

NEWS



LETTER

VOL. 10, NO. 3, August 1996

P.O. Box 23056, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502

ANNUAL CONFERENCE Special Edition

MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW!

THIS EXTRA EDITION OF OUR Newsletter is designed to provide all the advance information you need about our Annual Conference. This year the Conference will be in Las Cruces, NM on 15 - 17 November 1996. Your program Chairmen, Claire Grossman, Stan Hordes and

NOVEMBER						
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Norman Kerewsky hope you will join us for this Ninth Annual NMJHS Conference. Please read this carefully. The formal Program and Registration form will be sent to you the second week of September. There is a DISCOUNT for early registration.

An Invitation from Elsa Altshool Program Co-Chair, NMJHS Conference

Jews have been living in southern New Mexico for almost 150 years. The early communities were poor and isolated. Everyone depended on their neighbors, and everyone was accepted for what they could contribute: Rich men, Poor men, Beggarmen, and even some Thieves!

Come to Las Cruces and meet some of this hardy crew who chose southern New Mexico in the 19th century: delivering the mail before the Pony Express, merchants on the Santa Fe Trail who then headed

south, the women who accompanied them, the first Jewish Mayor of Las Cruces and the array of

lungers, merchants, farmers and even a bonafide Jewish thief. You'll hear of those who settled in the Mesilla Valley during the 20th century too. Jewish doctors, technicians, originators of the first Jewish Sunday school, and many more.

The program is full of fascinating information - and also includes a guided tour of historic sites in the area. And wonderful meals! Let's meet on 15 - 17 November for an exciting, informative weekend in Las Cruces.



Undated vintage picture of Mainstreet, Las Cruces, New Mexico.
Courtesy of Rio Grande Historical Collections, New Mexico State University Library

ACCOMMODATIONS

We have reserved the Best Western Mesilla Valley Inn for the Conference. All the personal rooms, presentation facilities, receptions, and meals will be there. This will facilitate scheduling and your convenience in attending all the sessions. By guaranteeing payment for a specified number of rooms, we have been able to negotiate very favorable room rates. Per night prices: Singles are \$48 (or \$50 in the New Wing), doubles are \$52 (or \$54 in the New Wing) and the same price for 3 or 4 people! We have reserved some ground floor suites, which are handicapped accessible. In addition, we expect to have a lovely hospitality suite.

Reservation cards will be forwarded to you in September for reservations DIRECT to the Inn. (telephone: 1-800/327-3314. All room prices are plus tax, and guaranteed through 31 October 1996.

TRANSPORTATION

A bus for travel to Las Cruces has been hired. Holding 46 people, it is a modern large bus with bathroom facilities and comfortable seating. The bus will leave Santa Fe Friday afternoon, make one stop in Albuquerque, and arrive in Las Cruces in time for you to relax and freshen up before the Opening Reception that evening. Specific time schedule will be announced later. The price ROUND TRIP is \$50 per person. We must have a minimum of 35 people at this price. Otherwise the price is subject to increase. Bring your favorite snack or drink and enjoy a frolicking, rolling party trip! Seating will be on a First Come, First Served basis. If you would like, you may send your check NOW to NMJHS P. O.

Box 23056, Santa Fe, 87502. Attention: Lee Leven.

The bus will also be available in Las Cruces for planned trips on Saturday to Historic sites around the area. The return trip will commence after the Sunday Bagel and Lox Brunch.

MEALS

We have been working with the catering manager at the Inn to insure wonderful receptions and meals. The Opening Reception on Friday evening (after dinner on your own) will be a dessert fiesta. During the meetings, break time beverages will be available. The Saturday night Gala Dinner will offer a choice of entrees: Lemon Grilled Chicken or Red Snapper or Spinach Lasagna. Each will be accompanied by a salad, appropriate vegetables, dessert and coffee or tea. You can select your choice of entree on the Reservation card which you will forward directly to the Inn. Sunday morning after the Panel sessions we will hold a Bagel and Lox brunch. Yes, there are bagels in Las Cruces, and your planning committee has sampled some fabulous bagel concoctions! All non-conference meals eaten at the Inn will be entitled to a 10% discount, courtesy of your planning committee and the Inn Management! They have a lovely dining facility on the premises.

GUIDED TOUR

On Saturday afternoon, we have planned an optional tour of historic local sites. You can sign up for this tour with your Registration, or use this time to relax, visit the local market, or sight see on your own. The tour will be accompanied by a local historian who will point out

sites of interest and fill us in on their historic significance.

REGISTRATION

It is exceedingly difficult to plan a conference as complex as this when most people wait until the last few days to tell us they are coming! You, of course, wouldn't do that, BUT, our experience is that many people do register at the last minute. All our negotiations are based on guaranteeing a minimum number of attendees. In order to keep prices as low as possible, it is important that we get as much advanced registration as possible. Therefore, we are offering a Registration DISCOUNT for all paid registrations postmarked by **1 October 1996**. Registration fees include all the sessions, a Reception on Friday evening, Saturday Gala Dinner, break beverages, and Sunday Brunch. (We hope to be able to include the Historic Tour on Saturday, but depending on the response, there may be a small additional surcharge).

On or before 1 October

Members	\$65
Non-Members	\$80

After 1 October

Members	\$75
Non members	\$90

Membership may be applied for at the time of Registration. Save Money - Register early! Certain part-time registration fees will be determined based on your schedule. Please call for specific requests. Send your check to NMJHS P.O. Box 23056, Santa Fe, NM 87502. Attention: Sylvia LaPan.

PROGRAM

Theme: RICH MAN, POOR MAN, BEGGARMAN, THIEF, DOCTOR, LAWYER, MERCHANT CHIEF.

The Program and guest speakers are just about set. The Formal Program and Registration forms will be mailed to you early in September.

The Conference will open with a dessert Reception on Friday evening. After welcoming remarks, Mr. J. Paul Taylor, New Mexico State Legislator, and resident of La Mesilla, will give a Keynote Address. During the reception we may have a book signing and craft sale. If you would like to have a booth at this event to sell your book, poetry and craft items, please contact us immediately (Paula Wolf, 988-1907, or Norman Kerewsky, 983-6732). The Saturday morning

session will feature several local residents of Las Cruces and other parts of Southern New Mexico, offering their observations on the history of early Jewish settlers of the region, including Gerónimo Wertheim, Gus Menasse and Tex Goodman. These participants will reflect on the extent to which their Jewish heritage did, or more importantly, did not, play a significant role in their lives and careers in the late nineteenth and twentieth century.

After lunch (on your own), historic walking or bus tours of historic sites in Las Cruces, La Mesilla and Doña Ana will be guided by David Batcho and Elsa Altshool.

The Saturday evening Gala Dinner will feature a presentation on the history of the Jews of Southern New Mexico by noted El Paso historian Dr. Leon Metz.

Sunday morning's session will focus on the history of crypto-Jews of the Las Cruces/El Paso region. Dr. Frances Hernández, of the University of Texas at El Paso, will begin with an overview of *converso* settlement of the area, followed by a panel discussion by descendants of local crypto-Jewish families.

The Conference will end with a bagel, lox and all-the-trimmings brunch before boarding the busses for a sing-along (or snooze) trip back north.

The schedule will be full and exciting. But, the fact that all sessions will be in one facility, and that time has been left for relaxation, will make this conference an educational, social, and gourmet weekend. And Fun! We look forward to seeing you in Las Cruces 15-17 November 1996.

New Mexico Jewish Historical Society

Annual Archives Reception

Thursday, September 5, 1996

11:30 am - 1:30 pm

Please join us for our Annual Celebration of the NMJHS Archives.

Topic

MERCHANTS, TRADERS AND LEADERS OF SANTA FE
AT THE TURN OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

Display of

PHOTOGRAPHS, DOCUMENTS, NEW ACQUISITIONS

You are invited to bring historical documents, memorabilia and personal records to help us build our collection.

(We will gladly copy them)

Refreshments

State Records Center and Archives - Guadalupe and Montezuma Streets, Santa Fe, New Mexico

Shirley Jacobson and Paula Wolf, NMJHS Archivists

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

New Renewal

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: (day) ____ - ____ - ____ (night) ____ - ____ - ____ (fax) ____ - ____ - ____

DUES:

<i>Individual</i>	\$ 24.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Supporting</i>	\$ 60.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Family</i>	\$ 40.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Sustaining</i>	\$ 100.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Individual Senior</i>	\$ 15.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Patron</i>	\$ 250.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Student</i>	\$ 15.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Gift</i>	\$ _____	<input type="checkbox"/>

(dues and gifts are tax deductible)

IS YOUR MEMBERSHIP EXPIRING?

To see if you are one of those whose membership has expired or is about to expire, check the date which appears on the bottom of your address label. If your membership has expired, please renew *now*. Fill out the above Renewal Form and return it to the Society with your check payable to NMJHS. In that way, you will continue to participate in the exciting and challenging work which the New Mexico Jewish Historical Society is doing.



New Mexico Jewish Historical Society
P.O. Box 23056
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 428

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Thursday, September 5, 11:30-1:30 pm

Shirley Jacobson

NMJHS ARCHIVES RECEPTION

New Mexico Records Center and Archives

Santa Fe, New Mexico

Sunday, October 20, 10:00 am

Gunther Aron

CONGREGATION MONTEFIORE CEMETERY CLEANUP

Las Vegas, New Mexico

Friday-Sunday, November 15-17

NMJHS ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Las Cruces, New Mexico

December 15-16

ANNUAL CONFERENCE, SOCIETY FOR CRYPTO-JUDAIC STUDIES

Hyatt Regency, Albuquerque, New Mexico

For more information call Stan Hordes, 505/983-6564

Sunday, January 12, 2:00 pm

LECTURE BY ARTIST YEHOShUA BEN AVRAHAM, descendant of crypto-Jews from Northeast NM

Temple Beth Shalom, Santa Fe, New Mexico

For more information call Stan Hordes, 505/983-6564