

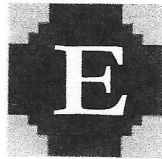
Ron Duncan Hart (continued from p. 10)

with Roger Martinez, of the University of Colorado and President of the Society for Crypto-Judaic Studies, and they have a fascinating international line-up of scholars tracing Jewish history in Spain, Mexico, and New Mexico. The entire production promises to be a groundbreaking exhibition that will spark international interest in New Mexico's unique history and greater appreciation of the intertwined histories of Jews, Muslims, and Christians.

NMJHS board member Diane J. Schmidt is a writer, photographer, and public speaker. National awards include 1st Place for enterprise reporting from the National Federation of Press Women in 2014, a Robert R. McCormick Fellowship to the Poynter Institute in 2012, and a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship for her photo essays in the *Chicago Tribune Sunday Magazine*. Memorable projects include the art monograph "The Chicago Exhibition," her memoir as a photojournalist covering the civil war in El Salvador, and health projects for the Navajo

Nation. Diane has a BA from Prescott College in Arizona, a BFA from the Rhode Island School of Design, and an MA from the University of New Mexico. She and her husband live in Corrales. Read articles by Diane J. Schmidt online at *The Albuquerque Judaism Examiner*. ☆

NMJHS presents the 2014 Dr. Allan P. and Leona Hurst Award to Ron Duncan Hart



Every year the New Mexico Jewish Historical Society bestows a special award to a person, persons, or organization that has contributed to

New Mexico Jewish history, culture, and community for a substantial period of time. The award was first established by Leona Hurst in 1998 following the death of her husband Dr. Allan P. Hurst, who was a founding member of the Society. After Leona passed away her name was added to the award.

At the NMJHS Annual Meeting on May 18, Noel Pugach and Dorothy Amsden presented this year's Hurst award to an unsuspecting Ron Duncan Hart for his outstanding service to NMJHS and the Jewish community.

Ron Duncan Hart is a cultural anthropologist by training, who relocated to Santa Fe after many years of living in South America and Puerto Rico. He has written numerous articles and books on Sephardic history as well as a notable work about the Muslim world.

Ron earned his doctorate in cultural anthropology at Indiana University and conducted postdoctoral work at Oxford University. He worked in Latin

America for 18 years with UNICEF, the Ford Foundation, and other international agencies. His research in the Muslim world took him from Morocco to Central Asia. He has received awards from the National Endowment for the



Noel Pugach and Dorothy Amsden present the Hurst Award to Ron Duncan Hart at the 2014 NMJHS Annual Meeting in Albuquerque on May 18. [Photo by Diane Schmidt]

Humanities, the National Science Foundation, Ford Foundation, and Fulbright.

In Santa Fe Ron is highly active in the Jewish community, serving on the boards of the Santa Fe Jewish Film Festival, HaMakom, and several other organizations. Ron is also an active member of the Society for Crypto-Judaic Studies. He is currently working on an exhibit about Sephardic Jews to go on display at the Museum of New Mexico in 2016.

Ron and his wife Gloria Abella Ballen established a small publishing company in Santa Fe called Gaon Books to bring attention to "books of distinction on the social, cultural, linguistic and spiritual tapestry that is Judaism," with "special attention . . . [to] women's voice[s] and the Judeo-Spanish cultural and religious heritage." Ron has become a major player on the Santa Fe arts and cultural scene.

Ron joined the NMJHS board in June 2010, during which time he extended the scope of the programs and outreach of the Society.

Ron has been an active player in NMJHS activities,

organizing programs and conferences, sending out attractive notices via email to members and interested parties, writing articles in *Legacy* and *The New Mexico Jewish Link* about Jewish history, and serving as recording and corresponding secretary.

A Renaissance man, Ron continues to broaden the horizons of Jewish history from New Mexico to Latin America, Spain, Morocco, and the Middle East. ☆