

to Temple Beth El

Edward L. Weisberg of Edwards Street, a devoted member of Temple Beth El in Portland, died Oct. 11, 2000, in a local hospital. He was 74.

Born in Bangor, a son of Samuel M. and Rose Rodgick Weisberg, he attended schools in Bangor and the Boston area, and graduated from Boston Latin High School. Deeply religious and active in Judaism even as a boy, he had wanted to join the Zionist movement in Israel but was ultimately dissuaded by his mother, his family said.



Edward Weisberg

He attended Boston University and Hebrew Teachers College, completed a year of study at Portland University Law School and was licensed as a certified public accountant in 1951.

He served in the Army in Europe and the Pacific Ocean during World War II.

Mr. Weisberg married Rita Schwey in 1952 and the couple moved to Portland. Immediately, Mr. Weisberg joined Temple Beth El.

Along with his family, "that was a big part of his life," said his son, Jay H. Weisberg.

Mr. Weisberg served in several jobs for the synagogue.

He was a vice president, chairman of the board, treasurer and a lifetime director. He was also a chairman of religious affairs and budget committees, and taught weekend Hebrew school for several years.

"Whatever he told you (of Judaism) you could bet on it," said Kurt Messerschmidt, cantor emeritus at Temple Beth El.

Mr. Weisberg was so knowledgeable about his faith and devoted to the temple that he was often chosen to lead memorial services at Cedars Nurs-

ing Care Center in Portland, a Jewish nursing home. He also led prayers at the temple when rabbis weren't available, his family said.

"Rabbis knew if they weren't there, Uncle Eddie would take over," recalled Mr. Weisberg's niece, Karen Lerman.

Mr. Weisberg chanted the Maftir at Temple Beth El on Monday as part of Yom Kippur.

He was a member of the Masons, American and Maine societies of public accountants and Hebrew Free Loan Society. He was also a member and past president of Vaad HaKasruth, and a member and past quartermaster of Jewish War Veterans.

Mr. Weisberg was employed for 39 years with the Internal Revenue Service. Following his retirement, he worked as a certified public accountant with Earl Jackson Associates in South Portland, where he was known for his intelligence, kindness, and high principles. He was also known for both his dry wit and Groucho Marx impression. Said longtime friend and associate Earl Jackson, "He could always make us laugh, I know that."

Surviving are his wife of 48 years, Rita Schwey Weisberg of Portland; a son, Jay H. of Portland; a daughter, Susan M. DeLaRosa of Portland; a brother, Bernard of Los Angeles; and a grandson, Alvin L. Weisberg.

A funeral service will be held at 1:30 p.m. today at Temple Beth El, 400 Deering Ave. Burial will follow in Temple Beth El Memorial Park. A period of mourning will be observed at 106 Edwards St., Sunday night through Tuesday night. Arrangements are by Jones, Rich and Hutchins Funeral Home.

PASSAGES

Each day the newspaper selects one obituary and seeks to learn more about the life of a person who has lived and worked in Maine. We look for a person who has made a mark on the community or the person's family and circle of friends in lasting ways.