

## Eulogy For Claire Grossman

*This eulogy was delivered at the June 26 Annual Meeting*

by Stan Hordes



What can we say about Claire?

First and foremost, she was absolutely devoted to her family and her friends. Our conversations were dominated by stories of her Mom (to whom she referred as "The Queen"), as well as the latest accomplishments of her children, their spouses and, of course, her beloved grandchildren. We could never hear enough of the latest grandmother-grandchild trip to some far-off destination. And, in order to be closer to her family, she chose to uproot herself from Santa Fe to spend the final six years of her life in Nashua, New Hampshire.

During her all-too-brief fifteen years in Santa Fe, she maintained so many wonderful friendships. Helen and I were privileged to be counted among her circle of close friends. Claire never forgot a birthday, and never failed to follow up on the progress of our children through high school, college, and their professional lives.

But it was our collaborations in the activities of the New Mexico Jewish Historical Society that I most fondly remember. For more than ten years, Claire made a tremendously meaningful contribution to the cause of New Mexico Jewish History. Having grown up in Cincinnati (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 participated enthusiastically in the organization and activities of the group for

years to come. Claire was the glue that held 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.



*Claire Grossman*

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.

To be certain, the contributions of Claire to the New Mexico Jewish Historical Society have been mammoth. Claire's unselfish devotion to the promotion and preservation of New Mexico Jewish history through the contribution of her labor, her largess, her wisdom, and her vision, led the Society in 2002 to bestow upon her the Dr. Allan Hurst Award, which recog-

nized the person who contributed to New Mexico Jewish history, culture and community for a substantial period of time.

Through all these activities, Claire was my partner, comrade-in-arms, and very close friend. In many ways she was the older sister I never had. I will always treasure the times we had together.

Claire lived 80 wonderful years, and she passed away peacefully, without pain, and with her family at her bedside in her last days. What more could one ask of life?

We will all miss Claire very much. But she will live on in the memories of all of the many, many lives that she touched. ☆

*Stan Hordes is a past President of NMJHS and author of To the End of the Earth: A History of the Crypto Jews.*

**We are proud to announce that the NMJHS Annual Meeting, which is held in June each year, will henceforth be called the Claire Grossman Memorial Annual Meeting, in honor of our past president, who recently passed away. Claire was a treasure. She was devoted to the growth and success of the Society. The Annual Meeting provides an opportunity to note NMJHS achievements and pass the baton on to new leaders. Funding for this yearly event has been generously provided by Marjorie Weinberg-Berman.**