

The NMJHS Wishes to WELCOME its New 2004 Members:

- Dorothy Corner Amsden
- Edward Borins
- Helene C. Cagan
- Edward & Renee Cohen
- Patricia Cotts
- Winona F. Dickey
- Alice Dixon & Stanley Cohen
- Abe & Bella Endzweig
- Barbara Erdman
- Mary Fitzgerald
- Susan Tingey Garvin
- Werner & Frances Gellert
- Miriam Gendron
- Walter Halpern
- Lewis & Abby Harris
- Betty Lee Harvie
- Rhoda Karp
- Judith Kennedy
- Regina & Jules Klapper
- Marvin Klein
- Karen Kolbert
- Ellen Lefkowitz
- Guida Leicester
- Frances Levine & Thomas Merlan
- Saralyn Loveman
- Erich & Meryl Marchand & Family
- Antonio A. Medina
- Richard S. Meltzer
- Josephine Navarrete & Risela Nava-Tyma
- Jennie L. Negin & Harold L. Folley
- Sharon Niederman
- NM State Library Serials Department
- Leslie & Neil Pivar
- Harold & Ruth Rappaport
- Terrence Revo
- Emily B. Rudin
- Sergio Rybka & Deborah Colvin
- Julia Y. & Milton S. Seligman
- Sandra Valdez
- Walter & Leora Vandevender
- Patricia C. Vargas
- Jay & Er Dien Weiner
- Elizabeth West

Calendar of Upcoming Events:

- Book and Art Sale, September 4 & 5, 2004, Wild Oats Community Room, Santa Fe
- Annual Conference, October 23 & 24, 2004, Santa Fe Courtyard Hotel by Marriott

The NMJHS is soliciting historical papers and photographs for inclusion in its archival collection at the New Mexico Records Center and Archives. For more information contact The NMJHS at (505) 348-4471 or nmjhs@jewishnewmexico.org.

Mission Statement

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.

We apologize if there are any errors or omissions in this list.

The NMJHS also wishes to thank ALL current Society members for their continued support and generosity. You make a difference!

Membership Dues

Membership fees are as follows:

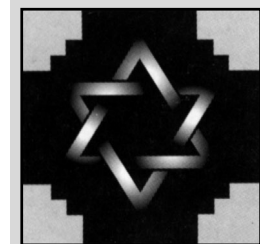
- Renewal New
- Individual \$35
- Family \$50
- Senior (55+) \$30
- Senior Couple \$40
- Fulltime Student \$20
- Business \$100
- Friend \$100 or more
-
- 2004 2005

Name(s) _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Email address _____
 Phone _____

Please make your check payable to:
New Mexico Jewish Historical Society

and mail it with this form to:
New Mexico Jewish Historical Society
5520 Wyoming Blvd. NE
Albuquerque, NM 87109

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



New Mexico
Jewish Historical Society

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Annual Conference to Focus on the "Treasure of Your Own Family History"

by Lance Bell



here are many facets to the importance of keeping our families' heritage alive. In the Jewish faith it is said that we live on in memories.

One of the most important ways to preserve a family's history is by learning as much as possible today from parents, grandparents and their ancestors by researching one's genealogical past. Once this is done, it is important to take it one step further by recording a live personal interview as an historical keepsake. Imagine how wonderful it would be to share a video history of a family member who is no longer here with your children and then even their children. Future generations will have a priceless opportunity to listen and learn from past generations that are no longer with us. This can easily be done with the appropriate tools, which will be available at the next New Mexico Jewish Historical Society annual Conference.

This year's 17th annual Conference of the New Mexico Jewish Historical Society,

movement of Jewish families in America. Proffitt is the senior archivist for research and collections of the



1937 Meretz, Lithuania - "A Holiday Celebration"
Esther Balbarisky Belitzer & Abraham Hart Belitzer are seated at the table (front row, seated 5th and 6th from the left). They had 9 children, 7 of whom immigrated to the USA prior to W.W.II. Three of the seven, Lizzie Bell Hertzmark, Morris Bell and Barney Bell, ended up in New Mexico around 1916.

Photo courtesy of Lance Bell.

entitled "The Treasure of Family History," will be held at the Santa Fe Courtyard Hotel by Marriott on October 23-24, 2004. The theme of this year's Conference will explore something personal to us all: "The Treasure of Family History". The short weekend will feature breakout sessions with a variety of different presentations that will help attendees learn how to research genealogy, safeguard family memories, handle family archives, and discover how to conduct a personal video oral history. If you, anyone in your family, or friends want to learn about these important topics, this Conference is for you.

The Conference will begin on Saturday evening, October 23rd, with dinner and keynote presentation by archivist Kevin Proffitt, who will speak about the westward

Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives in Cincinnati, Ohio.

On Sunday, October 24th, Proffitt and our own favorite local historian and New Mexico Jewish Historical Society Past-President, Stanley Hordes, Ph.D., will share their investigations on the origins of Jewish family names.

Sunday will feature a day of hands on workshops where partici-

pants will have a choice of two out of three exciting programs. Dorothy Corner Amsden, a genealogist from Los Alamos, will conduct a program on tracing family history. Next, Lisa Witt from Avista Video History will help participants learn productive interview methods and proper

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Billy the Kid – He Wasn't Jewish, but...

by Abraham S. Chanin



He was one of the Southwest's most notorious killers, a figure of the 1800s whose story never dies.

But what does this runt of a kid have to do with Jewish history?

It seems that along the way he had some run-ins with a couple of Jewish pioneers. The first yarn begins with Solomon Jacob Spiegelberg, that intrepid Jewish merchant in Santa Fe. He had a merchandising store on the plaza in Santa Fe and ran something of a banking business, too. He decided he needed some coinage to run the bank and called in Sam Dittenhoeffer and asked him to go to Juarez to get some \$25,000 in Mexican silver dollars.

Sam took up the challenge, got a horse and started down the long trek along the Rio Grande. Once he got to Juarez, he purchased the silver dollars, got a horse and wagon and was ready to head North. But Navaho Sam – as he was known because he could converse in the native language – knew he could encounter trouble along the way. He knew there were Apaches and bandits all along the route he was to take. He hit on the idea to get some barrels and fill them with flour for the store in Santa Fe. He then hid the coinage in the flour and was ready for the long ride.

Now as the story goes, Sam's luck did not hold out. Along the way he was stopped by a bandit. Who was it? None other than Billy the Kid! As the story-

tellers narrate, Billy turned to Sam and asked, "What have you got in that there wagon?" Sam replied, "Flour. Nothing but flour for the store in Santa Fe. Look for yourself," whereupon the Kid pulled up the tarpaulin at the back of the wagon – and lo and behold, there were only barrels of flour marked for the Spiegelberg store in Santa Fe. This did not satisfy Billy, so he took out his gun, as the story goes, and with the handle of his gun he bashed in the top of one of the barrels. And what do you think he found? Flour, nothing but flour.



Billy the Kid—he wasn't Jewish, but...

Photo from <http://www.geocities.com/Athens/Styx/9560/lincoln.htm>

Angered, Billy the Kid said, "Well, I've got a notion to take some of that flour with me and make some flapjacks." With that he rode off into the sunset as Hollywood would have it. And Navaho Sam lived to ride on back to Santa Fe to deliver the \$25,000 safely to Solomon Jacob Spiegelberg.

Another encounter Billy the Kid had with a Jewish pioneer was with Sol Floersheim, the pioneer who began by selling supplies to ranchers in eastern New Mexico. One night when Floersheim was traveling and looking for a sheep rancher, he got lost and finally wandered into a tavern. He was headed for the bar to get some information when a disheveled young man beckoned him to come over and have a drink with him. Well, Sol didn't want a drink; but when he saw the gun sitting in front of the man, he decided he had better obey. He had a drink with the man, and when the man turned his head Sol

slipped out of the bar and ran as fast as he could.

Now remember that Sol Floersheim stood only five feet tall and had a moustache as wide as he was tall. Well, Sol began wandering some more until he came to a ranch house. There he was welcomed in. By this time Sol had lathered up quite a sweat and he blurted out to the rancher the story of what had happened to him at the bar.

The rancher laughed and said, "Do you know who that man was? Well, that was none other than Billy the Kid. You were lucky to get away from him with your skin!" Sol Floersheim breathed easier. He had gotten away from Billy the Kid! And for many years Sol Floersheim grew in the business world. He had stores in Roy and Springer, and at one time ran 1,400 head of sheep at his ranch. And this little frontiersman lived on until he was ninety years old – a great Jewish pioneer of early New Mexico.

NMJHS Book & Art Sale

September 4th & 5th 2004

Wild Oats Community Room
(Corner of St. Francis &
Cordova, Santa Fe)

Saturday

10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Sunday

10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Lots of great art books
available for sale.

Don't Miss It!

Upcoming Events at the NM Holocaust & Intolerance Museum and Study Center in Albuquerque

by Werner Gellert



Hate and intolerance will destroy a family, a culture and a nation. It is the museum's mission to diminish this destructive evil through education, lectures and visual material. We have been very successful in bringing our vision to the public. Letters and comments from students and adults encourage us to continue and expand our educational programs.

9/11 brought people out of their inertia and gave them a better understanding of the result of hate. Everyone's help is needed in standing up against hate and intolerance. While the museum can act as an inspiration for people to respect each other and work together to overcome hate and intolerance, it is up to each of us to do our part.

We have created very successful educational programs for teachers, students, and the public. All visitors are introduced to the Native American Cultural Genocide, the Armenian and Greek Genocides, the Bataan Death March and the Holocaust.

We would like to incorporate other ex-

hibits featuring the violence perpetrated against Spanish-speaking people, Black Americans, and the relocation and incarceration of Japanese Americans, along with additional exhibits focusing on the consequences of hate and intolerance. We would also like to increase our wall honoring those righteous individuals who placed their own lives in danger to save others.

Upcoming Events

October 17 – November 30, 2004

A traveling exhibit from the Holocaust Museum in Washington D.C. on Oskar Schindler will be held at the museum.

January – February, 2005

The NM Holocaust & Intolerance Museum and Study Center and the Israeli Consulate in Houston will sponsor a month of lectures, exhibits and films about four Spanish-speaking people who were refugees in Mexico and Jews who went to Central and South America. The museum is working with Latino organizations and the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce on this project. Exhibits will take place both at the museum and at the Hispanic Cultural Center.

Conference... continued from p. 1

recording techniques to use in documenting their own family stories. Finally, Judy Basen Weinreb, Chair of the Israel C. Carmel Archive at Congregation Albert in Albuquerque, and Jack Smith, who specializes in silver and antique restoration, will share their expertise regarding how to handle and preserve family archives. At 1:00 p.m. a brunch will be served and access to the presenters' display exhibits will be available.

The Conference concludes with a tour and discussion at the Palace of the Governors museum in downtown Santa Fe.

Dr. Frances Levine, Director of the Palace of the Governors, will address Conference attendees at the exhibit. During the last four years, thousands of people were able to view the "Jewish Pioneers of New Mexico" exhibit. This exhibit documents the lives of Jewish families in New Mexico and the influence that they exerted in their communities throughout the territory long before New Mexico achieved statehood in 1912. Ironically, October 24th is the last day of the exhibit in Santa Fe before traveling to other cities and will conclude the 17th annual Conference for the NMJHS.

January, 2005

The NM Holocaust & Intolerance Museum and Study Center and Bridges for Peace will present a program on Anti-Semitism (Anti-Jewishness) at two locations: the Biblical and Anthropology Museum (on Constitution and Eubank) and at the museum.

Spring, 2005

A traveling exhibit from the Holocaust Museum in Washington D.C. on non-Jews in concentration camps (including gypsies, Jehovah's Witnesses, homosexuals and others) will be held at the museum.

For more information on any of these programs or information on the museum, please contact Werner Gellert at 505-247-0606.

The NM Holocaust & Intolerance Museum and Study Center is located at 415 Central Avenue NW, right next to the Kimo Theater in Albuquerque. The museum's website is <http://www.nmholocaustmuseum.org>, and it is open from 11am to 3:30pm Tuesday – Saturday and is closed on Sundays and Mondays.

Please save the date and spread the word. Hotel reservations can be made with the Santa Fe Courtyard Hotel by Marriott by calling (505) 473-2800 or (800) 777-3347 by September 23, 2004 and referencing the New Mexico Jewish Historical Society's annual Conference for a guaranteed preferred rate of \$74/night for single or double occupancy. For more information, please contact Julie Gordon at (505) 348-4471 or nmjhs@jewishnewmexico.org. The deadline for the early registration rate of \$89 for NMJHS members and \$124 for non-members is October 11, 2004.

Advertising Space Available - Call 505-348-4471 for details