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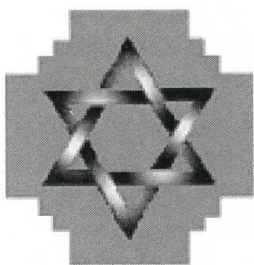
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NMJHS administrator: Ruth Carter  
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*The New Mexico Jewish Historical Society is a beneficiary agency of the  
Jewish Federation of New Mexico.*

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 Messeca.]

## 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

PhD Cultural Anthropology, Indiana University. Postdoctoral work in Jewish Studies at Oxford University. Former Dean of Academic Affairs of InterAmerican University in Puerto Rico. Worked with UNICEF, the Ford Foundation and other international agencies. Currently Editor of Gaon Books. Author of *Islam and Muslims*, *Cain's Question and the Arab-Israeli Conflict*, and other titles on ethnohistory and social change. Former editor of *HaLapid: Journal of the Society for Crypto-Judaic Studies*.

## 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 Issac 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 Corner 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"

— *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"

— *break* —

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

3:45 - 4:15 **Silent Auction**  
Janet Saiers

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



## Speakers *(continued)*

### Naomi Sandweiss

MA, Albuquerque native, Youth Program Supervisor, University of New Mexico Continuing Education. Recipient of the Hurst Award for outstanding service to NMJHS, 2010. Editor of *Legacy*, NMJHS quarterly newsletter. Author of *Jewish Albuquerque 1860-1960* and numerous articles on Jewish topics. Current board member, NMJHS and Congregation Albert. Contributing researcher, NMJHS Jewish Pioneers project. Served as docent for the New Mexico Holocaust Museum. Currently teaches university-level writing and communication courses.

### 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 Corner Amsden  
Sandra Brintnall  
Patricia Carlton  
Ron Duncan Hart  
Carla Freeman

Norma Libman  
Nurit Patt  
Noel Pugach  
Janet Saiers

## 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.

## NMJHS Officers and Board of Directors

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