

2006 Annual Conference - (continued from p. 1)

einhauser, the head of ADL in Denver. He also recounted his involvement in the civil rights movement by his younger brother, Jonathan, who now sits on the New Mexico Court of Appeals. Robert Schwartz concluded the session by fielding questions on "Law and Order." Mr. Schwartz is very well qualified to enter this arena. A career crime fighter, Mr. Schwartz has served as Bernalillo County District Attorney, was justice correspondent for KOAT-TV, and was Governor Bill Richardson's crime policy advisor. Mr. Schwartz received a barrage of questions, which he answered with aplomb.

He knew many of them intimately. The governor then took questions on a wide variety of subjects. The proceedings were then adjourned for the night.

On Sunday morning, the focus shifted to The Arts. Ms. Naomi Sandweiss moderated a panel that included two active artists. The first was sculptor Harvey Buchalter, a transplanted Yiddishist from New York. Buchalter began his fascinating presentation by talking about the negative atmosphere and limited models for Jews in the plastic arts. But then, with the use of dramatic photos, he showed how tombstone carvers used their freedom to express their im-

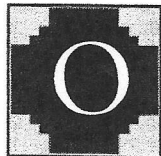
To conclude the session, David Steinberg brought these presentations into the larger context of Jewish involvement in the arts in New Mexico. A newspaperman with the *Albuquerque Journal* for many years, David is currently its arts writer and book review editor. Mr. Steinberg provided a broad and enlightening survey of the more outstanding figures in fields ranging from music, dance, and the representational arts.

The goals of the program committee were fulfilled. Nancy Terr did a remarkable job in organizing the entire weekend. She was ably assisted by Noel Pugach and Phil Saltz.

Noel Pugach is president of the New Mexico Jewish Historical Society and Professor Emeritus at the University of New Mexico, where he taught for over 38 years. He specializes in U.S. foreign relations and Jewish history. He has published two books, co-edited a third, and is the author of more than a dozen scholarly articles and over sixty book reviews. He has been studying Jewish pioneer families since 2001 and has published eight family studies, most recent on the Loewenstern family of Nara Visa and Amarillo. Noel has a B.A. from Brooklyn College and M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Dr. Allan Hurst Award

By Lance Bell



On November 12, 2006, the New Mexico Jewish Historical Society presented the 2006-2007 Dr. Allan Hurst Award to NMJHS board member Dr. Noel Pugach during the Society's annual fall conference.

The award, named in memory of one of the Society's earliest founders, recognizes a person, persons, or organization that has contributed to New Mexico Jewish history, culture, and community for a substantial period of time. Previous recipients of the award include historians Dr. Stanley M. Hordes and Dr. Henry Tobias; long-time Santa Fe resident, Leah Kellogg; and former Society president Claire Grossman. Last year the award was given to Rabbi Leonard Helman.

Playing an instrumental role in the Society's Video History Project that brought to the public 13 booklets on pioneer New Mexico Jewish families, Dr. Pugach helped train the

volunteers, conducted some of the interviews, did fund raising, and most importantly wrote the scholarly articles for the booklets. (These booklets are available for purchase through the Society office.)

Dr. Pugach began his career as an instructor at Kent State University in 1965 and received his Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin in 1967. He began his long and successful career as a professor at the University of New Mexico in 1968. In regard to Jewish history, he has taught classes on early Jewish history to 1492; modern Jewish history, 1492 to the present; and the history of the Holocaust. He has published numerous articles and reviews relating to Jew-

ish history, specifically to New Mexico Jewish history and Southwest Jewish history.



Lance Bell and Dr. Noel Pugach.
Photo courtesy of Harold Melnick

Bringing history to a general audience, Dr. Pugach gives numerous presentations in New Mexico and elsewhere with regard to Jewish history, Holocaust studies, the Middle East, United States history, and China. Try to catch him performing his notable and acclaimed Chautauquas on President Harry S Truman or New Mexico territorial governor Lew Wallace. Dr. Pugach receives rave reviews for bringing to life the characters that he portrays.

If you have someone in mind whom you would like to nominate for next year's Dr. Allan Hurst award, please write to the Society's office. Tell us the person's name, special qualifications, and why you feel this individual should receive the award. ★