

Over the years we had tried to start a Hadassah Chapter. I belonged to the Chapter in Los Alamos where I became a Life Member. Zionism was not a part of the belief system of most of the early Santa Fe Jews. When Israel became a State by the UN vote of 1948, this dream of Theodore Herzl who is considered the father of Modern Zionism passed us by with hardly a ripple. It was not until Ralph and Shelley Lindell came to Santa Fe that Shelley was successful in getting Hadassah started, we became an accredited Chapter in 1975. I called her the Blond Bombshell from Brooklyn. They left Santa Fe early on as we could not provide the Jewish life or education for their family that they needed.

Santa Fe was growing. In 1958 a dream had come true for John Crosby which was the establishment of first class opera in an outdoor setting, north of Santa Fe. In 1967 despite all precautions it burned to the ground. However with fast forward planning and construction it reopened in 1968 to Madama Butterfly, July 2nd. It was so cold that the woman next to us went home for her full length mink coat at intermission.

The establishment of the Santa Fe Opera changed the dynamics of growth, expansion and development in every direction and we witnessed the influx of a wealthy and multiple residence class of people.

1967 was also the year of Israel's preemptive strike against Egypt, creating the 6-day War. The final incident which triggered this action was the prevention of Israel from the use of international waters for peaceful trade purposes. There were fervent prayers for the struggling State. But as in all the following and previous military actions of powerful, wealthy Arab countries with overwhelming resources, Israel has survived.

By now in the 60's and 70's some of our children were heading off to College and promising careers. Jews were accepted at all levels of social and business activity. The last bastion of overt anti Semitism was the policy of Bishop's Lodge not to accept Jews at their exclusive resort area.