

# Shavuot 1983

BY RABBI MARC H. TANENBAUM

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## Jerusalem Day - 1983

As we prepare to celebrate our 16th Jerusalem Day, we find ourselves reflecting on the past while planning for the future.

We are talking of a short period of time, sixteen years, and yet a time so rich with history that one thinks of it as an era in itself. From the warm June day in 1967 when the physical barriers were removed, when the first hesitant steps were taken, a united Jerusalem has become a reality.

Jerusalem has always been a focus of the prayers and thoughts and feelings of world Jewry but perhaps never more than now. For many of our parents and grandparents and great-grandparents, Jerusalem was a dream, a vision; but in our modern age of jet transport and electronic media, Jerusalem has become a much more tangible reality.

The message which Jerusalem today brings to the world is one of constant and successful efforts for peace. And while there are daily problems - Jerusalem cannot escape local politics or the politics of the Middle East - we try always to be guided by a spirit of mutual tolerance and respect as we strive to deal with the questions that Jerusalem faces as a modern city, while preserving the beauty and history of its past. This is a legacy which will be passed on to many future generations.

We celebrate our 16th Jerusalem Day with an invitation to all our friends of all faiths, throughout the world, to come and share the experience of our unique yet universal city.

## Behind The Scenes

At The United Nations

By David Horowitz

A World-Union Press Feature

## The Modern "Esther" Behind the "Partition Vote" Victory

UNITED NATIONS (WUP) -- It looked very bad at the time. It could have gone the other way on 29 November 1947 at Lake Success during the vote on Partition had it not been for woman -- a young and charming journalist - author who had been drafted by the semi-governmental Jewish Agency to act as liaison officer with the 20 Latin American delegations -- who by her keen insight, sense of timing, alertness and behind the scenes maneuverings succeeded in winning over the absolutely necessary "yes" and "abstaining" votes which made the hairline difference between victory and defeat.

The lady, who, during one of the most critical periods in Jewish history had played the role of a modern "Esther," has not told the hitherto unrevealed inside story of the political intrigues

and diplomatic maneuverings which, following many hectic and undecided debates, finally led to Israeli statehood. The seed for the emergence of the Third Hebrew Commonwealth was sown.

"Operation Susannah" is the title of the 193-page work in which the lady Dorothy Adelson recounts her fantastic albeit realistic experiences in fictional form. As the central character in her thrilling 'novel' named Felicia Robbins, she manages masterfully to record in minute detail the tense and dramatic goings on in the corridors and chambers at Lake Success and Flushing Meadows the months prior to and during the vote which electrified the yishuv in the then Palestine and world Jewry as a whole. The spirit of Messianism pervaded the atmosphere.

Many books and articles have been written about the struggle the Jewish Agency leaders - among them the late Chaim Weizmann, the late David Ben-Gurion, Abba Eban and others -- had to put up with in countering the vicious Arab onslaughts. None, however, can be compared to Adelson's "Operation Susannah" recently published by the Pemberly Press, New York.

This writer, who had covered all the meetings which led to the Partition vote during that period and who has followed Middle Eastern events ever since to this day, must say that Ms. Adelson's book, notwithstanding its fictional format, is a classic carrying the imprint of history vital to Jewry and the world.

One may ask: How come the title "Susannah?" The opening page provides a partial answer by giving this definition from Webster's New International Dictionary:

"Susanna, Susannah, n. The beautiful and virtuous wife of Joachim in the Apocryphal History of Susannah. Accused of adultery by certain Jewish leaders, who had vainly attempted her chastity, she was proved innocent by Daniel..."

The inclusion of this definition by the author, who played a dangerous 'game' with both friends and foes so as to gain the objective of a Jewish victory but always guarding her virtue and integrity, becomes understandable.

The climax of Dorothy Adelson's historic novel comes with the breathtaking vote on Saturday afternoon, 29 November 1947:

"Bang! went the gavel. The President of the Assembly called the meeting to order, What the American President said to the State Department, no one would ever know. But the American delegation came through handsomely." Truman's stand led to a change of some votes. Turkey, which had been against partition several days earlier, voted for. So did France and a few others.

The roll - call vote began. The President announced the results: Yes -- 33; No -- 13; Abstentions 10; Absent 1. Total 57. "Unfriendly to the end, the United Kingdom abstained."

Judging by the number of Latin votes; Chile's "abstention" and the one (Thailand) absenting itself, one is forced to draw the conclusion that the major credit for the Partition victory must go to this modern "Esther" Providence had inspired to play the role she was destined to play in Israel's modern history.

## King of One Liners



**HENNY YOUNGMAN**  
...Man of Many Talents.

AMERICANS ARE GETTING STRONGER,  
TWENTY YEARS AGO IT TOOK TWO PEOPLE  
TO CARRY TEN DOLLARS' WORTH OF GROCERIES.  
TODAY, A FIVE-YEAR-OLD DOES IT.

Mt. Sinai and the desert. Mt. Sinai represents the height at which the law of Justice and moral authority were uniquely experienced by the entire Jewish people. The desert speaks of moral desolation which issues from lawlessness.

These symbols of the mountain - top and the desert - wastelands figure prominently in the observance of Shavuot, the Feast of Weeks or Pentecost, which the Jewish people observe this week, May 18 - 19, throughout the world.

Originally an agricultural festival of the harvest season in Palestine, Suavuot assumed great spiritual significance through its celebration of the giving of the Ten Commandments at Mt. Sinai. The Rabbis speak of Shavuot as the concluding festival to Passover. The physical freedom achieved at Passover became humanly meaningful through the spiritual freedom realized as a result of the acceptance of the moral law by Israel.

Every human society requires law and a moral commitment to respect the law as the foundation of civilized life. The notion that true religion and morality are a matter of private conscience or good feelings alone and that law, discipline, and standards are a burden ultimately contribute to anarchy.

That anti-law mentality which has existed for so long among some salvation cults as well as among revolutionaries may well explain the growing spread of lawlessness, crime, and terrorism in the world today.

When the Jews recite the 120 words of the Decalogue on Shavuot, they are in fact calling prophetically for a return to a society in which respect for moral law is the surest guarantee for all human liberties. Choose the heights of Mt. Sinai, turn away from the moral desert.

GENEVA (WNS) -- Tourism from Switzerland to Israel has increased by one-third since January, compared to the same period a year ago, according to Swissair. The airline said Israel now ranks third, after the U.S. and Japan, as the favorite destination of Swiss tourists outside Europe.

JERUSALEM (WNS) -- Teachers staged a one day strike to protest the government's failure to implement long promised wage increases, leaving some one - million Israeli school children without a day off. The Cabinet, at its weekly meeting, referred the matter back to the ministers of finance and education without deciding how to finance the improvements in teachers' salaries and status recommended several years ago by a special committee set up to study the issue. The teachers accused the ministers of tossing the matter back and forth.

## TELL TALES

"One Man Plus The Truth  
Constitutes A Majority"

(Continued from page 1)

York Times Books, 1979), "The Golden Turkey Awards" (co-authored with his brother in 1980), and "Hospital: Hidden Lives Of A Medical Center Staff" (Simon and Schuster, January, 1983).

"What Really Happened To The Class Of '65?" was the basis for a thirteen week TV series on NBC. Since 1977 Mr. Medved has served as a screenwriter on three major studio films. In 1981 he created the outline for "Irvington Street" which is currently under production as a twenty-four part mini-series for ABC TV. He has been a frequent guest on TV talk shows including The Tonight Show, The Tomorrow Show, Dinah Shore Show, Good Morning America and others. Currently he serves as a regular on the new "Mike Douglas Show" (CNN).

Mr. Medved was born in Philadelphia, educated at public schools in San Diego and Los Angeles and was a National Merit Scholar at Yale University, graduating with honors in 1969.

The lecture series is in association with the University of Judaism in Los Angeles. Forty-five local sponsors have made the series available to the general public at no charge.