*, was issued in 1991, listing 50,000 names in its 600 genealogies of families settling in America from 1654-1840.

Stern was born in Philadelphia and graduated from the University of Pennsylvania and the Hebrew Union College. He was ordained as a rabbi in 1941 and served as an Army Air Force chaplain during World War II.

He also served as rabbi of Norfolk's Congregation Ohef Shalom from 1947-1964 before creating the placement office for the Central Conference of American Rabbis, running that office from 1964-1980.

Stern was a former president of the American Society of Genealogists, the Jewish Genealogical Society (of New York), and the Jewish Historical Society of New York.

At the time of his death, Stern was adjunct professor of American Jewish history for the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion and genealogist (since 1960) of the American Jewish Archives. He also advised researchers and was on the lecture circuit with bookings two years in advance.

Stern was known for his kindness and generosity, and genealogists depend on the cadre of historians he trained so well. His students carry on his legacy, training new genealogists, gathering information, publishing journals.

Stern is survived by his wife of 52 years, Louise Bergman Stern, and his brother, Edward Stern. He is also survived by more than 50 genealogy societies and untold numbers of students worldwide. ■