

## Harvey Buchalter

A native New Yorker, Harvey arrived in New Mexico in mid-1969 after having been graduated from Brooklyn College of the City of New York in 1968 and service in the US Peace Corps on the altiplano of Bolivia. A certified teacher, he began his career in education in the Los Lunas JHS, where he taught for three years and simultaneously began graduate studies at UNM in Latin American Studies. He received his MA degree in 1976 and continued teaching at Harrison Middle School, capping his 29 year career as a teacher/counselor at School on Wheels HS, a pioneering alternative school based in Albuquerque's South Valley.

All the while, Buchalter pursued his studies in Yiddish and immigrant Jewish history, becoming an instructor of Yiddish in the UNM German Department. He has translated three Yiskor Books - the memoirs of survivors of the Holocaust - from Yiddish to English, and has written and published articles about the Eastern European landsmanschaft societies - self-help societies that flourished and "grounded" immigrants as they made their way in their new land.

Harvey was an early, and continuous member of the NMJHS. He has served on the Society's board in the 1990's, served two recent terms from approximately 2011 - 2015, and has contributed articles to the *Legacy* newsletter ranging from translations of Aron Straser's poetry, to histories of Jewish merchants in Albuquerque, to an article about his 400-plus page translation of Israel Rouchomovsky's "My Life," the fascinating saga of the biggest art fraud of the early 20th century.

He was keynote speaker of the 2014 annual conference and a speaker in the 2017 conference, in which he spoke about the contributions of Congressman Steve Schiff and NM legislator Pauline Eisenstadt. His article on the history of Congregation B'nai Israel appeared in "The Jewish Legacy in New Mexico."