

IN MEMORIAM DAN VOGEL (1927-2015)

Born in Brooklyn, NY, in 1927, Dan Vogel was raised in Jersey City, NJ, in the days when its scant Jewish community supported an inadequate after-school Talmud Torah. He returned to Brooklyn to join Young Israel of Boro Park and earn a BA degree from Brooklyn College. The first inspired him to remain observant, the second to become an instructor of college English. He earned a PhD from New York University in 1956, writing on Melville's mesmerizing novel about good and evil, *Moby Dick*, and is still considered one of the most authoritative students of Melville's thoughts.

Dan was appointed instructor of English at Yeshiva College, and taught there for 24 years. He rose to the rank of Professor of English and also served as first Dean of Stern College (1957-1967), admired to this day by many of its early alumnae. His unique Jewish insights infused works such as his definitive biography of Emma Lazarus, the American Sephardic poet whose sonnet, *The New Colossus*, is inscribed at the base of the Statue of Liberty, and *Mark Twain's Jews*. Even his works on the nature of tragedy and on literary style were enriched with insights drawn from his Jewish background.

After making aliyah in 1973, he was appointed Professor of English and Chair of the Department at the Michlalah-Jerusalem College for Women, where he played a prominent role in improving the way teachers of English were trained. Partial retirement came in 1988 and final retirement in 1995, although he never gave up his lifelong literary interests. A period of creative inspiration produced more than a dozen delightful short stories under the title of *Bikurim: Stories of the Shtetl*, which are posted at <http://jewishstoryteller.blogspot.com>

Dan Vogel was a frequent contributor to the *Jewish Bible Quarterly*. His articles were masterfully crafted and his Jewish insights were informed by a rich knowledge of world literature. One might, for example, note his use of Milton's *Paradise Lost* to enrich the Genesis story in his "Eve: The First Feminist." He became an active associate editor of the *JBQ* in 1997, his editorial comments helping other authors to hone their contributions.

Dan was married for over 60 years to Sybil (Sarah) nee Ehrenfeld, who passed away some four years ago. Thereafter he faced adversity and failing

health with an infectious optimism and unshakable faith. He is survived by two sons, a daughter, twelve grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Yehi zichro barukh

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