

# LAS VEGAS ISRAELITE

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## A Living Memorial

By: Greer Fay Cashman

Israel, by virtue of her battle-torn history, is a land of monuments. In solitary country areas, bereft of buildings, the traveller suddenly comes across a statue, a cluster of rocks or a simple tombstone bearing the inscription "To the memories of the brave men who fell here defending our homeland."

But bricks and mortar do not really reflect the aspirations of those who laid down their lives for the survival of the nation. One of the first people to realize how much greater is the significance of a living memorial, was Ze'ev Schickler, founder and director of Jerusalem's Israel Goldstein Youth Village.

Here, during the siege of Jerusalem in the War of Independence, 32 Hagana men died in fierce clashes with the enemy. Schickler, then a young army captain in the unit which surveyed the field in the aftermath of the battle, conceived that here, he would make a home for the survivors of an even more horrific war.

Schickler did not envisage an orphanage for the children of the Holocaust. They had been through enough pain and torment. He was determined that they would not be institutionalized, but would live in an atmosphere which would help them to develop the maximum of their potentials emotionally, scholastically and athletically.

It was a time when Israel was facing one of the most severe of her economic crises, a time when there was not enough food to feed the population, a time when dreams were necessary to hold off the starkness of reality.

But Schickler remained undaunted. He travelled to the Youth Aliya transit camps all over Israel, to meet the children who would be the pioneers of his ambitious project. The first children were brought to a grim, desolate home on the slope of a hill, near the Jordanian border. There was no electricity, and amenities of any sort were negligible. But this darkness, was not the darkness of the ghetto. This was a transitory darkness which would pass as sunlight filtered into the lives of these children.

Schickler gave them something which some of them had never had before. He gave them a sense of belonging -- and with it, came a desire to achieve. All education imparted at the Village is done in a spirit of creativity and mutual endeavor. Schickler is a great believer in beauty, and has encouraged his children to at least appreciate beauty. If nature has not endowed them with the capacity to make a contribution to it.

He has given them a richer and fuller life than is experienced by most children from well-to-do households; and even more important, he

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has given them a sense of values so that they are well prepared to meet the challenges of the world outside, once they graduate from the Village.

Just as he has not failed them, Schickler's children have not failed him. They have been the founders of Nachal settlements in Israel's border areas, and they have distinguished themselves in institutions of higher learning and in the Army.

Some of them, to Schickler's personal pride and sorrow, have followed the same path as the men in whose memory their Village was established. "In all other countries of the world," he muses sadly, "pupils go to the funerals of their teachers. Here, after each war, we, the teachers, go to the funerals of our pupils."

But grief over one child does not distract him from the needs of another. No-one will ever quite be able to evaluate Ze'ev Schickler's personal contribution to the progress and achievements of the State of Israel, but it can truthfully be said that whenever one of Schickler's children distinguishes himself in any way, some credit must go to Schickler himself, whose example of "Follow Me" is reflected every day all over Israel by his children, who in their own individual patterns, walk in his footsteps.

## Parable About Jerusalem

BY RABBI SAMUEL SILVER

Parables were not invented in the New Testament.

The New Testament parables are a by-product of the stories in Jewish literature, the Bible and the Talmud.

The story of Noah and the Ark is a parable which tells us simply that all mankind is in one boat, brother, that corruption anywhere may spread until it threatens the security of the world itself.

Often the most profound truths are packaged in a seemingly simple story. In New York City Rabbi Harvey Tattelbaum capsulized the Jerusalem story in a brief fantasy that even a child could understand. Wrote the rabbi:

"Tommy had a lovely bike. Some of the kids around the block took it away from him and wouldn't let him use it. When he grew up he got strong enough to get it back. The rest of the kids felt that he had no real right to it. Tommy felt it was his and used it as if it were. The rest of the kids decided unanimously that the bike belonged to the whole block and not to Tommy alone. Tommy paid

## WASHINGTON DATELINE

BY TRUDE B. FELDMAN

### ISRAELITE'S WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENT (Continued from Page 1)

soloist with Leonard Bernstein and the New York Philharmonic.

Tucker had endowed several sizeable scholarships at Israeli colleges and universities, and was one of the principal sponsors to the Alyn Crippled Hospital in Jerusalem.

The first star of the opera and concert worlds to visit the Vietnam fighting zone, Tucker conducted Passover "Seder" services in Saigon in 1967 and gave concerts at military posts and hospitals throughout the war area on a two-week trip made at his own expense. Later that year, while concertising in Israel, he was caught in the Arab-Israeli hostilities and stayed on to perform for Israeli troops on the fighting lines.

In 1963, while on a concert tour of Israel, Tucker officiated at Sabbath Services at the Great Synagogue in Tel Aviv. The aisles were jammed with people. Firemen wearing prayer shawls over their uniforms were called in to maintain order. At the end of the ritual, hundreds formed a procession behind Tucker through the downtown streets of Tel Aviv as he led them singing Sabbath hymns.

Still an ordained cantor, entitled to perform weddings and funerals, Met Star Tucker had foregone all opera and concert engagements twice a year to return to the ministry for the High Holydays and for Passover "Seder" Services.

Until his death, he served as cantor at the Park Synagogue in Chicago's Sheraton Hotel. He had formerly performed these services at The Concord Hotel in Kiamesha Lake, New York.

When Richard Tucker performed at a White House State Dinner during the Nixon Administration, the tenor and his wife Sara were given a personal guided tour of the Executive Mansion by Mr. Nixon himself. The President also thanked Tucker for his "delightful and grand" performance after which they chatted about their respective families.

Two nights later, at another State Dinner (in honor of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi of India), Nixon -- in his after-dinner toast -- recalled that chat with Tucker. He said: "I'm reminded of the fact that just two nights ago, we heard Richard Tucker sing here. Afterwards, we went to our living quarters and talked at length. He told me about his sons. One is a doctor; one, a lawyer; another, a stockbroker. "I asked Mr. Tucker, 'But, no tenor, no singer?'"

"He said, 'No, Mr. President, you'll find that in the field of music, it happens only rarely that the musical father has a musical son or daughter....'"

Mrs. Nixon told this writer that Richard Tucker's performance was "magnificent -- it couldn't have been better...."

Later, at Washington's Mayflower Hotel, Richard Tucker related that the Nixons were exceptionally warm in their greetings and hospitality, and that he considered it a rare privilege to perform for them.

Although Tucker had performed at the White House for other Presidents, it was the first meeting of the Nixons and the Tuckers.

Sara Tucker enthused: "The evening was thrilling. Knowing how busy the Nixons are, it was gracious of them to take extra time with us...."

no attention and took excellent care of the bike, and even let all the others ride it whenever they asked. But he kept it because he owned it and loved it and longed for it and had even hurt himself in getting it back. He knew that if he were the one to take care of it, it would be kept well for himself and for everyone else. Some people were angry with Tommy for his stubbornness. But he still continued to do what he felt was right. He never let the bike go again."

Rabbi Tattelbaum appends to his parable the words: "If I forget thee, O Jerusalem, let my right hand wither, let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth."

NEW YORK (WNS) -- In an effort to help bring in investment capital to Israel, the Zionist Organization of America has announced a program to form Israeli Investment Clubs throughout the United States.