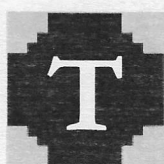




## 2017 Hurst Award: Acceptance Speech by Kathryn Rubin

*Kathryn Rubin received the Dr. Allan and Leona Hurst Award at the NMJHS Annual Meeting in Santa Fe on June 4, 2017.*



Thank you, Dr. Goff and others, for this tremendous honor that the New Mexico Jewish Historical Society is bestowing on me. I was overcome when

I received word that I am to receive this award and, truthfully, it is the greatest honor of my life. I've lived 94 years, and this comes at a pinnacle of my long life. Thank you also to Kathy Kahn Mahan, my second cousin, daughter of Walter and Lorraine Kahn, for nominating me. The Kahns owned and operated a high-quality shoe store on the plaza in Santa Fe for many years.

Would all of my relatives here today please stand and be recognized?

I'm not sure I'm worthy of being the Jewish pioneer of 2017 because I've known so many other pioneers in our state who have had a greater impact on people and institutions in New Mexico. Some of the influential pioneers who were significant citizens devoted to their communities were: the Ilfelds, Seligmans, Mandels, Benjamins, Maisels, Moises, Jaffas, Rosenwalds, Floersheims, Blatts, Gans, Spitz, Staab-Nordhaus, Danoffs, Spiegelbergs, Sternbergs, Gusdorfs, and many others. Many of these families have been highlighted by the New Mexico Jewish Historical Society in their publications. The Hurst award, named for Dr. Allan and Leona Hurst, recognizes the contributions of New Mexicans to our Jewish heritage in the Land of Enchantment. I'm so proud to be part of the fabric of what Jews have accomplished in our respective communities throughout the state.

Some of the previous awardees are friends and relatives of mine, like Walter Kahn, my second cousin and the second recipient of this award, and also Stan Hordes, Noel Pugach, Marian Silver, Sharon Niedermann, Leah Kellog, Rabbi Leonard Helman, Dorothy Amsden, Lance Bell, Naomi Sandweiss, and Betsy Messecia. These people are exemplary of individuals who have



*Kathryn Rubin with sons Ronald (left) and Randy (right)  
Sharon Niederman Photos*

rendered outstanding service to Jewish society in New Mexico and to the betterment of all New Mexicans.

My life has been a tapestry of so many influences. Being born in 1923, I have witnessed great achievements in our state. After all, New Mexico was only 11 years old when I was born!

My mother, Mina (Wilhelmina) Kahn, came to the United States in 1912 – the year of our statehood – when she was 27 years old from Wiesbaden, Germany. My father, Louis Heyman, was from Ibin-Berrin, Germany, and came to America in 1910 at the age of 19. The two of them met in Albuquerque in 1912, marrying in 1915 – over 100 years ago. My sister, Bertha Heyman Danoff, lived her entire life in New Mexico. She was born in 1916.

I lived, when I was growing up during the Depression, in Albuquerque, Mountainair, and Gallup. I lived among Native Americans and in the pinto bean capital of America! Being raised during those Depression years had a significant influence on me and my family. Times were very tough, and I don't often share how poor our family was with many people. Even though we were poor financially, we opened our home to everyone, welcoming them into our lives.

My father, who was a retail merchant, unfortunately died when I was only 15 in 1939. He was aided in his new country by the Seligman family in Bernalillo to be a successful merchant.

*(continued on p. 7)*

### 2017 FALL CONFERENCE REMINDER

Plaza Hotel, Las Vegas  
November 4-5

Shabbat Service November 3  
Anne McCormick, 505-348-4471,  
[admin@NMJHS.org](mailto:admin@NMJHS.org)  
[http://www.NHJHS.org/  
product-category/conference/](http://www.NHJHS.org/product-category/conference/)

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