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 Editor and Publisher . . . . . Jack Tell  
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 and Barney Glazer, Harry Golden, Tina Werner,  
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## Editorial Meeting Teacher Shortage

Jewish education in the United States is facing a serious crisis. Approximately 600,000 children currently are attending formal Jewish schools -- representing about half of all school-age Jewish children. Yet the number and quality of their teachers has failed to keep pace. Shockingly, the number of teachers who enter the field of Jewish education each year is less than half the estimated 800 needed -- and even many of those who do enter the field lack adequate preparation to do the essential job in our increasingly complex world.

Everyone has been talking about the problem, but little has been done about it so far.

There is, therefore, cause for rejoicing in Yeshiva University's announcement of establishment of a new four-year-tuition free college with experimental approaches designed to meet the critical shortage of qualified educators in Jewish schools.

Made possible by a generous gift of \$1,250,000 from philanthropist Jakob Michael in memory of his late wife, Erna, the Erna Michael College of Hebraic Studies will, in the words of Yeshiva University president Dr. Samuel Belkin, offer "a distinct departure from the current programs of Jewish teacher education in the United States."

Dr. Belkin has said that a major cause of the shortage of teachers in Jewish education stems from the fact that most students in today's Hebrew colleges carry a full secular program in another institution in addition to Hebrew teacher training studies. This is a perceptive observation. What is needed then -- again in the words of Dr. Belkin -- "is heightened focus on one academic professional goal -- preparation for Hebrew teaching."

One of the most laudible goals of the Erna Michael College of Hebraic Studies is its intention to provide all students with full-tuition scholarships for the entire course of studies, including schooling and residence during the year in Israel and the summer tri-mesters. With students required to commit themselves to full-time employment in Jewish education for at least five years after graduation, the dreadful waste of education that has cheated many children of their justified expectations can be averted.

Development of highly motivated teachers practiced in the use of modern educational techniques should be the goal of all teacher training colleges. We share Dr. Belkin's hope that the new college will develop a program so strong that it will be emulated by teacher training schools generally.

A heritage, like love, grows when it is shared.

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## Our Jewish Heritage

Extracts from "The Graphic History of the Jewish Heritage." Edited by P. Wollman-Tsamir. Published by Shengold Publishers and Foundation For A Graphic History of Jewish Literature.

### 10. SAMUEL

### שמעון הרמתי



Samuel anoints David as king in the presence of his seven brothers.

"Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brethren; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David" (1 Sam. 16:13).

Samuel was the son of Elkanah\* and the last judge of Israel. As a child he served in the Temple at Shiloh, where he had been brought by his mother. There the prophetic spirit came upon him and he foresaw that the house of Eli would be destroyed because of the sins of the priest's sons (1 Samuel 3). When Samuel reached manhood he attained fame as a prophet throughout the land. Since Shiloh was destroyed and the nation lacked a religious center, he circuited the sanctuaries of Bethel, Gilgal and Mizpah, guiding the people in religion and uniting them politically.

The threat that the Philistines and the Ammonites presented to Israel led the heads of the people to ask Samuel to choose a king. The prophet felt that a monarchical system was tantamount to slavery and, moreover, he looked upon the request as an act of rebellion against God, who was the sole ruler of Israel and always provided leaders (judges) for the people when the need arose. Nevertheless, Samuel acquiesced and anointed Saul. However, when Saul twice failed to carry out God's commands (1 Samuel 15), Samuel despaired of him and secretly anointed David.

Samuel renewed prophecy in Israel. As a young man, seeing that visions were infrequent among the people (1 Samuel 3:1), he established schools for prophecy in Ramah (19:18-24).

Samuel expressed the view that ritual worship alone is not valued and that good actions are more important than ritual worship in the service of God. "Hath the Lord as great delight in burnt-offerings and sacrifices, as in hearkening to the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams" (15:22-23). His disdain for gifts and bribes is attested to by his challenge to the people: "Witness against me before the Lord . . . whose ox have I taken?" (12:3). The sages declared that in some respects Samuel was greater than Moses. While Moses told the children of Israel: "When they have a matter, it cometh unto me" (Exodus 18:16), Samuel exerted himself and "went out to the people" (Yalkut Shimoni, Samuel, §111.12). The sages also pointed out that while Moses said: "I have not taken one ass from them," Samuel would not hire one, even if its owner was willing to rent it.

According to Maimonides, Samuel received the tradition from Eli.

LONDON (WNS) Formation of a national commission dedicated to implementing the recent Vatican declaration on Jews, aimed at bettering relations between the Catholic Church and the Jewish religion, was announced by John Cardinal Heenan, Archbishop of Westminster.

Heading the commission will be Christopher Hollis, a Catholic writer and journalist who is an advocate of liberal Catholicism.

## TELL TALES

"One Man Plus The Truth  
Constitutes A Majority"

BY JACK TELL



## Host with the Most

The last time we were in Carson City, Gov. Grant Sawyer draped an arm over this writer's shoulder and said that our proposal at the time was going to save the State of Nevada a great deal of embarrassment.

That was back in 1961, when Reno was calling Las Vegas cheap and the southern city countered by refusing to go along with an ordinary state exhibit at Seattle's World's Fair. We had suggested a Mark Twain museum, which would be representative of the entire state. The governor was wholeheartedly in favor of the project, especially when he learned we had the financial backing of the owners of the largest hotels.

But we were fresh out of New York at the time, a neophyte in the ways of the West. Politics reared its ugly head, and before the museum proposal gained momentum, others created a maze of obstacles to so confuse the issue that the project and all other suggestions were lost in committee meetings and conferences. But that is another story.

Last weekend we were in Carson City again, this time as dinner guests of the same governor and his family. With our charming wife, Bea, and some 2,000 others, who had accepted the governor's invitation (at \$100 per couple), we gathered at the kick-off rally to raise funds for his campaign for re-election to a third term.

It was an ideal dinner party, with the food edible, the drinks long and the speeches short.

Carson City, the capitol of Nevada, is geographically adjacent to Reno in the northern portion of the state, some 450 miles removed from the populous Clark County, where Las Vegas, North Las Vegas, Henderson and Boulder City are located. About 200 hearty souls trekked to the affair, via plane, auto and bus, the latter an eight hour trip, that included your writer.

A third of a day is a long time in the seat of a bus. So between reading Abram Sachar's "A History of the Jews" which our old New York Times buddy Harry Brandwein had sent us some time ago, and dropping off for an occasional snooze, we conversed a bit with those nearest.

Johnny West and Henry Miller from the Voice were there, along with Mal Harris of KLAS-TV, and his lovely wife. Across the aisle sat Bob Free, deejay of KLAS Radio. He was accompanied by his wife, Anne, who turned out to be the daughter of our former managing editor over at the Las Vegas Sun, Joe McLain.

Anne is the type of young lady who speaks her mind. She looked 16, although she is the mother of a two year old lad. She wore a Colleen Moore hairdo, if you remember, pitch black with bangs way down the front. Her expression of indignation when the bus stopped at its destination, an immense complex of retail stores, alone was worth the long trip. Anne sat forward in the seat as the bus pulled up, pursed her lips, squared her jaw and in dismay, exclaimed: "A shopping center! And I told my mother we were going to dine at the governor's mansion."

The shopping center turned out to be a mall that looked the length of Carson City. Here, without kitchen or service facilities, the affair went off without a hitch. Waitresses popped up from nowhere and catered to each of the diners like it was the Waldorf Astoria in New York City. The food came up piping hot or ice cold, and whoever planned the courses, cemented good will and lasting friendships for our host, Gov. Sawyer, which was the purpose of the occasion.

Despite the largest gathering ever for a sit-down dinner in Carson, despite the unconventional site, despite the wearisome trip, this writer thoroughly enjoyed every minute of the two day excursion and we are most grateful for being invited. Gov. Sawyer is to be commended for not overlooking the lightest cause for inconvenience from the outstanding h'or d'ourves tables, to the congeniality of the bartenders to the pleasantries of our sleeping quarters in the brand new City Center motel. A thoughtful prelude, was the cocktail party at executive Richard Ham's home, where we met Jackie Gaughan, Z. Louis and a host of others from Las Vegas.

Hovering over us from start to finish like a mother hen, was the impressionable Joy Hamann, the former Review-Journal ace reporter, whose wit, charm and personality were exceeded only by her good looks, manners and proficiency in drawing beer.

We agree with U.S. Sen. Alan Bible, who exclaimed: "If anyone told me this could happen in Carson City, I'd say they're crazy."

A rabbi told a joke and listeners asked, all present laughed -- except "God forbid," he retorted one Jew who was dead-serious. "I don't have to laugh. I belong to another congregation." "What's wrong with you? Are you ill?" other listeners asked.