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

Cover photo: Bertha Staab Nordhaus and Max Nordhaus outside their home at 1200 West Central Avenue in Albuquerque circa 1914 with their three children: Elizabeth (big bow), Maxine (baby), and Robert. Years later a trip to Europe inspired Robert Nordhaus and his business partner Ben Abruzzo to build the Sandia Aerial Tramway in Albuquerque. [Photo courtesy of Betsy Messeea.]

Statehood
New Mexico Jewry before and after 1912

New Mexico Jewish Historical Society
25th Fall Conference  ★  November 4, 2012
DoubleTree Hotel  ★  Santa Fe, New Mexico
Conference Speakers

Dorothy Corner Amsden
New York City (Bronx) native transplanted to New Mexico in 1956. BA in French and math from University of New Mexico; MA in French language and literature from Middlebury College. Computer programmer and technical writer for IBM; copy editor of Israel Journal of Mathematics in Jerusalem 1973-74; technical writer/editor and then intelligence analyst at Los Alamos National Laboratory for 22 years. Currently retired and serving third year as NMJHS president.

Richard Melzer
Originally from Teddy Roosevelt’s hometown of Oyster Bay, New York. He has lived in New Mexico since 1973. He earned his Ph.D. at UNM in 1979. He has taught history at UNM’s Valencia Campus since that same year. He is the author, co-author, or editor of 16 books and over a hundred articles and chapters about New Mexico history. He is a past president of the Historical Society of New Mexico. Among the many awards he has received for writing, teaching, and service, he is most proud of receiving the University of New Mexico’s Teaching Excellence.

Ron Duncan Hart

Susan Warburg
Born in and grew up in New York City. She is a great-granddaughter of Willi and Flora Spiegelberg, early Santa Fe pioneers. She lives in San Francisco with her husband, Felix Warburg II. Both served as Guest Curators of the exhibition “Pioneer Jews of New Mexico,” which took place in the Palace of the Governors from 2000 to 2005, and was the first museum exhibit of the Jewish settlement in New Mexico. Susan served as Chairman of the Advisory Committee of the Western Jewish History Center of the Judah L. Magnes Museum in Berkeley, now part of the University of California Bancroft Library. Through their company, San Francisco Jewish Landmark Tours, they have led tours in Northern New Mexico, California, the American South, and Jewish France.

Ms. Warburg served on the Advisory Board of the American Jewish Historical Society in New York City for many years, and is now an Honorary Emeritus Advisor. She has spoken throughout the United States on the Pioneer Jews of New Mexico, at Hofstra College, Long Island, Israel Bonds, Hadassah, University of New Mexico, the Magnes Museum, The Palace of the Governors, and numerous synagogues and Jewish Community Centers.

Ramona Caplan
MA, is an American West historian who specializes in the cultural history of the American Southwest. Since 2009, Ms. Caplan has served as the Oral Historian for the Valles Caldera National Preserve, and formerly served as the Oral Historian for the New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum. Ms. Caplan is a doctoral student at the University of New Mexico. She has received the Clinton P. Anderson, John Gaw Meem, and Doris Duke Fellowships at UNM’s Center for Southwest Research. Her Master’s thesis, “The History of the Sevilleta Land Grant,” features oral history interviews with grantees’ descendants. Ms. Caplan is presently writing her Ph.D. dissertation, a biography of Lee Marmon, the celebrated photographer from Laguna Pueblo.

Noel Pugach
PhD, University of Wisconsin. Professor Emeritus University of New Mexico. Former NMJHS president. Taught American and Jewish History at the University of New Mexico for four decades. He is known for theatrical presentations of historical figures from Harry Truman to Rabbi Isaac Mayer Wise. Wrote eight publications on pioneer Jewish families in New Mexico.

(speakers continued on page 6)
Conference Schedule
This conference is an official event of the New Mexico Centennial 1912 - 2012
Sunday, November 4, 2012

9:00 - 9:15 Welcoming Remarks
Dorothy Comer Amsden, NMJHS President

9:15 - 10:00 Keynote Address
Richard Melzer, “Herding Millions of Sheep: Solomon Luna and the Writing of the New Mexico State Constitution, 1910”

9:15 - 10:00 break

10:15 - 11:30 Session I: Before 1912
Ron Duncan Hart, session moderator
Susan Warburg, “Jewish Immigrants on the New Mexico Frontier, 1840s to 1880s”
Ramona Caplan, “Nathan and Artie Bibo: Visionaries and Activists Crossing Cultural and Racial Borders in New Mexico and San Francisco”

11:45 - 1:30 Lunch
Noel Pugach, “Reflections on the Jewish Pioneer Panels: Their Origin and Content”

1:45 - 3:00 Session II: After 1912
Naomi Sandweiss, session moderator
Henry Tobias, “Dr. Randolph Seligman: Early Life of a Jewish Native Son”
Diane Schaller, “Albuquerque Businesses: The Maisel Story”

3:15 - 3:45 break

3:45 - 4:15 Conference Summary
Ron Duncan Hart

4:00 - 5:00 Silent Auction
Janet Saiers

4:00 - 5:00 Reception and Book Sale (hotel bar)
Speakers (continued)

Naomi Sandweiss

Henry Tobias
PhD in history from Stanford University. Professor Emeritus of History at the University of Oklahoma and University of New Mexico. Recognized as a leading scholar on New Mexico Jewish history. Author of numerous books including, A History of the Jews in New Mexico (1992), Santa Fe: A Modern History, 1880-1990 (2001) with Charles Woodhouse, Jews in New Mexico since World War II (2008), Jews in Oklahoma (re-issued 2011).

Diane Schaller
President of Historic Albuquerque Inc., a non-profit group dedicated to the preservation Albuquerque's history. Ms. Schaller has a Master's degree in Information Systems and worked for over 35 years in creating and supporting computer systems for federal, state and municipal governments, in addition to private sector companies. Recognizing her contributions to the industry, Ms. Schaller received the Women in Technology Award. Since moving to Albuquerque in 1992, Ms. Schaller has been actively preserving and sharing local history. Most recently, she is collecting the history of long-time Albuquerque businesses.

Conference Committee

Dorothy Comer Amsden
Sandra Brintnall
Patricia Carlton
Ron Duncan Hart
Carla Freeman

Silent Auction
A silent auction is being held during the conference to benefit the New Mexico Jewish Historical Society. The auction will take place in the conference room from 8:30 a.m. to 1:45 p.m. Each item will have a bid sheet listing the approximate value of the item, a minimum opening bid, and the increment when a bidder goes higher than the previous bidder. A person writes their bid, name and phone number on the line on the bid sheet. For example, if $20 is the minimum opening bid and the increment is $5, the first bidder writes $20, each consecutive bidder would write their name, phone number on the next line, e.g., $25, $30, $35. The winning bid is the final amount before the auction closes and the bid sheets are picked up at 1:45. Winning bidders may take their items after payment by either cash or check during the closing reception.

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