

Rabbi Julius Shuback

Rabbi Julius Shuback of West Bloomfield, Mich., formerly of East Chicago and Merrillville, Ind., passed away Sunday, March 13, 2005. He was 83.

Julius Shuback was born in Koblenz, Germany. He received his early rabbinical training at the Yeshiva in Frankfurt am Main. His father, Joseph Schubach, died of a heart attack on Kristallnacht, and young Julius was forced by the Nazis to bury his own father. Julius was the only member of his immediate family to flee Nazi Germany and settle in America. His mother and sister died in the gas chambers at Auschwitz.

After a brief stay in New York, Rabbi Shuback moved to Chicago, where he furthered his rabbinic studies at the Hebrew Theological College. While in Chicago, he met Jewel Soloski, whom he married in 1943. They were married for 60 years.

The Shubacks spent most of their lives in East Chicago, Ind., where Rabbi Shuback served as spiritual leader for Congregation Beth (later B'nai) Sholom for close to 50 years. The synagogue was small, and he served in numerous roles — rabbi, cantor, teacher, and sometimes janitor and maintenance man.

Perhaps his proudest achievement was the training of numerous young men and women for their B'nai Mitzvot. He was the first Conservative rabbi in northwest Indiana to perform Bat Mitzvahs. His Bar Mitzvah boys led the davening and read haftorahs regularly on Shabbat mornings, well after their Bar Mitzvah day.

Rabbi Shuback was the voice of the Jewish Community in East Chicago. He served as a friend and confidante to the city mayors and other officials. When the

original Beth Sholom voted to merge with two other Conservative congregations in northwest Indiana and relocate to Hammond, Rabbi Shuback and approximately half of the congregants decided to reorganize and remain in East Chicago as B'nai Sholom.

In order to support the existence of a synagogue in East Chicago, the city employed Rabbi Shuback in a part-time position to supplement his congregational work. He served in this dual capacity for approximately 15 years.

He received numerous awards and citations for meritorious work from both the northwest Indiana Jewish community and the City of East Chicago.

Rabbi Shuback is survived by daughter and son-in-law, Joyce Hertz and A. J. Petryna of Highland, Indiana; son and daughter-in-law, Fred and Mindy Shuback of West Bloomfield, Michigan; and grandchildren Adam Rosenbloom, Rivian Hertz and Marissa, Jeremy and Andrea Shuback. His wife, Jewel Soloski Shuback, preceded him in death in 2003.

The funeral service will be at 1 p.m. Monday at Downs Funeral Home, corner of Ogden Avenue and North 19th Street, Superior.

Interment will be at the Superior Hebrew Cemetery in Superior. Arrangements by Hebrew Memorial Chapel of Oak Park, Mich., and Downs Funeral Home of Superior.

Contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society, Attn: WEB, P.O. Box 102454, Atlanta, GA 30368-2454; to the Peter and Dorothy Brown Memory Care Pavilion, 6720 W. Maple Road, West Bloomfield, MI 48322; or to the charity of one's choice.