

After Nat Sterns death, Dr. Friedman donated 40 acres to the St. Vincent's Hospital Foundation for a new St. Vincent's and became its first Medical Director.

There were now stirrings expressed for the need for a Jewish Community Center. We had all started our families. An opportunity to purchase the plot of land on which stands the first Santa Fe Temple, presented itself and 18 families came forward with \$100 each and the land was paid for.

Anecdotaly the land was owned by Ferd Koch, who also owned a laundry and was in competition with the Pick brothers. He made it known that had he been aware that a Jewish Temple was to be built on it, he would never have sold us the land. His son Jamie Koch is long time Chairman of the Democratic Committee of New Mexico.

The budget for the building was \$35,000.00 which meant that we were carrying a mortgage. John Gaw Meem noted architect was retained to design and supervise construction.

We named the building The Santa Fe Jewish Temple and Community Center. The dues were under \$100. It was dedicated in 1953.

I was involved with the Religious School and we were now seeing Bar Mitzva preparations. Rabbi Sterrels of Albuquerque, served our congregation in times of need. Many of the funerals were conducted in Albuquerque which has a Jewish area set aside in one of the cemeteries.

In 1958, we hired our first full time Rabbi, Herbert Strauss, who had been a naval Chaplain. We were a bit short on references as he said "they had been burned in a fire". I do recollect that the late revered, Rabbi David Shore of Albuquerque's Temple Albert had warned us that Rabbi Strauss had left the pulpit in Pine Bluff, Arkansas under a cloud.