

Witt Receives 2012 Hurst Award



On June 24, 2012, long-time NMJHS member Lisa Witt received the Dr. Allan and Leona Hurst Award for outstanding service to the Society.

Lisa Witt's greatest contribution to the advancement of Jewish history in New Mexico was her role as Director of the Pioneer Jews Video Archive Project. Lisa took a vague idea and proposal that had been discussed for a couple of years and fashioned it into a coherent and superb enterprise and saw it to its successful conclusion.

Under the Video Archive Project, descendants of major Jewish Pioneer families in New Mexico were video interviewed. Their photos and memorabilia were recorded. This huge body of

material was then assembled and sent to NMJHS Archives in Santa Fe. Copies were also deposited in the Southwest Collection at UNM. These materials are now in the public sphere for scholars and interested lay people to enjoy and exploit.

Lisa oversaw virtually all aspects of the project. She worked tirelessly over four years. She believed in it. She secured grants that became the lifeblood of the project. She handled numerous details. She fostered a sense of dedication among the volunteers and among her technical staff at Avista Video. She was a taskmaster, but

she was also a delight to work with. She respected the professional historians.

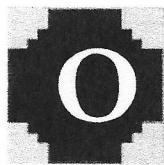
As the project was developing she understood the benefits of producing the booklets based on the interviews. Despite some doubts, Lisa urged their publication.

Lisa Witt left us with an important legacy, a wonderful complement to the Pioneer Panels Exhibits.



Lisa is President and founder of Avista Video Histories in Albuquerque, winner of 17 national Telly Awards since 1998. ☆

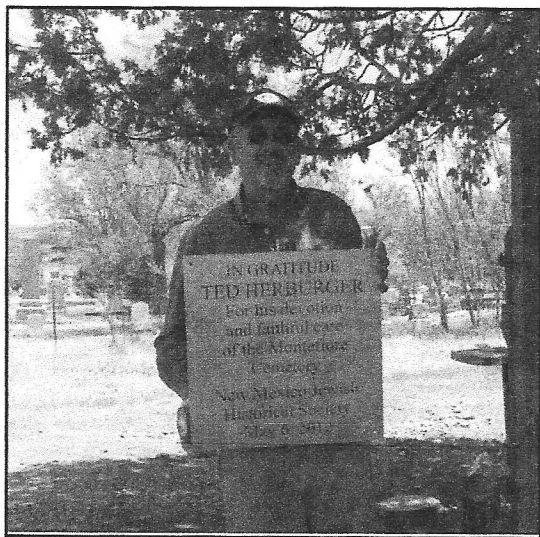
Annual Montefiore Cemetery Cleanup



On Sunday, May 6, NMJHS volunteers gathered in Las Vegas, New Mexico for the Annual Montefiore Cemetery Cleanup. This year's event, as usual, involved weeding, moving rocks, raking debris and enjoying a picnic lunch. In addition, the society

had an opportunity to honor cemetery caretaker Ted Herburger. After last summer's vandalism which included broken and toppled headstones (as reported in the September 2011 *Legacy*), Ted immediately began repair work and the cemetery was re-dedicated last winter. Dorothy Amsden presented a plaque to Ted with much gratitude for his efforts.

Montefiore Cemetery's tombstones date to 1881, when Las Vegas had a thriving Jewish community. Family tombstones include those of the Ilfelds, Herzsteins, Taicherts, Regensbergs, Moiseses, Danzigers, Rosenthals, Teitelbaums and many others. ☆



Ted Herburger, Montefiore Cemetery caretaker, receives plaque from society



NMJHS volunteers rebuild a cemetery wall.