

# Claire Grossman Receives Fifth Annual Dr. Allan Hurst Award

by Stan Hordes

**A**t the Annual Membership Meeting on June 2, Claire Grossman received the Dr. Allan Hurst Award. Named for one of the Society's founding members, the award recognizes the person, persons, or organization who has contributed to New Mexico Jewish history, culture and community for a substantial period of time.

For more than ten years, Claire Grossman has made a tremendously meaningful contribution to the cause of New Mexico Jewish History. Having grown up in Cincinnati, Ohio (birthplace of the Reform Jewish movement in America, and home of the Hebrew Union College and the American Jewish Archives), Claire was steeped in the family tradition of participating in Jewish cultural and historical causes.

Immediately upon her arrival in Santa Fe in 1990, she joined the New Mexico Jewish Historical Society, and has participated

actively in the organization and activities of the group ever since. Many would say that she is actually the glue that holds the Society together. She served three terms as President, three more as Vice-President, and chaired several key committees. When the Museum of New Mexico's Palace of the Governors decided to embark on their major exhibit, "Jewish Pioneers of New Mexico," they asked Claire to sit on both the Fundraising and Academic Advisory Committees, which she did with distinction.

For many years, Claire played an instrumental role in ensuring the success of the Society's Annual Conferences and Annual Memorial Day Field Trips by overseeing the logistical details and making certain that all the participants were fed well and lodged comfortably.

Most recently, Claire has served as Project Manager for two grants awarded to the Society by the New Mexico State Records Center and Archives, designed to rehouse vital elements of the Society's archival

holdings. The ultimate goal of the project is to render these vital historical materials more easily accessible to researchers.

Moreover, Claire has established a fund in honor of her 70th birthday to support the NMJHS Video History Project, which will result in the preservation of vital information concerning the history of Jewish pioneers in nineteenth and twentieth century New Mexico.

To be certain, the contributions of Claire Grossman to the New Mexico Jewish Historical Society have been mammoth. In the face of severe administrative challenges, she has stepped forward to do whatever was required to ensure the success of vital programs and the actual continuation of this important organization. But, far more than that, Claire's unselfish devotion to the promotion and preservation of New Mexico Jewish history, itself, through the contribution of her labor, her largess, her wisdom and her vision, makes her most deserving of the Annual Dr. Allan Hurst Award.

## Taos Conference -continued from p. 1

communities throughout New Mexico.

This is the first time the NMJHS is sponsoring an event specifically dealing with the second half of the twentieth century. The weekend will begin with a dessert and coffee reception on Friday evening, with director Karl Francis and a screening of "One of the Hollywood Ten." The event ends on Sunday afternoon with a lox and bagel lunch accompanied by live music.

Society members will soon be receiving a Conference brochure with a full schedule.

For Conference registration information, contact the NMJHS's office at 5520 Wyoming Blvd., NE., Albuquerque, NM 87109, by phone at 505-348-4471, or e-mail at nmjhs@jewishnewmexico.org. The Society's website is [www.nmjewishhistory.org](http://www.nmjewishhistory.org).

Rooms have been blocked at the Sagebrush Inn in Taos at a special conference rate of \$70.00, including full breakfast. Reservations should be made directly to the Sagebrush Inn, 1-800-428-3626. The conference cost is \$79 for members, \$114 for non-members (prior to Oct. 28), \$50 for students, Round-trip transportation from Santa Fe and Albuquerque to Taos will be available.

## Big Book Sale Big Success

by Sheila Gershen

**A**wonderful new tradition was established Labor Day weekend of 2002 when the NMJHS held it's First Annual Book & Etc. Sale.

Thanks to the expertise of local bookseller and Board member Shirley Jacobson, the fundraising event was so successful that plans are already in the works for next year's sale.

It also couldn't have happened without the efforts of Board member Claire

Grossman and the many other volunteers from Santa Fe, Albuquerque and Las Vegas who collected and sorted the books and took care of sales on Saturday and Sunday.

The sale was held at the Wild Oats Community building on Cordova Rd. from 10 to 5 p.m. both days. It's an excellent location and a large, bright room with lots of parking right out front.

The variety of books was impressive, with literally something for everyone, and the prices were so low that they were irre-

sistible. There was also one of a kind jewelry and other odds and ends. For the collectors, there were even rare books and autographed editions.

Everything was generously donated by members and friends. It's not too early to start thinking about what you can clear off your shelves for the Second Annual Sale. And consider being a volunteer for next year; it's fun, it's for a good cause, and you'll have first chance at some wonderful bargains.