

Imperial Palace Hotel & Casino Receives Award At Gov. Richard Bryan's Senior Recognition Luncheon In Celebration Of Aging



The Imperial Palace Hotel & Casino was recently honored at Governor Richard Bryan's Senior Recognition Luncheon in Celebration of Aging. Betty Engelstad, wife of Imperial Palace President/Owner Ralph Engelstad accepted the award on behalf of the hotel.

According to Suzanne Ernst, deputy administrator, Division for Aging Services, the Imperial Palace was honored for its "proven commitment to senior citizens." The award is titled "The Governor's Distinguished Private Service Award."

Since 1982, the Imperial Palace has hosted an annual Senior Citizens' Christmas Party in which approximately 10,000 seniors have enjoyed a special performance of "Legends in Concert" and a festive holiday dinner with "Legends" cast members leading the crowd in singing Christmas carols.


Ernst explained to the crowd of several hundred, "With the on-going construction at the Imperial Palace, it would have been very easy to cancel the event, however, that never happened."

Each year, the hotel is the host to 1,500 area seniors divided into two separate groups. About 700 of these seniors are bused to the Imperial Palace, along with their wheel chairs, from nursing homes. Imperial Palace employees volunteer to assist seniors by helping with wheel chairs, helping them obtain food from the lavish buffet and in whatever way is necessary to make it a special day for them.

Those selected to attend the show and dinner are chosen on the basis of low income through the Senior Citizen Center. It is always heartwarming to hear the comments of appreciation from these "older" folks. The party definitely is a bright spot in their holiday season. This year, the Senior Citizens' Christmas Party is scheduled for Sunday, December 13. For information, contact the Senior Citizen Center and not the Imperial Palace, please.


UNLV's Alumni Association recently announced plans to build a \$1.5 million Alumni Center for Excellence on campus next year.

Donations for the Alumni Center for Excellence can be made through the UNLV Foundation of the Alumni Association. For more information, call 739-3621.



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Key Demjanjuk Defense Witness Nearly Bolts During Testimony

JERUSALEM (JTA) — A key witness for the defense of suspected war criminal John Demjanjuk threatened to walk out of the court because he said he was insulted by the cross-examination of state attorney Yona Blatman.

But Count Nicolae Tolstoi, a Russian-born British historian, changed his mind after presiding Judge Dov Levin warned that if Tolstoi withdrew, his testimony of the past two days would be expunged from the record, thus dealing a major setback to the defense.

Tolstoi, a distant relative of the famous Russian novelist Leo Tolstoi, insists that a vital prosecution document which could convict Demjanjuk may well be a KGB forgery. He also maintains that Demjanjuk's alibi "is fully consistent with historical events as they are known to me."

The document in question is an SS identity card, obtained by the prosecution from Soviet sources, which bears a photograph of Demjanjuk at about age 22 and proves that the bearer was a Soviet army defector trained by the SS for voluntary guard duty at the Treblinka death camp.

Demjanjuk, 66, a Ukrainian-born retired automobile worker from Cleveland, Ohio, claims he was recruited into the Red Army and captured by the Germans following the battle of Kerch in the spring of 1942. He says he remained a prisoner of war until he joined the Vlassov Brigade, a unit of the German army consisting of Ukrainians and other anti-Soviet elements.

Therefore, according to Demjanjuk, he could not have been at Treblinka from the summers of 1942 to 1943 and was not the brutal guard known as "Ivan the Terrible," who operated the gas chambers.

The defense contends that Demjanjuk did not mention his status as a POW when he applied to the United Nations for help in 1948 out of fear that he might have been forcibly returned to the Soviet Union.

Tolstoi, who speci-

lizes in Soviet involvement in World War II, testified that Demjanjuk's explanation coincided with the facts. Refugees were returned to the Soviet Union against their will until 1950, Tolstoi said.

The historian said that from personal experience he knew that the KGB could easily have forged the ID card to incriminate Demjanjuk because of his Ukrainian nationalist activities. No one can categorically state whether the document is authentic or not, Tolstoi declared.

He objected vehemently to Blatman's suggestion that his admitted anti-Soviet bias could have influenced his testimony.

Actor Ed Asner Scheduled To Speak To Joe Behar's Community Drama Workshop



Joe Behar and Ed Asner taught a drama workshop together over 20 years ago and they have been friends ever since. So on Monday, December 14th, Joe has asked Ed to be his guest speaker at his weekly Community Drama Workshop which is held every Monday night at 8 p.m. at Sam's Town. The drama workshop is free and for further information call 458-0069.

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