



New Mexico
Jewish Historical Society
5520 Wyoming Blvd. NE
Albuquerque, NM 87109

Exploring the History of the Jewish Experience in New Mexico

The fascinating story of the Jews of New Mexico is part of a larger historical puzzle. One piece involves tracing the path of the Jews who fled the Iberian Peninsula when the upheaval of the Spanish Inquisition shattered their lives in the 15th century. Forced to outwardly renounce their religion, they traveled to the New World where some of these Jewish families kept their secret faith and traditions alive for more than four hundred years.

Another piece of the puzzle examines the family histories of young German and Polish immigrants who sought opportunities for a new life away from the constraints and turmoil of 19th-century Europe. Their skill in learning languages allowed them to cross cultural barriers. Their talent for cultivating business arrangements on the frontier enabled them to help transform the region from a barter economy to a mercantile economy. Eager to put down roots, these Jewish pioneers established a community that continues in New Mexico to this day.

From Taos to Carlsbad, from the 16th century to the present day, the history of the Jews in New Mexico is engaging, unexpected, and ongoing...

The mission of the New Mexico Jewish Historical Society is: to promote greater understanding and knowledge of New Mexico's Jewish history. The Society's programs examine the state's Jewish heritage in all its diversity, and strive to present this heritage within a broad cultural context. The Society is a secular organization and solicits the membership and participation of all interested people, regardless of religious affiliation.

Jennie Levy, an early Jewish pioneer buried at the Montefiore Cemetery in Las Vegas, NM. The NMJHS sponsors an annual cleanup at the site. Photo by Ted Herburger



Jewish Merchants (L to R) Bernard Seligman, Zadoc Staab and Lehman Spiegelberg and Kiowa Indian Scouts, circa 1870. Historical Society of New Mexico/Museum of New Mexico, Neg. #7890

*"Jewish history
in New Mexico
would be incomprehensible
without knowledge of the
broader past. But knowledge of the
uniquely local informs and modifies
the general, providing fuller
comprehension for both.
No greater justification is
necessary for
local history."*

— Henry J. Tobias



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Date _____ Please make check payable to NMJHS and mail to above address.

☐ Visa ☐ MC No. _____ Exp. Date _____

Name(s) _____

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☐ **Individual \$35** ☐ **Family \$50** ☐ **Senior (55+) \$30** ☐ **Senior Family \$40**

☐ **Student \$20** ☐ **Business \$100** ☐ **Friend of Society \$100+**

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Activities and Programs

Your membership will help support the following programs and activities:

Educational and Community Programs

The Society sponsors lectures, concerts, an annual conference, genealogy and oral history workshops, and field trips to historic destinations throughout New Mexico and the Southwest.

Archive and Library

The Society has created and constantly updates the NMJHS Archive. The Archive has been made part of the New Mexico State Records Center and Archives in Santa Fe. It contains collections of documents, photographs and books which are available to scholars, researchers and the interested public. In the near future, a listing of the holdings in the collection will be accessible via the Internet.

Historic Sites

The Society sponsors guided tours of historic sites and field trips to locations that have a strong connection to the Jewish history of New Mexico. Organized programs to preserve the buildings, cemeteries and places of interest are regularly planned throughout the year. Every effort is made to preserve the legacy of early pioneer Jewish families.

Video History Project

The Society is sponsoring a major video history project which will permanently record the stories, documents and artifacts of some of our state's pioneer Jewish families and life in New Mexico from the mid-1800s to immediately after World War I. The focus will be on European Jews who came to the United States in the 19th and early 20th centuries.

Publications

The Society's newsletter contains information about its activities and programs, as well as articles about the history of Jews in New Mexico.



Tom Mix and Selig Polyscope Company came to Las Vegas, New Mexico in 1915. They produced 25 films, all directed by the star, Tom Mix. Pictured here is Ludwig Ilfeld, Jewish pioneer merchant in Las Vegas, who was cast as an "extra" in one of the Tom Mix films.
(Source: 100 Years of Filmmaking in New Mexico, 1898—1998)

For further information about your membership, please visit <http://www.nmjewishhistory.org>
or contact: (505) 348-4471 • E-mail: nmjhs@jewishnewmexico.org

Thank you for becoming a part of New Mexico's rich Jewish history.

The New Mexico Jewish Historical Society is a Beneficiary Agency of the Jewish Federation of Greater Albuquerque