Irving Bell honored at fund-raiser

Former Santa Fean Irving Bell was honored at a fund-raising dinner for the United Jewish Appeal Sunday at La Fonda.

Featured speaker at the dinner was Ayre Carmon, a professor with the Department of Education at Ben Gurion University in Israel.

Carmon said he had many enriching experiences during the Yom Kippur war in Israel and has assisted with research in the "Holocaust" studies in Germany.

After relating several stories about life in Israel during the war, Carmon said that a deep earthly commitment on the part of members of the Jewish faith meant a spiritual commitment.

The audience of about 150 was told that the United Jewish Appeal was not a political organization, but benefited "needy Jews throughout the world."

Mrs. Bell delivered a short, but emotional address, and was followed to podium by her two sons, Lance and Jon, who also spoke briefly.

Mrs. Bell's address was followed by two songs in memory of her late husband, "Ich Liebe Dich," and "The Impossible Dream."

Dan Bell, a nephew, said the "many memories" he had of his uncle "lessened the pain" of his death.

Bell was also eulogized as being a "mainstay of Jewish philanthropy in Santa Fe."

Jim Osborn, a member of the Santa Fe Lion's Club, noted Bell was born on Sept. 2, 1925 and died on Sept. 6, 1981 at the age of 56. Bell was born in Espanola and was the owner of Bell's Department Store in Santa Fe.

He graduated from the University of New Mexico with a business degree and was a veteran of the Air Force.