

Conference Committee

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Barbara Baker
Robert Gale
Nancy Terr
Lance Bell
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Conference Sponsors

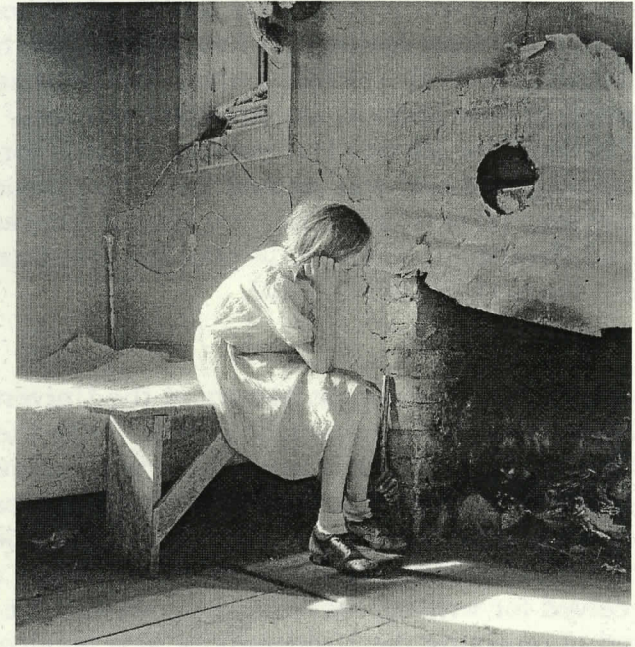
Barbara Baker
Lance and Julia Bell, in memory of Marilyn Bell
Carla Freeman
Robert and Irene Gale, in honor of their new grandson
Lorlee and Arnold Tenenbaum
Marjorie Weinberg-Berman

*The bagel breakfast is partially underwritten by a bequest
from the family of Barbara Bender.*

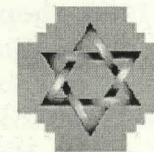
*A silent auction of Baron Wolman's photo of
"The Doors" rock legend Jim Morrison
will be held following lunch.*

Dr. Stefanie Beninato is one of the famous, unknown tour guides in the Santa Fe area. Plying her trade for several years, Stefanie is dedicated to providing entertaining, informative and accurate tours. She is a near-native and lover of the Southwest, having earned a doctorate from the University of New Mexico in Southwest history. Stefanie has also worked for the state museum systems in a variety of capacities and participated in archaeological digs and field work here. Besides touring, Stefanie lectures and does research, mediations and facilitations.

New Mexico Jews and the Great Depression



**New Mexico Jewish Historical Society
22nd Annual Conference
October 25, 2009**



**Hotel Santa Fe
Santa Fe, New Mexico**

Conference Speakers

Dr. Craig L. Newbill is a Southwest regionalist and oral historian whose research and writing are focused on American history and literature. Born on the Llano Estacado and raised in the Canadian and Pecos River Valleys, he is a life-long resident of New Mexico. He holds an M.A. (1989) and Ph.D. (1993) in American Studies from the University of New Mexico. Dr. Newbill has been employed by the New Mexico Humanities Council for the past seventeen years and was named Executive Director in 1996. At present he serves on the New Mexico Centennial of Statehood Steering Committee to plan for the state's centennial commemoration in 2012.

Dr. Richard Melzer has taught history at the University of New Mexico's Valencia Campus since 1979. He is the author of ten books and over a hundred articles about New Mexico history. He is a past president of the Historical Society of New Mexico and is currently the vice president of the Valencia County Historical Society. Of the many awards he has received for writing, teaching, and service, he is most proud of receiving the University of New Mexico's Teacher of the Year award in 1995.

Dr. Henry Tobias received a masters degree from Yale in Russian Studies and a doctorate from Stanford University in history. He taught Russian history at the University of New Mexico from 1959 to 1969, then spent nearly 20 years after that at the University of Oklahoma. As Dr. Tobias neared retirement, he became interested in local history and decided to return to New Mexico. He wrote two volumes on the history of the Jews in New Mexico and a history of modern Santa Fe from 1880 to 1990. He has published many smaller pieces as well.

Naomi Sandweiss, a native New Mexican, is fascinated with Jewish history. She was involved in the Jewish Pioneers project for NMJHS and researched and wrote the booklet on the Gusdorf family of Taos. Ms. Sandweiss writes a regular column for *Legacy*, the NMJHS quarterly newsletter, has volunteered as a docent at the Holocaust & Intolerance Museum of New Mexico, and has given numerous presentations on historical topics. She is employed as Supervisor of Youth Programs at the University of New Mexico.

Marian Petchesky Silver, a Santa Fe native born in 1932, is the daughter of Pauline Petchesky Pollock and Barney Petchesky and granddaughter of Johanna Uhlfelder Blatt and Emile Uhlfelder, who came to New Mexico in 1907. Johanna and Emile opened the first department store in Santa Fe in 1912 just a few months before New Mexico became a state. Marian and husband Abe Silver, Jr., continued to operate The Guarantee on the Plaza until its closing in 1988. Marian has been active in many community affairs, is a recipient of the Anti-Defamation League award, and is a Santa Fe Living Treasure. She and Abe have three children and three grandchildren, all of whom live in Santa Fe.

Robert Daniel Taichert, a native of Santa Fe, retired after 50 years of law practice, during which he served the New Mexico Supreme Court and the American Bar Association. He is a Fellow and Former Regent of the American College of Tax Counsel and a Fellow of the American College of Civil Trial Mediators. Mr. Taichert was an organizer and first president of the Santa Fe Opera when it was established in 1956. He served as president of the boards of Sandia Preparatory School and the New Mexico Symphony Orchestra. Recently he completed a term as Chairman of the Board of the Mind Research Network, the neuroscience discovery foundation based in Albuquerque, which he set up for Senator Domenici in 1998. Robert and Zane Taichert live in Albuquerque. Married 56 years, they have two children and three grandchildren.

(speakers continued on page 6)

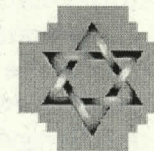
New Mexico Jews and the Great Depression Conference Schedule

Morning

- 8:30 - 9:00 **Registration, Coffee & Bagels**
- 9:00 - 9:20 **Welcoming Remarks**
Dr. Noel Pugach, NMJHS President
Dr. Stanley M. Hordes, Conference Chair
- 9:20 - 9:55 **Keynote Address**
"Depression Era Photos in New Mexico: Realism Revisited," Dr. Craig Newbill,
Director, New Mexico Humanities Council
- 9:55 - 10:30 *"The Great Depression in New Mexico: An Overview,"* Dr. Richard Melzer, University of
New Mexico, Valencia Campus
- break —
- 10:50 - 11:25 *"How New Mexico Jews Weathered the Storm,"*
Dr. Henry Tobias, Professor Emeritus,
University of Oklahoma
- 11:25 - 12:00 *"Hard Times in Taos: How Bertha Gusdorf
Helped Preserve First State Bank During the
Great Depression,"* Naomi Sandweiss,
University of New Mexico

Afternoon

- 12:15 - 1:15 *Luncheon Buffet*
- 1:30 - 3:00 **Panel discussion** featuring observations
by New Mexico Jews who grew up during the
Great Depression
- Panelists**
Marian Petchesky Silver, Santa Fe
Robert Taichert, Albuquerque
Kathryn Rubin, Raton
Leon Rubin, Raton
- 3:15 - 4:45 **Walking tour of Jewish Santa Fe**
led by Dr. Stefanie Beninato
(optional, \$15 fee)



www.nmjewishhistory.org

*The New Mexico Jewish Historical Society is a beneficiary
agency of the Jewish Federation of New Mexico.*

Speakers (continued)

Kathryn Rubin was born in Albuquerque, New Mexico, in 1923, the daughter of Mina and Louis Heyman. She graduated from the only high school in town - Albuquerque High. In January 1946 she married Leon Rubin of Raton at Temple Albert in Albuquerque. Kathryn and Leon still operate two stores in Raton - Rubins, Inc., and Sports Arena - with the help of one of their two sons. The family business was started by Leon's father in 1916 and is the oldest continually operated business in Northern New Mexico. They have four grandchildren.

Leon Rubin was born in 1920 in Raton, New Mexico, and has lived there for the last 53 years. His father emigrated from Russia as a teenager, going from Ellis Island to Pueblo, Colorado, by train, eventually settling in Raton as a merchant. Leon worked in his father's clothing store before enlisting in the Army Air Corps in 1941 to become a pilot. He served from the beginning of the European Campaign until the end of the war in 1945. For many decades Leon played saxophone in the Raton City Band. A highlight in his later life was the appointment, in 1967, to the Human Rights Commission when David Cargo was governor.

***Note:** After their marriage, Kathryn and Leon Rubin became involved with Temple Aaron Congregation in Trinidad, Colorado, a twenty-minute drive to the north of Raton over Raton Pass. For the past 22 years Kathryn and Leon have been instrumental in sustaining Temple Aaron, heading the temple and the foundation. They are dedicated to preserving Jewish life in Northern New Mexico and Southern Colorado.*

Mission Statement

The mission of the New Mexico Jewish Historical Society is to promote greater understanding and knowledge of New Mexico's Jewish history. The Society's programs examine the state's Jewish heritage in all its diversity and strive to present this heritage within a broad cultural context. The Society is a secular organization and solicits the membership and participation of all interested people, regardless of religious affiliation. The New Mexico Jewish Historical Society is a non-profit organization.

NMJHS Officers and Board of Directors

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