

# ANNUAL SALUTE TO ISRAEL A BIG SUCCESS

*(1999)*

The "1939" Club Salute to Israel Celebration was held on Sunday, June 13, 1999, at The Beverly Hills Hotel. The celebration marks the culmination of the Salute to Israel Campaign, The Club's only formal fund-raising program. Almost \$60,000 was raised to support the Club's various activities.

This Celebration coincided with the fifty-fifth anniversary of D-Day--the Allied invasion of Europe at Normandy. If it hadn't been for the sacrifices and bravery of the invading forces, many of our members--survivors, children of survivors, and grandchildren alike--would not be able to celebrate Israeli statehood. It is also unlikely that the state of Israel would have been created. It was therefor fitting to honor the American soldiers who risked their lives to free Europe of Nazi tyranny.

One such group of soldiers were the members of the 522nd Field Artillery comprised of Japanese-Americans. While their families were confined to "relocation" camps, they were fighting in the European theater and participated in the liberation of Dachau. The "1939" Club was privileged to honor these brave soldiers. A film clip from "Witness: Our Brothers' Keepers" was shown and Dr. Takeo Susuki and George Ishihara of the 522nd Field Artillery Battalion Club addressed the audience.

Afterwards Club members and guests from the Japanese American community danced the Horah together. Major General William A. Cohen was the featured speaker.