

Marian and her family were instrumental in helping to make Temple Beth Shalom a reality and a special place to worship. "Now there are at least five committed and organized Jewish places of worship right here in Santa Fe. To me that shows our explosive growth and success."

Marian sums up her life thus, "Santa Fe is a utopian and wonderful community, and I love to give back to it because of all that my family has received." Marian's community service, along with that of her husband and soul mate Abe, is quite long. She has been known to serve many organizations with passion, commitment, leadership and generous patronage. The list includes: a directorship with the United New Mexico Bank, St. Vincent Hospital Auxiliary, St. Vincent Hospital Foundation Board, The Santa Fe Opera Guild, United Way, Chamber of Commerce, Temple Beth Shalom Board, Rodeo de Santa Fe, Museum of New Mexico, and the Santa Fe Children's Museum.

Marian was also on the committee that helped select the New Mexico state quarter in 2008. In 1992, Marian and Abe were awarded the Distinguished Community Service Award from the Anti-Defamation League. In 2008 they were both named as Santa Fe Living Treasures. The Governor's Award for Excellence in the Arts was awarded to this great duo in 2010 by Governor Bill Richardson, who recognized them as major contributors to the arts.

One project Marian is especially proud of is her involvement with the exhibit "Jewish Pioneers of New Mexico," which opened at the Palace of the Governors in 2000 and ended in 2004.

I co-chaired a committee where we launched the exhibit that featured an amazing amount of Jewish history from the State of

New Mexico. To make this exciting we hired a fiddler who played on the roof of the Palace of the Governors to the many invited guests who attended the opening gala. It was a fascinating exhibit that highlighted many wonderful stories gathered from so many Jewish families who helped build our great state.

In fact, the photograph of Marian's grandparents Johanna and Emil Uhlfelder is part of the permanent exhibit at the New Mexico History Museum in Santa Fe.

One summer afternoon in 2006, Marian and Abe gave an informal Jewish historical walk and talk in downtown Santa Fe to participants from the New Mexico Jewish Historical Society. During that walk Marian shared her memories of growing up in the "City Different." She and Abe talked about their store as well as the stores of other Jewish merchant families whose businesses were located in downtown Santa Fe.

Johanna and Emil would no doubt be proud of their granddaughter. Santa Fe has been blessed with a strong, courageous and passionate woman. Marian has dedicated her life to her family, her community and her faith. In essence, Marian Silver has lived a modern version of the life of Jewish pioneers full of historical footnotes, passion, religious growth, philanthropy and involvement with the growth and success of the City of Santa Fe. ☆

Editor's note: the Dr. Allan P. and Leona Hurst Award recognizes a person, persons, or organization that has contributed to New Mexico Jewish history, culture, and community for a substantial period of time. The first award was bestowed in 1998.

THE ALLAN P. AND LEONA HURST AWARD

- 1998 Stanley M. Hordes, PhD
- 1999 Walter Kahn
- 2000 Henry Tobias, PhD
- 2001 Melanie LaBorwit
- 2002 Claire Grossman
- 2003 Taos Jewish Center
- 2004 Leah Kellogg
- 2005 Rabbi Leonard A. Helman
- 2006 Noel Pugach, PhD
- 2007 Abraham S. Chanin, PhD
- 2008 [none]
- 2009 Lance Bell and
Dorothy Corner Amsden
- 2010 Naomi Sandweiss
- 2011 Sharon Niederman
- 2012 Lisa Kaplan Witt
- 2013 Marian Singer

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