

**PURIM 1986**

By Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum

Purim, the Festival of Lots, which the Jewish people celebrated on March 25, commemorates the triumph of Esther, the Jewish queen of Persia, and her uncle Mordecai, in defeating a plot to exterminate all the Jews in the ancient Persian empire.

What makes the central event of Purim so perennially convincing is the argument that the evil minister Haman presents in the Book of Esther for his attempted massacre of the Jews. He uses all the clichés and stereotypes that have been used by bigots and anti-Semites in every age, including our own, and especially in the Middle East today. Haman -- who anticipates Ayatollah Khomeini, Muammar Qaddafi and Yasir Arafat -- tells the Persian King Ahasuerus these words, "There is a certain people scattered abroad and dispersed among the people in the provinces of thy kingdom and their laws are different from those of every people. If it pleases the king, let it be written that they be destroyed."

Thus, the inability of a rigid, authoritarian mind to live with difference becomes the justification for destroying difference.

Remarkably, a Jewish folk wisdom that understands the liberating value of humor as the personality's means of triumphing over suffering has transformed Purim into a uniquely Jewish mardi gras, with noisemakers, Purim spiels, and gift-giving, especially to the poor. Purim thereby has become an annual joyful reminder of the perseverance of the Jewish people across 4,000 years. The Jewish presence among the nations is a sign that difference must be seen as a source of enrichment rather than as a threat.

TEL AVIV (WNS) — The Cabinet ratified Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin's decision to extend by another-fourth-year the appointment of Lt. Gen. Moshe Levy as IDF Chief of Staff.

### Josh Libitsky Bar Mitzvah At Temple Beth Am



Photograph by Marvin

Josh Libitsky, son of Debbie and Steve Libitsky, was called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah, recently. Rabbi Mel Hecht officiated.

**SEGAL'S KOSHER MEATS**

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### "Sea Of Life" Hadassah Luncheon

"Sea of Life" is the theme set for Las Vegas Chapter of Hadassah's life and associate life membership luncheon to be held Monday, March 31 at 11:30 a.m. at the Top of the Dunes Hotel, stated Sylvia Acker, chairman.

New life members will be guests of Hadassah.

Added joy will be spread by Eddie Baker, comedian and Peggy Ryan's dancers. There will be several door prizes. Phone Faye 458-7160, Phyllis 733-8428 or Gloria 736-2062. Please arrange 10 at a table, and also, non-smoking.

Co-Chairman is Gloria Day Anzalone.

Other committee members are: Babe Lieb, Alice Goldberg, Blanche Stein, Rolene Reizner, Hortense Alper, Renee Schreiber, Roz Martin, Esther Gewercer, Eleanor Schwimmer, Chapter President, Phyllis Marks, Faye Levine, Sylvia Bender, Ruth Lieberman and Gerri Braun.

NAZARETH (WNS) — Sixteen Druze charged with rioting during Premier Shimon Peres' visit to the Golan Heights last month were released on bail by a Nazareth District Court. But presiding judge Avraham Assa imposed tough conditions. They may not leave their village without prior approval by police. They cannot leave their homes after dark and they must not engage in public activities.



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