



Meet the NMJHS Board of Directors

Linda Goff
President



I joined NMJHS in 2013 and the board in 2014. I served as membership and fall conference chair/co-chair, and vice-president of programs before becoming president in 2016. My husband Ed and I traveled the world with the U.S. State Department before retiring to Santa Fe in 2012. I have an M.A. and a Ph.D. Stan and Helen Hordes introduced me to Ed at a graduate student party in 1971 at 10-cent beer night!

Naomi Sandweiss
Vice President



I am a native of Albuquerque, where my family settled in 1912, and have an M.A. I am the author of *Jewish Albuquerque: 1860-1960* and have been involved with NMJHS for 19 years in numerous roles, including *Legacy* editor, president,

and vice-president. I serve as Executive Director of a New Mexico non-profit, Parents Reaching Out, and am a parent of two college students.

Alan Chodorow
Treasurer



I found my way to New Mexico from the small upstate New York town of Auburn. The path wound through Annapolis, the nuclear submarine Navy, and San Francisco, where I met and married Diane Rosen. Offers of a UNM graduate fellowship and a job at Sandia Laboratories produced the final leap. I then worked at a small defense science research company and for several Jewish community organizations. I am relatively new to NMJHS and am best known for carrying Diane's guitar.

Sandra Dietz
Membership Chair
Corresponding Secretary



I moved to New Mexico in 1976 with my family. I retired from the Second Judicial District Attorney's Office as director of the Victim Assistance Program and recently finished serving 11 years as chair and board member of the New Mexico Adult Parole Board. I am a recipient of the Governor's Award for Outstanding New Mexico Women. I have been a member of NMJHS since 2014.

Sarah Winger
Recording Secretary



I joined the NMJHS board in 2015. I am a licensed professional clinical counselor (LPCC) and work as a child and adolescent clinician at UNMH Children's Psychiatric Hospital. I was raised in Santa Fe, where my family and I were active

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President's Column



With each winter issue of *Legacy* comes the opportunity to reflect upon the prior year to celebrate NMJHS's

goals, achievements, and challenges as we look forward to marking more than 30 years dedicated to researching and disseminating New Mexico Jewish history.

2018 brought a wealth of achievements and recognition of our work both statewide and beyond.

Highlights included:

1. Receipt of a New Mexico Humanities Council grant, "Telling the Stories: The Personal Accounts of New Mexico Jews in Business and Community Life." It allowed us to undertake new family oral histories, with family members sharing their stories in panel programs in Albuquerque, Santa Fe, and Las Cruces;
2. Conclusion of a grant from the New Mexico Historical Records Advisory Board (NMHRAB), which provided funds to scan and digitize part of the Bell family documents and photos, as well as digitize the 1999-2000 Oral Family History project and post on our website. In addition, we posted early issues of *Legacy*, past Fall Conference brochures, and Hurst Award information;
3. Completion of three additional oral family interviews, also posted on the NMJHS website;
4. Participation as one of ten New Mexico Jewish organizations in the Life & Legacy program supported by the Grinspoon Foundation, the Jewish Federation of New Mexico, and the Jewish Community Foundation of New Mexico. NMJHS was *the first* of ten participating organizations to reach its Year 1 Fundraising goal to create our first-ever Endowment fund. Year 2 begins April 1, 2019;
5. Award of our first NMJHS Research Fellowship to Temple Beth Shalom to

support their Phase I research and writing of the congregation's history;

6. Organization of another successful Fall Conference in Albuquerque;
7. Achievement of our highest number of NMJHS memberships, 315.

While all of these are wonderful accomplishments made possible by an active board and membership, challenges remain. Perhaps our biggest is to encourage and recruit younger members to carry out and sustain our mission. Like many membership-based organizations, many of us are an aging cohort, and identifying the next generation of leaders is no small task. To ensure our "NMJHS tomorrows," we invite you to help us reach out to our younger friends and family members to become members, attend our programs, and spread the word about the important role we play within New Mexico.

Our Administrator, Anne McCormick, has decided to re-retire! She and her husband, Alan, plan to do more traveling and enjoying senior moments. For many of you who have worked with Anne, you know what an outstanding job she has done for NMJHS. We will miss her!

Finally, with regret, Dianne Layden, *Legacy* editor, has decided to step down after this issue to focus on the new book that she is researching and writing and her various teaching commitments. This is Dianne's second time around as editor, and she has done an excellent job of maintaining its quality and highly regarded reputation. Thank you, Dianne, for all of your dedicated hard work. We wish you good luck in your future projects. ☆



NMJHS President
Linda Goff

NMJHS Officers and Board of Directors

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Robert Martinez, ex-officio
Leba Freed Pierce
Leona Rubin
Stuart Simon
Rae Siporin, Ph.D.
Marcia Torobin

Mission Statement

The New Mexico Jewish Historical Society is a secular organization that promotes greater knowledge and understanding of New Mexico's diverse Jewish experiences within a broad cultural context.

Legacy is the quarterly newsletter of the New Mexico Jewish Historical Society
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Meet the Board (continued from p. 1)

members of Temple Beth Shalom. I have always valued Jewish community: I teach cycling classes at the JCC and am a member of Congregation Albert and Sisterhood, the Jewish Federation of New Mexico, and the Tribe.

Paula Amar Schwartz
Past President



I have been a member of NMJHS since the early 1990s and have a Ph.D. in psychology. I was an interviewer for the Oral History Project and have volunteered in both the Jewish and secular communities, serving on boards of directors and frequently as an officer. I am a recipient of the Society's Hurst award in 2018. My documentary film, *Challah Rising in the Desert: The Jews of New Mexico*, is in general release.

Anne McCormick
Administrator



I am retiring as NMJHS Administrator after almost three years on the job. My

husband Alan Wagman and I have lived in Roswell and Silver City, both places with a strong Jewish past. We've been in Albuquerque since 2013. I will be focusing on completing my own family history research and travelling to the East Coast, Canada, and around the West. I will greatly miss NMJHS's daily life, but will regularly attend NMJHS events.

Wayne Bobrick



I have been in Albuquerque 63 years and married to Tania Chernoff Bobrick for 59 years. We have three married children, seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. I have been president of Congregation B'nai Israel three times and have volunteered with many local organizations. I joined NMJHS in 2017. I am the retired owner of Wright's Indian Art, a 111-year-old gallery now owned by my grandchildren, Lauren and Dan Hyman.

Diane Chodorow



I was born in San Francisco and graduated from the University of California in Berkeley. I received a certification in elementary education from San Francisco State University.

Marcia Greenbaum



I recently joined the NMJHS board. I have lived in New Mexico for over 45 years and am a retired special education teacher with Albuquerque Public Schools. I now enjoy traveling, especially in New Mexico to learn more about our unique state. I am also a quilter and a volunteer with Family Promise.

Betty Harvie



Enchanted by New Mexico since childhood, I moved to Albuquerque in 1973. I serve on the board of the Jewish Federation of New Mexico and am a member of the Life & Legacy community endowment project. I participate in Congregation B'nai Israel and Sisterhood and am a life member of Hadasah. An active retiree, I also serve on the UNM Retiree Benefits Committee.

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Meet the Board *(continued from p. 3)*

I received the 2018 Woman of Valor
award from JFNM.

Dianne Layden



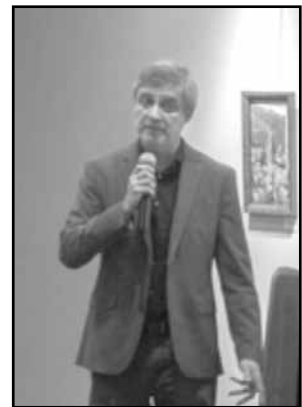
I am a semi-retired college professor
with a Ph.D. in American Studies. I
joined the NMJHS board in 2013 and
served as Legacy editor in 2014-2015
and 2017-2019. I came to New Mexico
in 1969, left twice for faculty posts in
Texas and California, and returned
twice, permanently in 2001. I am a
member of Chavurat Hamidbar and a
life member of Hadassah. One focus of
my research is New Mexico history and
culture.

David London



I live in Boulder, Colorado, with my
family. An active member of NMJHS
for many years, I am honored to serve
on the board. I am an attorney and have
a solo practice focusing on business and
real estate matters. I also support efforts
to preserve Jewish history in Jamaica
and Suriname.

Rob Martinez



I am a native New Mexican, born and
raised in Albuquerque, and serve as
Deputy State Historian. A graduate of
UNM with a B.B.A. in International
Business Management, I indulged my
interest in history by earning an M.A. in
Latin American history, with an em-
phasis on church, cultural, and social
practices of the Spanish Colonial period
in New Mexico. I worked for many years
as a historian for the Sephardic Legacy
Project.

Leba Freed Pierce



I was born in Albuquerque, the third
generation of my family to live here. For
80 years, the family owned Freed Com-
pany, an import/export business down-
town. I hold UNM degrees in English,
Art, and Education. I am married to Dr.
Elliott Pierce and have four children
and three grandchildren. I helped save
the downtown railyards and have been

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Meet the Board *(continued from p. 4)*

president of the Wheels Museum for 20 years. I also serve on community boards of directors.

Leona Rubin

I joined the New Mexico Jewish Historical Society Board in 2015. I am also on the New Mexico Osteoporosis Foundation Board as secretary. I volunteer with the Jewish Federation of New Mexico as part of the Jewish Care Program. This involves going to the Shalom House weekly to visit with residents. I am an artist and gourmet chef who works with my son in his bakery and cafe, Savory Fare.

Stu Simon

I hold bachelor's and master's degrees in electrical engineering. I served in the Army in Vietnam and then worked for the Navy in the deep submergence program, among other assignments, until I retired and worked as a contractor. My wife retired as a teacher before we moved to Albuquerque in 2007. I spend most

of my volunteer time supporting Jewish organizations, including the Foodbank behind Shalom House, Congregation Albert board of directors, and Jewish Community Foundation of New Mexico.

Rae Siporin

I am a relatively new board member, having joined in 2014. I have served as a member-at-large, recording secretary, and treasurer. I have a Ph.D. and moved to New Mexico after retiring as Director of Undergraduate Admission at UCLA for more than two decades. I am thrilled to be in this state. I have volunteered at several agencies in many capacities and indulge my desire to read by membership in at least three book groups.

Marcia Torobin

I have lived in Santa Fe for the past 11 years and joined the NMJHS Board in 2018. I am a co-founder of the Santa

Fe Jewish Film Festival and have been the festival director since its inception. I have also served on the boards of the Jewish Federation of New Mexico, HaMakom, and Hadassah, and have worked collaboratively with local organizations to present Jewish-themed programming to the broader community. ☆

Editor's note: Six photographs in this article were taken by John Rivers (Alan Chodoron, Wayne Bobrick, Diane Chodoron, Marcia Greenbaum, Leba Freed Pierce, and Leona Rubin). Other photos were provided by board members and the administrator.

Welcome New Members

Marlene and Marvin Maslow
Herbert Friedman
Dr. Bonnie and Brian Ivener
Susanne Stauffer
Teddy Greene
Gerry Raymond
Marcia Reifman
Sarah Leiter
Debra Benjamin
Las Vegas Jewish Community
Christine Durfee
Susan Zohn

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New Life Member

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2018 Distinguished Service Award: Dr. Noel Pugach

Introduction by Dianne Layden



Many people have made indelible contributions to the New Mexico Jewish Historical Society since its founding 33 years ago. Today, we honor

Dr. Noel Pugach with a Distinguished Service Award for outstanding service to the Society and to the New Mexico Jewish community over the past 50 years since his arrival at the University of New Mexico History Department in 1968.

Now a UNM History Professor Emeritus, Noel's specialization is U.S. foreign relations, particularly U.S.-China relations in the 20th century.

Noel also teaches Jewish history. In 1972, when Professor Gunther Rothenberg, who had been teaching Jewish history at UNM, left for Purdue University, he asked Noel to take over the course. Noel developed a two-semester course that by the mid-1980s was taught every other year. In 1986, Noel was contacted by the Holocaust Education Committee in Skokie, Illinois. He then developed a course on the Holocaust, which was offered every three years, beginning in 1990-1991.

Among Noel's academic activities are scores of published articles, essays, and book reviews, as well as presentations, lectures, and Chautauqua performances to a wide variety of audiences. Noel continues to teach at UNM and also at OASIS Albuquerque and the Institute for Lifelong Learning for New Mexicans, where he lectures on Jewish and secular topics. Sponsored by the New Mexico Humanities Council, he performs Chautauquas throughout the state of President Harry Truman, author John Steinbeck, and Civil War general and New Mexico Territorial Governor Lew Wallace.

Noel was an early member of Chavurat Hamidbar, founded in 1973, a Jewish organization whose mission is "to provide an 'extended family' for Jewish life in services, celebrations, education and companionship without the encumbrances of a structured congregation such as a building and paid professional functionaries."

Noel is an all-around, long-term, and prolific contributor to the New Mexico Jewish Historical Society, which he

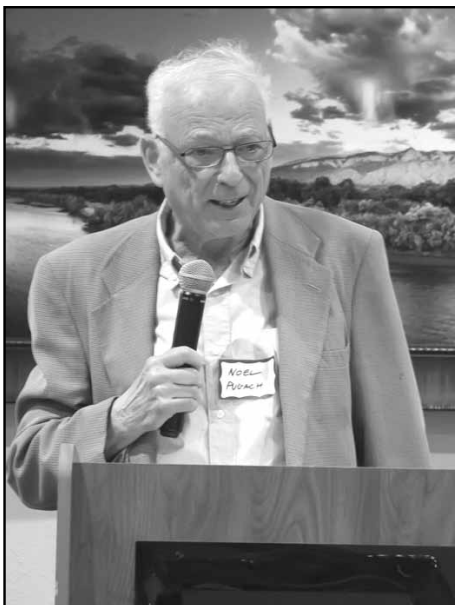


Photo by John Rivers

joined in 2001 or 2002. He has served on the board and as president, written articles for *Legacy*, spoken at conferences and meetings, and chaired Society research projects.

He was chief historian for the Pioneer Jews Oral History Project in 1999-2003, which involved UNM. The project led to publication of 15 booklets about pioneer Jewish families throughout the state. Notably, Noel authored nine of the 15 booklets, a prodigious research effort, edited three more, and was involved in a fourth. The booklets have been published in *Pioneer Jewish Families in New Mexico*, a book co-edited by Noel and Dr. Richard Melzer, UNM Regents Professor and former NMJHS board

member. Noel also wrote the introduction to *The New Mexico Jewish Legacy*, the Society's 2015 award-winning anthology of articles from *Legacy* edited by Richard Melzer. Noel received the Hurst Award in 2006 and continues to serve NMJHS as an advisor.



Dianne Layden

Noel is co-project director with Harvey Buchalter for the NMJHS grant from the New Mexico Humanities Council to tell more stories of New Mexico Jewish life. This role entails research interviews of four families and public presentations that involve family members. This research and Noel's booklets span the 19th and 20th centuries. Noel is also a member of the project group that will implement a second NMJHS grant by the New Mexico Historical Records Advisory Board to digitize selected family records and other documents not currently in the NMJHS collection in the state archives.

He also has assisted other Jewish researchers and writers with their publications. For example, he wrote the forward of Naomi Sandweiss's book, *Jewish Albuquerque: 1860-1960*. In 2016, he curated and wrote the narrative for the Albuquerque Museum of Art and History exhibit entitled "The Jews of Albuquerque in the 20th Century: Building Community along the Rio Grande," which he inaugurated with a talk in the exhibit hall.

In the words of Dorothy Amsden, past president of the Society, "Noel has given NMJHS the depth, gravitas, if you will, that underpins the organization. Noel has directed research into the underpinnings of New Mexico Jewish history, which otherwise may not have

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2018 Distinguished Service Award: Dr. Noel Pugach (*continued from p. 7*)

been brought to the fore. His is a labor of love – he doesn't get paid for his work unless there is a research grant to help with expenses. He has inspired a corps of amateur historians to go out and interview the aging Jewish pioneers and get their stories on paper and on film. He has been an inspiration to many of us for his insight and dedication to New Mexico Jewish history."

In August 2018, Noel was honored by the Jewish Community Center of Greater Albuquerque with a New Mexico Humanitarian Award.

Acceptance by Dr. Noel Pugach, NMJHS Annual Meeting, June 2018

I am delighted and honored to receive NMJHS's Distinguished Service Award today and receive all of the kind words that have been expressed.

Almost 20 years ago, I and the New Mexico Jewish Historical Society discovered one another.

I had been in New Mexico since August of 1968 when I joined the History Department faculty at the University of New Mexico as a specialist in United States foreign relations. For the first decade and more, I was engrossed in teaching my courses and publishing in my field of Chinese-American relations to get tenure and promotion, like any good academic does.

Although I became heavily involved in local and state Jewish affairs, I was not aware of the New Mexico Jewish Historical Society and its work. And then I was recruited by the Society's Pioneer Jewish Video Archive Project to serve as the lead historical consultant. That proved to be a fortuitous, happy, and mutually beneficial association that has grown and developed over the years we have been together.

Given the award I have just received, and the compliments and words of appreciation made to me not only today, but on many occasions in past years, it is clear that I have made numerous contributions to the mission and work of the Society. They have been in the form of Video Archive Project and the booklets on pioneer Jewish families that I authored, as well as other initiatives and programs that I participated in. I and others are currently engaged in a project to interview other people who have left their mark on New Mexico Jewish history. And thanks to the efforts and prodding by Lance Bell, I served on NMJHS's board and was twice elected president.

However, my activity with the Society has also brought me personal and professional rewards. It offered me intellectual stimulation and a new field for historical research and writing. I was still engaged in the field of United States foreign policy, and I still try to keep up with it. But I found it increasingly difficult to pursue those interests because almost all of the primary sources I needed were in libraries and archives on the East and West Coasts (the National Archives, Princeton, Stanford). It was expensive to work there and research money was difficult to get. I was in a holding pattern. But then I discovered another field for study, which I had not considered, right in my own backyard. And it was exciting and intriguing. Here in New Mexico, Jews, though small in number, exerted considerable influence on the economy and society of the region. They were creative, interesting, and dynamic. And the story was only beginning to unfold, thanks to the efforts of Stan Hordes, Henry Tobias, Naomi Sandweiss, Harvey Buchalter, and a handful of other historians – amateur as well as professional. I had a new scholarly agenda that would occupy me for years.

My encounter with members of the New Mexico Jewish Historical Society

was also rewarding socially. I met bright and committed individuals. They were supportive and helpful. We formed solid relationships. And I hope they will continue for many more years.

I appreciate the recognition of my labors and services. I could not have asked for better. I am very glad we discovered one another. I urge you to continue your efforts. Seek out others and bring them into the circle of the New Mexico Jewish Historical Society. Thank you for all you have done for me and all you have done for the Society. ☆

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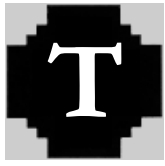


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Interfaith Activity in Las Cruces

by Rabbi Larry Karol, Temple Beth-El



emple Beth-El Las Cruces is the fourth congregation and community I have served since my ordination at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati in June 1981.

In each of my previous communities, there was a formal interfaith organization and an organized clergy group. In my last two communities, I participated in (and often helped to plan) an interfaith Thanksgiving service and a service commemorating the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Las Cruces features a diverse faith community. It is the first city in which I have lived that is the center of a Roman Catholic diocese. There are Jewish, Christian, Muslim, Baha'i, and Buddhist groups that are active and vibrant in their worship and programming.

Members of Temple Beth-El have recounted for me some of the interfaith programming from the past: interfaith Psalms study, joint programs with a Catholic Church near the previous location of the Temple, Thanksgiving services, participating in the New Mexico State University Interfaith Council, and an ongoing relationship with Roman Catholic Bishop Ricardo Ramirez prior to his retirement in 2013.

In my eighth year in Las Cruces, interreligious connection and coordinated action continue to be ongoing and vibrant.

Members of the Jewish community serve breakfast every Monday with representatives from local Christian congregations at the El Caldito Soup Kitchen.

Temple Beth-El's Social Action/Adult Education committee sponsors and organizes an annual interfaith dialogue program at Temple Beth-El on the Sunday before Thanksgiving on a chosen topic. This began in 2015, when the committee chairperson requested that I invite spiritual leaders to take part in a panel presentation to share faith perspectives on gratitude. During our fourth annual gathering on November 18, 2018, those who attended were calling for more frequent dialogue opportunities throughout the year.



On February 3, 2017, following the declaration of the ban on Muslim immigration, a prayer service was led by Bishop Emeritus Ricardo Ramirez and Bishop Oscar Cantu of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Las Cruces, Rabbi Larry Karol of Temple Beth-El, Pastor Jared Carson of Peace Lutheran Church, and Radwan Jallad, president of the Islamic Center of Las Cruces. Photo courtesy of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Las Cruces.

I participate in an interfaith book discussion group that includes members of the Christian, Jewish, Muslim, and Baha'i communities. We meet every Friday at a local Catholic Church to discuss a book of our choosing. In early 2017, I was invited to teach the group about Jews in America with Dr. Jonathan Sarna's book, *American Judaism*, as our text. Since then, we have read and discussed other books on religion that have enabled us to deepen our understanding of one another's beliefs and traditions, including *Constantine's Sword*, by James Carroll. Currently, we are reading *The Battle for God* by Karen Armstrong.

I convene local clergy on the third Thursday of each month for breakfast. This group has been important in strengthening connections among a core of local spiritual leaders.



Rabbi Larry Karol

Over the past eight years, Temple Beth-El's Tanakh study group, held at the Temple every Wednesday, has studied Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, Exodus, and Isaiah. We are now reading and discussing the books of Ezra and Nehemiah. This group has become interfaith with the participation of the local Orthodox priest, members of his church, and other members of the general community.

New Mexico CAFE (Communities in Action and Faith), a local affiliate of the national community organizing group Faith in Action (formerly PICO), has brought clergy and members of a broad base of religious groups together for discussion and action. Temple members have, at times, been active in NM CAFE

and supported its work. I was often involved in helping to prepare faith-based statements on specific issues which expressed the teachings of several religious traditions on specific issues.

The local Dona Ana County chapter of the NAACP holds an annual march on the Sunday before the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., birthday holiday, with a community breakfast on the morning of the holiday. Spiritual leaders and members of local congregations (including from the Jewish community) participate in these gatherings each year.

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Interfaith Activity in Las Cruces *(continued from p. 7)*

Religious and community leaders often join together in response to local and national events. Several of my clergy colleagues and I spoke at a vigil following the Pulse Nightclub shooting in Orlando, Florida, in June 2016. Clergy addressed a vigil for the victims of gun violence (both citizens and police) in July 2016. Roman Catholic Bishop Oscar Cantu, who recently moved to a diocese in San Jose, California, joined with me and several other spiritual leaders to organize a service to stand opposed to the Muslim ban in February 2017. Bishop Cantu, along with Bishop Mark Seitz of the Diocese of El Paso, organized an interfaith service in Anthony, New Mexico, in September 2017 to express support for DACA recipients.

In the hours after the shooting at Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh on Saturday, October 27, 2018, I knew that I needed to bring the community together for a memorial service for the victims, so that people could find expression for their grief and move towards strength and hope in the days to follow. Emails sent to Temple Beth-El members, my clergy group, and my Friday book discussion group, along with postings on Facebook, brought 180 people together at the Temple on October 28th.

People from throughout the faith community attended, even beyond the direct reach of the messages I had sent. It was heartwarming to hear what people had to say when I gave those assembled a chance to speak with their neighbors about the positive values which they would try to promote going forward. When I asked people to share what they had discussed, one person offered this poignant comment: "We

often judge people by what we see on the outside. We should overcome our tendency to prejudice and sit down with people to talk with them. We will usually find out that what we initially thought about them was wrong."

That statement encapsulated exactly why interfaith dialogue and action is crucial to our communities. I know that Temple Beth-El and members



*Interfaith Prayer Service for Tree of Life Synagogue,
Pittsburgh October 28, 2018*

of the Las Cruces community will continue to create new opportunities for sharing, learning, and engendering connection and hope. ☆



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In Memoriam: Two NMJHS Past Presidents Remember Lilo Waxman (1920-2018)

A Recollection of Lilo Waxman, by Lance Bell

Enchanting was my thought on meeting Lilo Waxman for the first time at her hotel in Albuquerque. The youthful octogenarian had planned a grand return visit to New Mexico, the place of many of her youthful memories. There was no doubt that New Mexico was in her DNA, and she wanted to make this particular trip special as it was most likely to be her last visit. As president of the New Mexico Jewish Historical Society, I had the honor of escorting her around northern New Mexico with Bobbi Jackson, our NMJHS administrator.



Lance Bell

Lilo's story was truly amazing. She wanted to share and preserve that story about her life here in New Mexico after escaping Nazi Germany. I was taken with her amazing memory and vigor as she spoke of her late husband and her years in the towns of Las Vegas and Mora. I had been to Mora, but I never realized or imagined what it once was like until Lilo told me about the Jewish families that had inhabited that small town long ago.

Lilo was the type to call me out of the blue. She would ask for news about specific members and share her concern that NMJHS would endure in the future. She wanted to get involved with the organization, and Bobbi suggested that Lilo write an article for the Society's newsletter.

Being in a leadership role has its ups and downs, yet when it comes to the NMJHS, I had many more ups than downs, and it was primarily due to

meeting special people like Lilo. She made me realize how rewarding it can be to get involved in something you are passionate about. I definitely had that passion in common with Lilo, and although there were decades between us it didn't matter to me because I found her memories, thoughts, and ideas just as interesting to me, or even more so, than those of my generational peers.

Those touched by Lilo will always remember her. We are fortunate that she shared her story about what she described as an enchanting time in her life that brought her love, happiness, and a special fondness for our beautiful land. Make sure you go back and read the stories she wrote for *Legacy*, including a detailed description of the dollhouse she donated to the New Mexico Holocaust and Intolerance Museum in Albuquerque. Go visit her dollhouse at



Arnold and Lilo Waxman, January 1939

the museum in downtown Albuquerque – it's a real treasure.

Remembering Lilo, by Dorothy Amsden



Dorothy Amsden

Lilo was a force to be reckoned with. Heh-LO-oh, this is LEE-lo, she would say in her precisely articulated English. When she telephoned, you knew she had something important on her mind. The New Mexico Jewish Historical Society was important to her because her early history took place here in Las Vegas and Mora. When her family arrived in Las Vegas in 1936, after escaping Nazi Germany, she was ready for America, having learned English in school. She enrolled in high school to experience how Americans interact socially, and she graduated at age 17.

Two years later, Lilo Lang met a young man from a Jewish family in Mora. They fell in love and married during a major snow storm in January 1939. Her young married life in Mora with Arnold Waxman was a dream she never forgot. During her three years there, she learned to speak Spanish and ride a horse.

I never had the pleasure of meeting Lilo in person. But I came to know her over the years through her telephone calls, editing her articles for *Legacy*, and later, as NMJHS president, handling her requests. She told me about a photo that was taken at her wedding that had been enlarged to a free-standing, life-size display for her and her husband's 50th wedding anniversary. What should she do with it? Oooo, I said, ship it here to New Mexico and we'll put it on display at the upcoming 2010 NMJHS annual confer-

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In Memoriam: Lilo Waxman *(continued from p. 10)*

ence in Las Vegas. That glowing bride and groom have graced subsequent conferences and appeared on the cover of an earlier iteration of the NMJHS membership brochure.

As Lilo and I became acquainted through multiple phone calls, I learned of her efforts to find a permanent home for her intergenerational dollhouse. Jewish museums in St. Louis, where she lived the rest of her life after leaving New Mexico, and in Florida, where she spent her winters, had more artifacts than they could exhibit.

As I listened to her tell me about her fruitless efforts, a thought occurred to me. Why not contact the Holocaust and Intolerance Museum in Albuquerque to see if they would be interested? They were, based on *Legacy* articles I sent the museum staff. Lilo worked

out the logistics with them herself. She had a carpenter design and build the rooms, as she called them, to house the exquisite furnishings. She was exacting in what was required. The housing had to have electricity, for example. Today Lilo's dollhouse is on permanent exhibit in Albuquerque, a fitting home for Lilo's treasure. ☆

Editor's note: Legacy articles by and about Lilo and Arnold Waxman, compiled by Dorothy Amsden, were published in the June 2006, December 2006, June 2008, December 2011, March 2012, and Fall 2015 issues. Click on the LEGACY NEWSLETTER link on the NMJHS.org website for the list of issues.

**HELP GUARANTEE
THE FUTURE OF
THE NEW MEXICO JEWISH
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**Sandra Dietz
Chair, Membership Committee**

**IT'S TIME TO RECRUIT
YOUNGER MEMBERS**

The future of the NMJHS, as well as remembrance of the past, depend on attracting a new generation of members.

A gift of membership to your child, grandchild, or great-grandchild will introduce your family's next generation to the colorful history of the Jewish people in our state.

Also consider membership as a wedding or Bar or Bat Mitzvah gift. And an invitation to an old friend or new acquaintance to attend a NMJHS function is a way to attract new members. Help us grow our membership.

IN MEMORIAM

**Norton Bicoll
1937-2018
Santa Fe, New Mexico**

**Carla Freeman
1949-2019
Santa Fe, New Mexico**

**Lilo Waxman
1920-2018
St. Louis, Missouri**

**Elaine Taichert Zohn
1929-2018
Denver, Colorado**

Sharing Your Family History

NMJHS will continue to collect New Mexico Jewish family histories through oral interviews to share with the public and preserve in the New Mexico State Archives. If you are interested in participating, contact the NMJHS office:

5520 Wyoming Blvd. NE
Albuquerque, N.M. 87109
505-348-4471, admin@nmjhs.org

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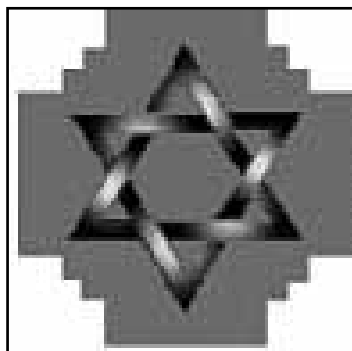
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Membership in NMJHS

For information contact the NMJHS office at 505-348-4471 or admin@nmjhs.org to request a membership brochure. Alternatively, you can download a membership application from the NMJHS website, www.NMJHS.org



Calendar of NMJHS Upcoming Events

Check for future events at www.nmjhs.org

February 23: "New York: Nooks and Crannies." Justin Ferate. Co-sponsored with Temple Beth Shalom, 295 E. Barcelona Rd., Santa Fe, 7 PM

March 3: "New York: Nooks and Crannies." Justin Ferate. Jewish Community Center Auditorium, 5520 Wyoming Blvd. NE, Albuquerque, 2 PM.

March 10: "The Swastika in New Mexico History." Dr. Richard Melzer. Co-sponsored with Temple Beth El Speakers Bureau Program, 3980 Sonoma Springs Ave., Las Cruces, 2 PM

March 29: *Challah Rising in the Desert: The Jews of New Mexico*, film and discussion. Historical Society of New Mexico Conference, Embassy Suites, 1000 Woodward Pl. NE, Albuquerque. Sessions 1A-2A: 8:30-10 AM, 10:30 AM-Noon: <http://www.hsnm.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/2019-NM-History-Conference-Program.pdf>

May 18: *Challah Rising in the Desert: The Jews of New Mexico*, film and discussion. National Hispanic Cultural Center, 1701 4th St. SW, Albuquerque, 7 PM.

May 19: "The German Kulturbund" (Jewish Cultural Association). Steven Ovitsky. Jewish Community Center Auditorium, 5520 Wyoming Blvd. NE, Albuquerque, 2 PM.

June 2: Annual Business Meeting and Program. Speaker: Norma Libman: "The Story of What I Wrote and Why." Temple Beth Shalom. 205 E. Barcelona Rd., Santa Fe, 1 PM.

February-April: *An Act of Defiance*, 11 AM, February 24, CCA: Nelson Mandela and Black and Jewish supporters face the death penalty in Apartheid South Africa; *The City of Joel*, 11 AM, March 24, The Screen: Ultra-orthodox Chassidic community in New York; *Stockholm*, 3 PM, April 14, CCA: Highly acclaimed, darkly comedic Israeli mini-series. Santa Fe Jewish Film Festival, <https://www.santafejff.org/>, admin@santafejff.org, 505-216-0672.