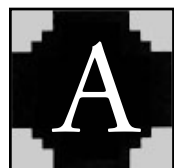


New Mexico Jewish Historical Society

Volume 18, No. 4
December 2004

Annual Conference Was Great Weekend For All Participants

by Lance Bell



At this year's annual conference, held in Santa Fe, we decided to delve into our pasts in a unique and spectacular way, which included the focus on the Treasure of our your own family history. The conference started on Saturday night with guest speaker Kevin Proffitt, Senior Archivist for Research and Collections, American Jewish Archives in Cincinnati. Kevin made a fascinating presentation titled, "Dawn in the West: Documenting 350 Years of American Jewish Life". Kevin shared just a smidgen of what the Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives has to offer in its vast collection. In his talk, he explored two themes that characterize American Jewish history. The themes were, "features that distinguish the history of American Jews from other Americans" and "features that distinguish the history of American Jews from Jews in other times and places". In

his final analysis, Kevin concluded with the fact that, "American Jewish History is a remarkable amalgamation of two historical traditions: Jewish heritage and American culture". Kevin reiterated how important it is for us to continue our quest to learn, and then to teach what we learned to current and future generations. My favorite part of Kevin's talk

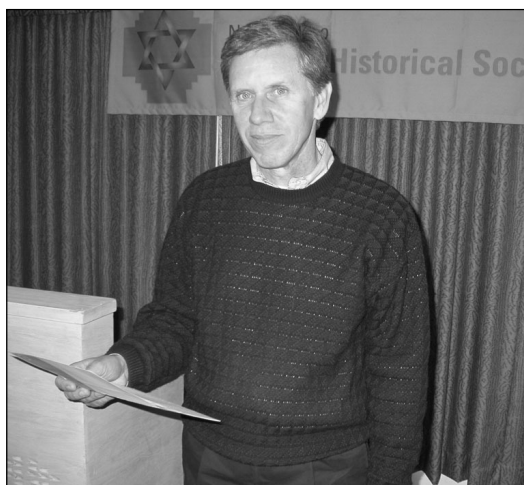
was the historical photographs and video, which tied in perfectly with his presentation. We were able to hear the pivotal speech made by the Berlin Rabbi Joachim Prinz (who survived the Holocaust) that he made prior to Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr.'s famous "I have a dream" speech. In addition we were able to view a copy of the menu from the so called, "Trefta Banquet" of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, which included just about every type of shell fish! We learned about the lynching of Atlanta, Georgia citizen Leo Frank, who was wrongly accused of murdering a young girl. We viewed the "Riegner Telegram" sent to Stephen S. Wise in 1942, informing the United States Jewish community of the beginning of the Holocaust. Wise did not disclose the telegram until quite some time after he received it. We also got to see the 1955 charter of the Los Alamos, New Mexico Jewish Community Center.

On Sunday, the conference continued with Kevin Proffitt and our past president, Stan Hordes, PhD., who shared a combined presentation on the origins of Jewish family names. It was fascinating to hear that many of the New Mexico Hispanic names we are familiar such with as Rael and Romero have direct links to Sephardic Judaism.

In addition, there were also hands-on workshops where participants had a chance to learn from

experts in a variety of fields. Dorothy Corner Amsden, a genealogist from Los Alamos, conducted a program entitled "Tracing Your Family History". Lisa Witt

continued on p. 6



Keynote speaker Kevin Proffitt.

Photo by AJ Melnick

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

Telephone: (505) 348-4471
Fax: (505) 821-3351
website: www.nmjewishhistory.org
email: nmjhs@jewishnewmexico.org

Administrator: Julie Gordon, Keri Honeycutt
Office Hours: Monday and Thursday
1:00-4:00 pm

Managing Editor: Julie Gordon
Executive Editor: Abe Chanin

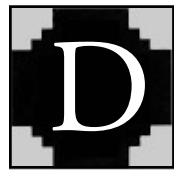
If you have any news or announcements of interest to our membership, please send it to the above address. Thank you.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Annual Conference Recap.....	1&6
Message From the President.....	2&3
Meshpocha-The Extended Jewish Family.....	2
"Marvin Taichert Scholar" to the NMJHS Board.....	3
Meet Sarah Godner, the First "Marvin Taichert Scholar".....	3
Board Member's Book: <i>The Real Rosebud</i>	4
Santa Fe Honors 3 'Living Treasures'.....	5
Bon Voyage To Julie Gordon.....	6
Farewell To Claire Grossman.....	7
In Memory of Jeanette Wertheim Sparks.....	7
Welcome 2004/2005 Members.....	8

From the President's Desk

by Lance Bell



Dear Friends:

Since taking on the role as President of the New Mexico Jewish Historical Society, I have been inspired. I am continually learning from our board, many of our 230 plus members, as well as from our interesting programs. We have a diverse and exciting group of members each contributing something unique to offer. Whether you are a pioneer, a descendent, a relative of a pioneer family or a newcomer to New Mexico, you play an important role. I want to remind all of

our members that we are a secular society and everyone is welcome regardless of their faith or background.

As we celebrate 350 years of Jewish life in America it is hard to believe that the NMJHS is coming close to celebrating its 19th year anniversary. Ashkenazi Jews have been in New Mexico since the mid 1800's. Sephardic Jews have been in New Mexico much longer. My initial goal as NMJHS President is to continue the success of the NMJHS by growing our membership statewide and



Celebrate 350
Jewish Life in America
1654-2004

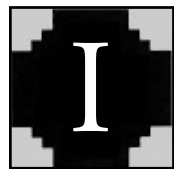
even nationally. We have many members who live outside of New Mexico. We have many more people who have not been approached to join or are not even aware of the existence of the NMJHS. I would like

to ask each of you to reach out to prospective members and ask them to join and get involved. My other goal, and the most pressing, is to help get the NMJHS into a very strong fiscal situation by encouraging our members and non-members to donate generously so we can continue our mission of exploring the

Continued on p.3

MESHPOCHA - The Extended Jewish Family

by Abraham S. Chanin



In the earliest years of Jewish settlement of New Mexico—even in the days before Statehood—Jewish men came to the Southwest looking for a livelihood. They came west from Germany to America and they moved into the Southwest to find opportunity. And they found it in little stores that soon became mercantile centers. Such was the story of Solomon Jacob Spiegelberg who arrived in Santa Fe in 1844.

He started with a small store that soon grew as the local residents found it a good place to trade. As soon as the Spiegelberg store grew he found he needed help and that is where the meshpocha started. He brought his five brothers from Germany.

Soon the Spiegelbergs attracted the Zeckendorfs to come West to New Mexico. They were cousins—part of the extended family. The Zeckendorf brothers eventually came to Santa Fe and they entered into the business with their cousins. The Spiegelbergs taught them to merchandise, to speak Spanish and learn the Indian dialects. When they became ad-

justed they opened their own business with the help of their cousins. Now the despotizes firmly established in New Mexico. The Zeckendorfs moved to Arizona to open a store that grew into one of the oldest established department stores in Arizona territory, but that is another story.

A truly great story of mespocha began in Las Cruces in Southern New Mexico. There one Koppel Freudenthal, also from Germany, came to Las Cruces and established his family there. Koppel established himself in Las Cruces in 1859 and began family connections that spread from New Mexico territory into Arizona. A cousin of his, one Henry Lesinsky, came to Las Cruces after wandering through Australia. He had always been interested in mining and in Eastern Arizona he founded the great copper mining industry at Clifton. This was to be the start of the copper mining industry in Arizona. Lesinsky brought in from Las Cruces Sam Freudenthal as a partner in the iron mine which grew to major proportions.

Now comes the spread of the meshpocha. The Freudenthals became connected with the Solomon family of Eastern Arizona. The Solomons were to become famous pioneers. Isadore Elkan Solomon

became postmaster of the town that became known as Solomon, Territory of Arizona. He had store that became a huge general store and in it he ran a small banking operation, just as the Spiegelbergs had in Santa Fe. His wife meanwhile opened a hotel and restaurant above the store. It is said that for \$1 a day a visitor to the Solomon Hotel could get a room and a full course meal deliciously prepared under the supervision of Ana Solomon.

The Solomons had five children and here is where the meshpocha fanned out. Although there was no Jewish community in Solomon, no rabbi, Ana insisted that their children would stay within their religion. Two daughters were married in a double wedding in El Paso, which was said to be that city's most joyous event. Eventually the other children were married to mates in Tucson, Phoenix and Globe. How the mespocha had grown!

The stories of the extended family were widespread on the Southwestern frontier; pioneer Jews wanted to retain their Yiddishkeit so they brought out family and they married cousins and for the most part they stayed Jewish and kept the story of meshpocha alive!

President's Message continued from p. 2

history of the Jews of New Mexico. Only with your help will our unique fabric of fascinating history continue.

An exciting development occurred recently when I received a call from the Abroms from Birmingham, Alabama, a cousin of the late Marvin Taichert. They made a donation to the society in Marvin's name. Judy and Hal Abroms used to make annual trips to visit Marvin and his parents in Las Vegas, New Mexico. Please see the article below about, "The Marvin Taichert Scholar to the board".

I am proud to say that our web site con-

tinues to be fully functional and up-to-date. Please go on line to nmjhs@jewishnewmexico.org to share your feedback and suggestions. You can learn about upcoming programs and events, read past issues of our quarterly newsletter, discover links to many interesting Jewish web sites, review suggested reading and even, JOIN !

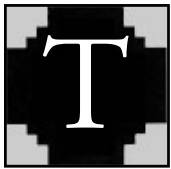
Please feel free to contact me through the society with any ideas, suggestions and most importantly, how you want to help, donate, or get involved. Many great ideas have come to the board's attention. If you have a great idea please be prepared to help chair that idea and help imple-

ment it. Our board is a volunteer board and many of the members have a day profession. With limited time and a limited budget we need each and every member's help to be a successful Jewish Historical Society and to continue serving the public with exciting events. I hope that during the next 20 years of the NMJHS many more New Mexicans will have the opportunity to discover their currently unrecognized interest in Jewish history. The New Mexico Jewish Historical Society and its members can be your vehicle to get started.

With Warmest regards,
Lance Bell

"Marvin Taichert Scholar" to the NMJHS Board

by Lance Bell



The NMJHS recently received a wonderful donation from Judy Abroms, first cousin to the late Las Vegas, New Mexico resident and New Mexico Jewish Pioneer descendent, Marvin Taichert.

"Marvin was the beloved cousin of the Estrach family," Judy reminisces. *"He was the youngest cousin and we all adored his parents, Frances and Milton Taichert. His mom, Aunt France, was the favorite and sweetest of the five siblings."*

"Every summer," she goes on to say, *"the Taicherts came to Boston to visit our family. They arrived with all the ingredients including New Mexico red chile to make an authentic New Mexican dinner. That*

meal was always part of our special summer celebration."

Taichert, an esteemed New Mexican, who graduated from Harvard University in 1955 and then brought his wisdom and knowledge back to his beloved small town to live out the rest of his years, believed that a strong educational background was paramount for all young people. *"When Marvin was at Harvard he was selected to be a member of the Hasty Pudding Club,"* Judy recalls. *"We Bostonians surely were excited for him. After Marvin returned to Las Vegas, we were able to visit him on several occasions. He showed us his outstanding coin collection. As he aged and was not well, he decided to donate the collection to Harvard University. Harvard auctioned the collection and used the proceeds to establish scholarships in Marvin's name to stu-*

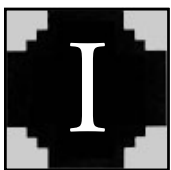
dents from New Mexico. We were so proud of him and we miss him."

With that, Judy and Hal asked the board for the most appropriate way to disperse these funds explaining Taichert's strong appreciation for knowledge.

After a long deliberation, the board decided that a one-year scholarship, entitled the "Marvin Taichert Scholar to the Board" be created to allow a student to receive full sponsorship to the NMJHS including membership, a seat on the board and an open invitation-free of charge to any conference or event that the society holds that year. By working with Hillel on UNM's campus, we were able to fulfill this goal by finding a student recipient for the newly established, "Marvin Taichert Scholar". Please see the article below.

Meet Sarah Godner, the First "Marvin Taichert Scholar"

by Sarah Godner



I was born and raised (and had my Bat Mitzvah) in Santa Fe, and graduated from Santa Fe High School. I attended Occidental College in Los Angeles for two years, then took two years off from school, when I traveled and

worked. This is my second semester at UNM. I'm a history major, and want to minor in Spanish. I'm studying general world and US history. I really like history for a lot of reasons, but mainly because I think that the past tells us so much about the present, and really allows us to understand it more. I also really like

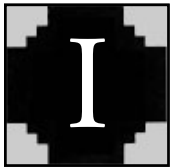
learning about other cultures and times different from ours. I think that New Mexican Jewish history is interesting because it seems like something that isn't too well-known, and I think that the Jewish Diaspora as a whole is fascinating.

NMJHS's Board Member's New Book: *The Real Rosebud*

Book written by Marjorie Weinberg; Foreword to the book written by Luke Yellow Robe

Excerpts taken from the *Rapid City Journal's* October 16, 2004 article "Rosebud's Tale: A Friend's Tribute" by Jomay Steen and from the *University of Nebraska Press's* article "The Real Rosebud"

Article reprinted by permission from Marjorie Weinberg-Berman

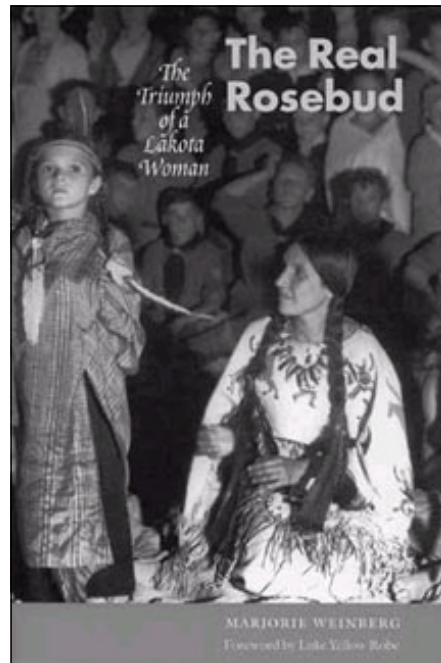


In her book *The Real Rosebud: The Triumph of a Lakota Woman*, Marjorie Weinberg, a NMJHS Board member, wants readers to know the straight story. As the story melds from the Yellow Robes' family history in Rapid City and South Dakota to the shore of Jones Beach on Long Island, N.Y., Weinberg, 70, has written herself in as one of the characters within *The Real Rosebud*. "This is the Yellow Robe story," she said. "The book was a promise I made to Rosebud."

The promised story documents a lifelong friendship between Weinberg and her mentor, the late Rosebud Yellow Robe. Weinberg met Rosebud and her daughters at Jones Beach State Park, a 2,400-acre park with six miles of beach. As director of the Jones Beach Indian Village from 1929 to 1950, the Lakota woman introduced hundreds of children and thousands of visitors to the traditions, crafts and stories of her people's culture. "She taught us how Indians really lived," Weinberg said.

Luke Yellow Robe, Children's Home Society cultural relations director, wrote the forward to Weinberg's book. He recalls visits to Weinberg's home and Weinberg's visits to South Dakota with "Grandma Rosebud." He described his father, Luther, translating Lakota words and phrases for Rosebud and recording them on tape. Rosebud wanted to learn about more about her family, the language and about the life they lived in South Dakota, he said. Luke's father was willing to oblige. "Later in her life, Grandma Rosebud was learning more about the language from my father," Luke said. "He came from a background of education," Luke said. "That's what Grandpa Chauncey modeled for all of us."

Her great-grandfather was a famed Lakota warrior, her father a buffalo hunter, and Rosebud Yellow Robe hosted a CBS radio show in New York City. From buffalo hunt-



This photo from the cover of *The Real Rosebud: The Triumph of a Lakota Woman* shows Rosebud Yellow Robe with children around a campfire at Jones Beach Indian Village on July 6, 1934. (Courtesy photo)

ing to the hub of Twentieth-Century urban life, this book chronicles the momentous changes in the life of a prominent Plains Indian family over three generations. At the center of the story is Rosebud (1907-92), whose personal recollections, family memoirs, letters, and stories form the basis of this book. Rosebud's father, Chauncey Yellow Robe, was the son of a Lakota chief and had a traditional childhood until he was sent to the Carlisle Indian School, where he became an advocate for Indian education and citizenship. He was instrumental in planning the 1927 ceremony that brought his daughter into national prominence—an induction of Calvin Coolidge into the Lakota tribe, capped by Rosebud placing a feathered war bonnet on the president's head.

Marjorie Weinberg follows the young woman from Rapid City, South Dakota, to New York City, where she became a noted lecturer and teller of Indian tales (and where her broadcasting career brought her name to the attention of Orson Welles, who may indeed have named "Rosebud," the legendary sled in his film *Citizen Kane*, after her). Reflecting a lifelong interest and a friendship that provided Weinberg access to family archives and a rich reservoir of family oral tradition, *The Real Rosebud* offers an intimate picture of a century and a half of a remarkable Lakota family.

"Weinberg's concise portrait thoughtfully illuminates the life of this distinguished woman, ensuring her place in history."

-Booklist

"[Rosebud] never won fame on Broadway or the silver screen. Her greatest stage, as it turned out, was at Jones Beach, where she was a beloved celebrity and a genuine star to the thousands of children who visited the long-gone Indian Village every summer from 1930 to 1950. Rosebud and her years at the Indian Village might have been all but forgotten if not for one of those summer visitors - a 13-year-old girl from Queens - who met her in July of 1947 and never forgot her."

-David Behrens, *Newsday*

"The tender tale of how a Lakota woman promoted her cultural heritage to a white world."

-Virginia Driving Hawk Sneve, author of *Grandpa Was a Cowboy and an Indian and Other Stories*

"A uniquely intimate picture of a remarkable Lakota Sioux woman and her family."

-*The Great Neck Record (NY)*

Marjorie Weinberg is an educator and a trustee of Adelphi University. Luke Yellow Robe is the Lakota grandson of Rosebud Yellow Robe.

NMJHS Board of Directors and Officers

Officers

Lance Bell, President - Santa Fe
 Nancy Terr, Vice President- Albuquerque
 Harold Melnick, Treasurer - Santa Fe
 Gerald González, Recording Secretary - Santa Fe
 Melanie LaBorwit, Corr. Secretary - Albuquerque

Directors

Norman Budow, Santa Fe
 Abe Chanin, Albuquerque
 Rabbi John Feldman, Albuquerque
 Rabbi Arthur Flicker, Albuquerque
 Werner Gellert, Albuquerque
 Sheila Gershen, Santa Fe
 Claire Grossman, Nashua, NH
 Sharon Herzog, Santa Fe
 Peter Hess, Santa Fe
 Phil Saltz, Santa Fe
 Deborah Seligman, Albuquerque
 Marjorie Weinberg-Berman - Kings Point, NY
 John Wertheim, Albuquerque

Immediate Past President

Stanley Hordes, Ph.D., - Santa Fe

Administrators

Julie Gordon & Keri Honeycutt, - Albuquerque

The NMJHS' Board's Appeal to Its Members

Our continued existence depends on the interest and support of our members. We need your cooperation to interest others to join our Society. We need your help to obtain archive material. We need your ideas. We urge you to please renew your membership when due. If you are already a 2005 member, please consider an end-of-the-year tax-deductible gift.

We are proud of our accomplishments, but we cannot rest on our laurels. It is your Society – we appreciate your continued interest and support.

Thank you.

Know someone who is not a member?

A friend or relative? Ask that friend or relative to join the NMJHS! Every "old" member please get busy and sign up a "new" member.

A membership to the NMJHS makes a great and unexpected GIFT!

Help us grow!

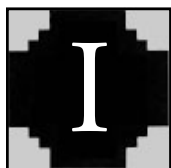
Special thanks to our 2004 Donors:

Richard & Kathleen Abeles • Judy & Hal Abroms • Marjorie Weinberg-Berman & Paul Berman • Yetta Bidegain • Margrethe & Bill Feldman • Jennie Negin & Harold Folley • Claire Grossman • Peter Hess • Deborah Seligman
 • Dr. Jean Rothenberg • Joseph H. Wertheim.

Santa Fe Honors Three 'Living Treasures'

by Yasmin Khan

Reprinted with permission from *The Santa Fe New Mexican*



If you ever have the pleasure of meeting Rabbi Leonard Helman, be prepared to tell him exactly what your name means.

If you don't know, be prepared to help him search through his overflowing bookshelves for his book of names.

"Leonard means 'lionhearted', and in the Middle Ages he was the patron saint of prisoners," said Santa Fe's dapper "Rabbi Different," while lounging in his chair at home wearing a three-piece suit.

The image of a patron saint is fitting for the lawyer, tap-dancer, teacher and champion bridge-layer who has dedicated his life to entertaining and helping people of all cultures. His good works have not gone unnoticed - he's one of Santa Fe's three new Living Treasures.

Since 1984 Santa Fe has honored 136

elder role models for their participation in the life, heart and spirit of the community. This year's treasures are Rabbi Helman - rabbi with Congregation Beit Tikva and Sunday-night tap-dance and show-tunes entertainer at Vanessie; Albert Gonzales Sr.- the first blind person to graduate from New Mexico State University (1935) and receive a law degree from Georgetown Law School (1939) and Sara Melton, a real-estate agent and fierce volunteer advocate for the preservation of Santa Fe's architectural integrity and historical uniqueness.

The interior of Helman's house near the southern end of Don Gaspar Avenue is covered with art - paintings, drawings, etchings and prints ranging in size from tiny, pencil sketches to huge, wall-sized portraits. He created the impressive gallery by collecting work from local college art students and world renowned artists.



Rabbi Leonard A. Helman

"This is one of my favorites. It's a protest against women being painted nude all the time," he said, pointing to a massive, navy blue abstract painting of a nude man which he bought from a college student.

The former administrative law judge, New Mexico Public Service Commission lawyer and current chaplain for the state senate served as rabbi for Temple Beth Shalom from 1974 until 1986. He is on the board of directors for Gerard's House, a local organization which helps children who are grieving, is vice president of the Santa Fe Bridge Unit and still loves to perform marriage ceremonies, which, he said, keeps him going.

"People who I marry become an extension of me. As their life goes on, my life goes on."

Bon Voyage to Julie Gordon

by Judy Basen Weinreb



When Julie Gordon came to work at the NMJHS nearly 3 years ago, she brought with her an un-failing good nature, wonderful skills, a willingness to work hard, and a commitment to the Jewish community.

As NMJHS Administrator and Editor of the Newsletter, she has had a hand at every activity in which the Society has

been involved. She created the conference brochures and managed registration for the Annual Conferences. She attended board meetings and worked with board members on many different projects. Julie has been the contact person for the public, answering phones and fielding questions on the Internet. She collected materials for the newsletter and worked on its layout. The list goes on and on!

Working with Julie has been a joy. She is

always willing to go that extra mile. The word “no” is simply not in her vocabulary. She has been a pleasant and professional face for the NMJHS since the day she began working, and she will be greatly missed.

As Julie begins her new adventures, we wish her the very best. We know that she will make a success of whatever she chooses to do in the future.

Conference Recap continued from p. 1

from Avista Video Histories helped many participants learn productive interviewing methods and proper recording techniques to use in documenting their own family stories. Judy Basen Weinreb shared her expertise on the handling of one’s own family archives and finally Jack Smith shared many wonderful tips on how to clean, repair, restore and preserve silver and or precious metal heirlooms.

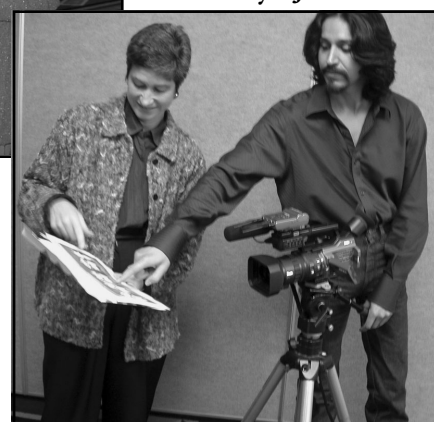
The annual conference concluded with a final tour of the “Jewish Pioneers of

New Mexico” exhibit at the Palace of the Governors’ museum. The reception in the museum courtyard was sponsored by the NMJHS. Dr. Fran Levine, Director of the Palace of the Governors, addressed a large crowd of townspeople and conference attendees who turned out for a special ceremony to return the exhibit’s Las Vegas, New Mexico Torah to its current home at Temple Beth Shalom. During the last four years thousands of people were able to view the “Jewish Pioneers of New Mexico” exhibit. Many of the comments that were

written in the visitor book were shared with the audience. It was obvious to see that this exhibit was one of the Palace’s most successful. Subsequently, our conference was a huge success, generated many new memberships and helped get old friends and family together. In my case, I was lucky to have my wife, my daughter, four cousins, my brother, my mom, my in-laws and my aunt all attend the conference. After all, isn’t that what the true treasure of family history is all about?



(L-R)
Dorothy Corner Amsden,
geneologist
Jack Smith
antiques/silver restoration
Judy Basen Weinreb

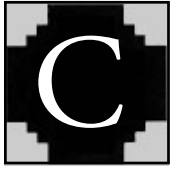


(L-R)
Lance Bell
Dr. Stanley Hordes
Lisa Witt & her assistant
from **Avista Video Histories**

Photos by AJ Melnick

Farewell To Claire Grossman

by Marjorie Weinberg-Berman, with love and deep affection



Claire Grossman has recently moved to New Hampshire. That is a fact to which we will just have to adjust. We, her friends and fellow Board members of the NMJHS, have known about her plans to leave Santa Fe for more than a year. We shared her excitement of building a new home and life near her children and grandchildren. Knowing her plans and accepting the fact that Claire is not to be found rushing around doing marvelous acts of kindness and care in Santa Fe, is something else. Let's face it, we've been spoiled!!! If anything needed to be done, we'd call Claire. If she couldn't do it, she knew who might help or

where to find the information we needed. NMJHS was only one of many Santa Fe organizations that benefited from her expertise.

We, the lucky ones, who could call Claire, a close, good friend, are more than slightly bereft, however, between e-mail, phone calls and mail—we will keep in close touch. That is why I am not writing a 'GOODBYE CLAIRE' article—this is a 'SO-LONG AND WE'LL KEEP IN CLOSE TOUCH' article. Claire may be out of sight and away from Santa Fe, but she remains here with us out of interest and affection. Long may she wave!!!!



Claire Grossman receiving a silver Nambe heart-shaped dish as an appreciation gift from the NMJHS.

Photo by AJ Melnick.

In Memory of Jeanette Wertheim Sparks

Excerpt taken from *Carlsbad Current-Argus*, September 23, 2004



Ms. Jeanette Wertheim Sparks died Monday, Sept. 20, 2004, at home. She was 86 years old.

Jeanette was born May 16, 1918, in Carlsbad to Joseph and Emma Wertheim. She attended schools in Carlsbad from kindergarten through Carlsbad High School, from which she graduated in 1935. She was president of the student body her senior year.

Jeanette then attended the University of Texas at Austin, graduating magna cum laude with a B.A. degree and membership in Phi Beta Kappa honor society, in 1939. While at the university, she was scholarship chairman of her society and active in numerous organizations. In her senior year, she was responsible for organizing the Big Brother - Big Sister Club, which became part of the orientation program for new students there.

Following graduation, Jeanette taught her major, English, at Carlsbad Junior High School and became librarian at

Carlsbad Senior High School. Afterward, she received an appointment from the U.S. Department of State to organize a library at the American Embassy in Lima, Peru, where she served from 1945 to 1946. Afterward, she worked in Denver, CO, first as a teacher and later as a secretary. She returned home to Carlsbad following the death of her father, and she and her mother continued the family business, the Joseph Wertheim General Insurance Agency.

Jeanette was very active in civic work in Carlsbad, where her proudest achievement became working with the Altrusa Club to secure water for New San Jose. She also was the first president of the Republican Women's Club of Carlsbad.

On March 2, 1956, Jeanette married Norman E. Sparks in Carlsbad. Norman was a research chemist at U.S. Potash Co. A year later, he left that firm and joined the ladies at the insurance agency, which he reorganized, and soon took over responsibility of managing it.

Jeanette's mother died in November 1982. Norman and Jeanette continued the family business until 1985 when Norman retired and Jeanette became a realtor for 13 years. She was a member of the Million Dollar Club for high production listings and sales. She joined her husband in retirement in 1998. Jeanette and Norman enjoyed traveling to foreign and domestic locations.

Jeanette was preceded in death by her parents, Joseph and Emma Wertheim; a brother, Joseph Wertheim Jr.; and her first grandchild, Jonathan Alan Scott.

Jeanette is survived by her husband, Norman; brother, Robert H. Wertheim; daughter, Emily Sparks and grandson Adam Scott; son, Sam and daughter-in-law Debra Sparks, and grandchildren, Travis Kirk, Amanda Kirk, James Sparks and Kyle Sparks.

In lieu of flowers, please make contributions to your favorite charity in memory of Jeanette W. Sparks.

The NMJHS WELCOMES its New 2004/2005 Members:

- Dano Bell
- Jon Bell
- Marilyn B. Bell
- Morris Bell
- Peter Burman
- Mariana Civalé
- Amy Gottschamer
- Sara Koplik
- Rabbi Berel Levertov
- Rita & Michael Linder
- Steven Margulin & Iris Weinstein
- Judy Moss Minks & John Minks
- Dr. Elliot & Mrs. Leba Pierce
- Sheldon Poretzky
- Richard A. Powder
- Louise Sampson
- Dan & Judy Tully
- Philip D. VanRiper

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!

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.

2005 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

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

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 1322
ALBUQUERQUE, NM

