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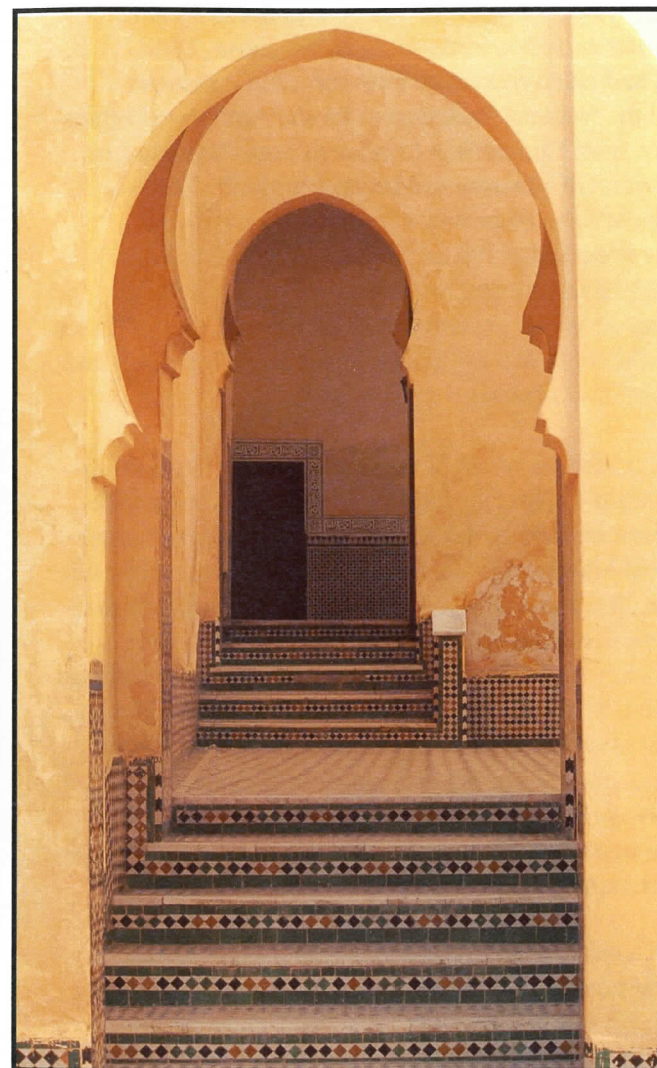
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The New Mexico Jewish Historical Society is a beneficiary agency of the Jewish Federation of New Mexico.

Cover photo: Doorways of the Royal Palace in Meknes, Morocco, a city where many Sephardic Jews settled after the expulsion from Spain. The Jewish Mellah (Quarter) was located next to the Palace, as was common in Morocco, since Jews were protected by the king and frequently worked for the king. Jews walked in the courtyard as members of the royal administration/government. [Photo courtesy of Ron Duncan Hart]

Sephardic History

from
Spain
to New
Mexico



New
Mexico
Jewish
Historical
Society



26th Fall Conference
Sagebrush Inn



October 12 - 13, 2013
Taos, New Mexico

Conference Speakers

Gloria Abella Ballen has an M.A. from SUNY-Buffalo and has taught art and art history in the U.S. and abroad. She was born in South America to a Sephardic family. She has exhibited in the U.S., Israel, Japan, Latin America, and Europe, and received awards from the Latin American Graphics Biennial and the National Endowment for the Arts among others. Her art has been shown from Christie's in London to Louis Stern in Los Angeles, from the Carrillo Gil Museum in Mexico City to the Bellevue Art Museum in Seattle. Her art is in museums, corporations and private collections, such as the Presidential Palace and the National Museum of Colombia to Occidental Petroleum and the Fort Lauderdale Museum of Art in the U.S. She has been a visiting lecturer in the U.K. (University of Essex and the Camberwell School of Art), in China (University of Xinjiang) and in Israel (Mishkan Omanim, Herzliya).

Yvette Cohn Stoors, a lifetime resident of New Mexico, was born in 1963 to John and Fedelina Cohn. Her father was born in Youngsville, New Mexico, and raised in Taos by his Grandmother Beatrice Young Cohn along with one of his siblings and his uncles. She was told by her father, at an early age, that she was German Jewish, yet she was raised Catholic with rich New Mexican cultural traditions. In 2009, she attended a lecture given by Professor Noel Pugach, the subject, German Jewish Pioneers of New Mexico. He told a tale surprisingly similar to the stories she had heard on her frequent visits to Taos, about family patriarch and pioneer, Louis Cohn, who was born in Breslau, Prussia. Armed with the family stories and letters from her great, great uncle Richard Cohn, Yvette began research, following her family's path back in time to discover her family's German Jewish roots.

Ron Duncan Hart is a cultural anthropologist with a Ph.D. from Indiana University and postdoctoral work in Jewish Studies at the University of Oxford. He is a former University Vice-President and Dean of Academic Affairs, who also worked in South America for eighteen years with UNICEF, the Ford Foundation and other international agencies. He has awards from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the National Science Foundation, Ford Foundation, and Fulbright among others. He and his daughter, Vanessa Paloma, are one of the few father/daughter pairs in the history of the Senior Fulbright

Scholar program. Duncan Hart has written eight books on cultural history and social change and is the editor of Gaon Books, the publisher of Jewish books in Santa Fe. His most recent book is *Islam and Muslims*, and he is currently working on a book on Jewish history in South America.

Mona Hernandez's crypto-Jewish ancestors were among colonists who came with Juan de Onate (1598) and Diego de Vargas (1693). Her research has been published in *Nuestras Raíces* (journal of the Genealogical Society of Hispanic America), the *New Mexico Genealogist* (journal of the New Mexico Genealogical Society), and *Herencia* (journal of the Hispanic Genealogical Research Center of New Mexico). She is a member of the Genealogical Society of Hispanic America Southern California and currently serves on the board of GSHA-SC as VP for Communications. She is also a member of the Society for Crypto Judaic Studies. Her essay "La Conquistadora: A Crypto Jewish Connection," was published in New Mexico's *Crypto-Jews Image and Memory*, photographs by Cary Herz, University of New Mexico Press, 2007. Her article "A Surprising Discovery," about Gerson Gusdorf and of his connection to the Coca family has recently been published in *Herencia*, Vol. 21, Issue 4, October 2013.

Roger L. Martinez (Ph.D. University of Texas) is Asst. Professor of History at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs. Previously, he served as the Burton Postdoctoral Fellow at St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia. Currently he serves as president of the Society for Crypto-Judaic Studies. Dr. Martinez specializes in the study of medieval and early modern Spain, religious minorities and religious converts in Spain (in particular, Jews and conversos), and Spanish trans-Atlantic migration to Mexico and Bolivia. He has conducted extensive research in approximately 35 local, ecclesiastical, provincial, and national archives in Spain, Mexico, Bolivia, and the United States. His forthcoming book is *Blood, Faith, and Identity: Jews, Conversos, and Old Christians in Early Modern Spain and Colonial Spanish America*, which focuses on the Carvajal and Santa María families of Plasencia, Spain. Dr. Martínez has published in the peer-reviewed *Journal of Spanish, Portuguese, and Italian Crypto-Jews*.

(speakers continued on page 6)

Sephardic History from Spain to New Mexico



Conference Schedule



Saturday afternoon, October 12

Buffet Lunch 12:00 - 1:45

Welcome from NMJHS President Naomi Sandweiss

Welcome from TJC president Gary Attias

Conference introduction by Ron Duncan Hart,
program co-chair

Spanish Roots of Sephardic Jewry 2:00 - 3:15

Roger Martínez, "Jews in Spain"

Gloria Abella Ballen, "Spanish Jewish Illuminated
Manuscripts"

———— 30-minute break ————

The Sephardic Diaspora 3:45 - 5:00

Sandra Toro, "The Nasi Family Dynasty, 1500 - 1600"

Ron Duncan Hart, "The Sephardic Diaspora"

Cocktail Hour and Book Sale 5:00 - 6:30

Dinner 6:30

Keynote Address 7:30

Steven Ovitsky, "Sephardic Music in the Diaspora"

Sunday morning, October 13

Sephardic Thought 9:00 - 9:45

Rabbi Jack Shlachter, "Maimonides and Nachmanides"

From Sephardic to Ashkenazi in Northern New Mexico 9:45 - 12:00

Naomi Sandweiss, "The Gusdorfs: Pioneer Jews of Taos"

———— 30-minute break ————

Mona Hernandez, "The Coca Family and the Gusdorfs:
Crypto-Jewish and Ashkenazi Transition"

Yvette Cohn Stoor, "The Cohn Family"

Closing Comments 12:00 - 12:30

Dorothy Amsden, program co-chair, editor of the NMJHS
quarterly newsletter *Legacy*

Speakers *(continued)*

Steven Ovitsky is the Executive Director of the Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival. His career in music administration includes positions as President and Executive Director of the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, Vice President and General Manager of the Minnesota Orchestra, and Director of the Grant Park Music Festival in Chicago. He has chaired and served on panels ranging from the National Endowment for the Arts, Illinois Arts Council, Aaron Copland Fund, Chamber Music America, American Symphony Orchestra League and Jewish Theological Seminary. Mr. Ovitsky has been in Jewish music since his university days when he conducted concerts of music by Salomone Rossi and was Ba'al Tokeah and choir director for the University of Michigan Hillel Foundation. He has one of the largest collections of Jewish music in the U.S. Southwest and is an expert on Sephardic music.

Naomi Sandweiss serves as president of the NMJHS. She is the author of *Jewish Albuquerque* (Arcadia Books, 2011) and numerous articles about Jewish history. She is a previous recipient of the NMJHS Leona and Allan Hurst Award for Outstanding Service to the Society. An Albuquerque native, Naomi works as a program supervisor at the University of New Mexico Continuing Education and serves on the board of Congregation Albert.

Rabbi Jack Shlachter is a full-time physicist at Los Alamos National Laboratory, currently serving as the Deputy Division Leader of Theoretical Division. A passionate admirer of the rabbinic literature, Rabbi Jack's personal library exceeds 5,000 volumes. He has lived in Los Alamos since 1979 with two separate, extended leaves to Vienna, Austria. He and his wife, Beverly Post, spent two weeks as guests of the progressive Jewish community in Vienna in September 2012, where he led High Holiday services. Rabbi Jack supports the HaMakom community in Santa Fe, often leading discussions of the weekly Torah portion with insights from the traditional medieval commentators.

Sandra Toro is the author of five published novels, four of them historical novels with Jewish themes. She teaches creative writing at UNM Continuing Education and runs their annual spring writer's

conference. She began her career as an on-camera journalist on ABC's College News Conference. She later became an executive producer of a public affairs program on PBS. She also worked on the staffs of Senator Joseph Clark and Congressman Chester Bowles. In 1966 she was named Director of the Women's Speakers Bureau of the Democratic National Committee. During the Carter Administration she was Director of Special Projects at the Department of Energy, reporting directly to the Secretary of Energy, and holding the Senior Executive Service rank, which was the civilian equivalent of a Brigadier General. She graduated from George Washington University with a degree in public administration and did post-graduate work in literature at American University.

Book Sale

For your reading pleasure, NMJHS authors are offering their books for sale during the cocktail hour before dinner.

Conference Sponsors

Dorothy Amsden, Sandra Brintnall, Sandra Dietz & Geraldine Kipper, Bill & Margarethe Feldman, Linda Kruger, Bob & Irene Gale, Edward & Linda Goff, Ray & Elizabeth Laemmle, Bette Myerson, Janet Saiers, Iris Weinstein

Upcoming NMJHS Event

Professor Emeritus Noel Pugach will present a program entitled "Nice Jewish Cowboys and Cowgirls" on October 27, 2013, in the auditorium of the New Mexico History Museum in Santa Fe at 2:00 p.m. His talk ties in to the current special exhibit, "Cowboys Real and Imagined," showing at the New Mexico Historical Museum.