

# BONNIE GRAGSON HONORED BY B'NAI B'RITH

## Barney Glazer's 'HOLLYWOOD HOTLINE'

Recently in Manila, television and motion picture actor Nehemia Persoff worked in Universal's World Premiere two-hour movie for TV, "destination Mindanao," starring George Maharis and the studio's promising contractee, Willie Kuppman, a Dutch girl, not Jewish.

"It's a horrible thing to say," admitted Persoff, a native-born Israeli, "but the world pattern of disaster has been following in my wake.

"When I left India, floods washed out extensive areas. One week after I left Sicily, terrible earthquakes caused wide damage. After working in Acapulco, earthquakes also struck heavily. It is now exactly one week since I left Manila. Today, I learned that a terrible fire gutted many square miles of the city."

For lack of a better moral, Persoff should encourage an invitation from North Vietnam to make a brief personal appearance. Maybe we've discovered our secret

weapon to wrap up this war in a hurry.

The celebrated actor also thought it was quite a coincidence that when he arrived in Manila for "Destination Mindanao," the bellman showed him to his room, turned on the radio, and the first song Persoff heard in the Philippines was not the tiny nation's national anthem but "Fiddler on the Roof."

That night, the Universal TV movie producer, Jack Leewood, and Persoff visited a nightclub, The Flamenco, where the woman proprietor sang. That was the floor show.

A patron requested "Jerusalem of Gold," a stirring tune that had won a song-writing contest when the Mid-East war struck on June 6. After Israel had occupied Jerusalem, joyous Israelis reached out for an available song with an appropriate title. "Jerusalem of Gold" fell heir to the crown.

They sang it around the clock into an instant hit.

This situation invited Persoff's observation, "It's really amazing how a tiny country like Israel is so culturally rich that it makes itself felt in all arts around the world."

If the radio broadcast of



AT RECENT B'NAI B'RITH DONOR AWARD LUNCHEON IN THE DUNES HOTEL ARE MRS. JOHN QUINN, LEFT, CO-CHAIRMAN; MRS. OSCAR AGRON, CHAIRMAN; MRS. ORAN GRAGSON, FIRST LADY OF LAS VEGAS; MRS. BILL LEVINE, DISTRICT PRESIDENT AND MRS. SAM

DASE, CHAPTER PRESIDENT. MRS. GRAGSON RECEIVED THE DONOR FOR HER EFFORTS BENEFITTING ALL ORGANIZATIONS AND CHARITIES REGARDLESS OF RACE OR CREED.

"Fiddler on the Roof" and then the nightclub request for an Israeli occupation song weren't sufficient coincidence during Persoff's first day in Manila, the owner of The Flamenco regretted that she didn't know "Jerusalem of Gold," so she sang "Hava Nagila," and three out of three isn't bad.

While in Tokyo, Persoff turned on the radio to hear local Japanese programming but wouldn't you know it: He hear a recording of Aaron Lebedoff singing "Rumania, Rumania," the song Lebedoff

made famous 30 or 40 years ago while working in the famed Second Avenue section of New York City's Yiddish theatres.

There was reason for this song's presentation, Persoff learned later.

That particular day happened to be Purim and the Armed Forces Radio network was presenting a Purim

program for American-Jewish soldiers stationed in the East.

In reference to Second Avenue's Yiddish theatre tradition, Persoff briefly recalled the colorful era by running down a quick list, and perhaps you can add a few:

Maurice Schwartz at the Yiddish Art Theatre; Boris

Tomashevsky, who staged wild spectacles and generally made his grand entrance on a white horse; Paul Muni, who reigned as a brilliant star, as did Jacob Adler, Molly Picon, Ludwig Zats, Sholem Secunda (who wrote Bi Mir Bist Du Shayn), and Moyshe Oyshe.

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FEATURE TIMES

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## CANDY ELECTED PRESIDENT OF BBG REGION 4

By Terri Wilensky  
"And the new President of Mountain Region B'nai B'rith Girls, District #4, International Order of B'nai B'rith Girls, is MISS CANDY MARGULIES!" Yes, that was that precious moment when they announced the new Mountain Region, B'nai B'rith Girls President, on April 6, in Phoenix, Arizona.

April 5, 6, 7, were the dates of the Mountain Region B'nai B'rith Girls 1968 Conclave.

Las Vegas B'nai B'rith Girls is the proudest chapter to be known!! The two highest offices of this Region were filled by members of Las Vegas BBG, MISS CANDY MARGULIES, President, and the second highest, Regional Vice President, MISS LORRIE SHA-

PIRO, Mountain Region covers a lot of territory, Las Vegas; Phoenix, Tucson, and Salt Lake City adding up to 11 chapters and 270 members.

This is quite unusual, considering that for the last four years, the Regional Presidents have been from Phoenix. And that Las Vegas is only one chapter, and has the two highest leaders of Mountain Region, both from the same chapter and the same city -- Las Vegas!

Candy and Lorrie will serve Mountain Region as the

two top officials for one term, a year.

It was really rough competition.

Again, Congratulations go to the two greatest girls in Mountain Region, Candy Margulies and Lorrie Shapiro. Good Luck!

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