



New Mexico
Jewish Historical Society

Volume 17, No. 2
May/June 2003

Newsletter

Annual Membership Meeting To Feature Book Signings, Lecture on Sephardic History

by Stan Hordes



Rabbi Dennis Sasso, of Congregation Beth-El



Rabbi Dennis Sasso of Congregation Beth-El Zedeck in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Zedeck in Indianapolis, will be the featured speaker at the Annual Membership Meeting of the NMJHS, Sunday, June 1, at the Hilton de Santa Fe.

Rabbi Sasso, the only Sephardic Reconstructionist rabbi in the world, will lecture on "Pioneers in the New World: The Earliest Sephardic Jews in the Caribbean and Central America.." The afternoon will also include book signings by Rabbi Sandy Sasso, author of several books on teaching spirituality to children, and by Trudi Alexy, whose *The Marrano Legacy* was recently published by the University of New Mexico Press.



Author Trudi Alexy



Prior to the lecture, the Society will present the Dr. Allan Hurst Award to the Taos Jewish Center. (See related article on right.)

At this year's Membership Meeting, the newly elected officers and board members will be installed. New to the Board this year are Abe Chanin, recently arrived in Albuquerque after a long and distinguished career in journalism and history in Tucson, Dr. Isabelle Medina Sandoval, of Santa Fe, and Deborah Seligman, Nancy Terr, and John Wertheim, all of Albuquerque.

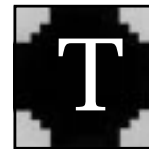
The event will begin at 1:00 p.m., and will include a light dinner following the presentations. Admission is \$10.00 for members, \$15.00 for non-members. Seating is limited, so please send your RSVP, along with a check, as soon as possible to the Society's administrator, Julie Gordon, 5520 Wyoming Blvd., NE, Albuquerque, NM 87109.

Correction to the last edition of the newsletter.

In the Review of the 15th Annual NMJHS Conference it should have read "Jeanette Wertheim Sparks and Admiral Robert H. Wertheim, brother and sister, natives of Carlsbad, whose family has deep New Mexico roots, spoke about growing up Jewish in the 1930s in the truly isolated town of Carlsbad."

Dr. Allan Hurst Award Presented to the Taos Jewish Center

by Stan Hordes



The Sixth annual Dr. Allan Hurst Award will be presented to the Taos Jewish Center at the NMJHS's Membership Meeting in Santa Fe on June 1.

The award, named in memory of one of the Society's earliest leaders, recognizes the person, persons, or organization who has contributed to New Mexico Jewish history, culture and community for a substantial period of time.

Previous recipients of the award have included historians Dr. Stanley M. Hordes and Dr. Henry Tobias, long-time Santa Fe resident Walter Kahn, and folklorist Melanie LaBorwit, Director of the City Museum of Las Vegas, and former Society President Claire Grossman.

Through presentation of the award, the Society recognizes that the Taos Jewish Center has united the previously disparate segments of the Jewish population of far northern New Mexico into a cohesive community. Like many other similar regions, the Taos area has attracted many Jews from around the country seeking "the good life." Until

continued on P. 3

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email: nmjhs@jewishnewmexico.org

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

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

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Annual Montefiore Cemetery Cleanup In Las Vegas

by Gunther & Geri Aron

It was a beautiful sunny day when, once again, many young voices could be heard at the April 27 Congregation Montefiore Cemetery cleanup in Las Vegas as children joined their parents pulling weeds, raking and picking up trash – and having a grand time doing so.

About seventy people from all over northern New Mexico participated in the annual event. Simma Kinderlehrer brought her charges from Temple Beth Shalom (Santa Fe) day and religious schools. Others came

from Albuquerque, Los Alamos and Las Vegas itself.

Lunchtime saw old and young scattered among the graves enjoying a delicious picnic lunch provided by the Congregation Montefiore Cemetery Association. A brief and informative talk was given by Melanie LaBorwit, director of The Las Vegas City Museum and Rough Riders Memorial Collection, about the early Jewish Community of Las Vegas. Diana Stein followed with some of her own personal recollections of her many years in Las Vegas when she and her late husband Joe owned a bookstore on

the old plaza near the well known Plaza Hotel.

For those who missed the annual cleanup, the cemetery may be visited any time during the year. It is a pleasant and scenic ride to Las Vegas and one can enjoy a leisurely lunch at the Plaza Hotel preceded or followed by a private tour of the cemetery or, better still, a tour of early Jewish Las Vegas.

For more information, contact Melanie LaBorwit at the Las Vegas City Museum, (505) 454-1401, ext. 283 or (505) 425-8967, evenings or weekends.

All photos by caryherz.com



(l-r) Dorothy and George Hoffman, of Santa Fe, help with the annual Montefiore Jewish Cemetery cleanup in Las Vegas.



Jacob Burt, a student from Temple Beth Shalom in Santa Fe, carries a big sack of leaves and weeds at the annual Congregation Montefiore Jewish Cemetery cleanup in Las Vegas.



(l-r) Mark Noonan; and Liberty Autumn, both from Temple Beth Shalom in Santa Fe, participate in the annual Montefiore Jewish Cemetery cleanup in Las Vegas.



Lewis Terr, who grew up in Las Vegas, New Mexico, fixes his father's and grandmother's gravesites in the Congregation Montefiore Jewish Cemetery. He was part of a crew during the annual cemetery cleanup. He is president of the Board of the Congregation Montefiore Cemetery.



(l-r) Sophie and her mother, Melanie LaBorwit, of Las Vegas, put on some sun block at the Congregation Montefiore Jewish Cemetery cleanup in Las Vegas.

Annual Conference Set For November 8-9 in Albuquerque

by Stan Hordes



Mark your calendar for November 8-9, when the NMJHS will hold its Sixteenth Annual Conference in Albuquerque.

The theme of the 2003 Conference will be: "Views of Jews: Perceptions of the New Mexico Jewish Community by Others, 1598-2000," and will include lectures by historians, as well as panel discussions featuring representatives from the Anglo, Hispano and Native American gentile community who have interacted with New Mexico Jews over the course of the past several decades.

This year will mark a departure from the normal manner in which the Society has conducted its annual conferences in the past.

Hurst Award continued from P. 1

the establishment of the TJC, however, these Jews for the most part either lived spiritually isolated lives, or formed small affinity groups.

Over the past several years, however, the TJC has brought these diverse people together as one community. It was successful in obtaining a generous grant from the Levinson

In response to suggestions that Shabbat be avoided as a meeting time, the 2003 Conference will begin on Saturday evening, November 8, and will run through Sunday afternoon, November 9. Attendees will want to arrive early, however, as Albuquerque area congregations will be encouraged to incorporate historical themes in sermons and programs during their Friday night and Saturday morning services preceding the Conference. Special hotel room rates will be available from Friday through Sunday. We hope that as many people as possible will take advantage of the opportunity to enjoy the entire weekend's activities.

Further details regarding the 2003 Conference will be announced in the next Newsletter.

Foundation, creating a physical worship/meeting space, and offering programs ranging from classes in Hebrew, Yiddish, and basic Judaism, a Jewish film festival, musical concerts, to Shabbat and High Holy Day Services. It also played a significant role in the 2002 NMJHS Annual Conference, assisting in the planning process, offering presentations and conducting a tour of Jewish

**Collecting Books
For Book Sale**
to be held August 30-31 2003
e-mail: nmjhs@jewishnewmexico.org
Appraisals for donations available.

The NMJHS Video History Project is ongoing, and so are its needs. If you would like to contribute to the project please send your monetary gift to:

**NMJHS Video History Project
5520 Wyoming Blvd. NE
Albuquerque, NM 87109**

If you have any questions about the project please call the office at 505-348-4471

sites during the course of the meeting.

The Society recognizes that the Taos Jewish Center has tapped a nerve in northern New Mexico, and has served to stimulate a renewed interest in Jewish community, history and culture throughout the region, and thus is deserving of the Dr. Allan Hurst Award.

The New Mexico Jewish Historical Society and the University of New Mexico Present An Afternoon with Descendants Of Jewish Pioneer Families

Palace of the Governors Community Meeting Room
110 Washington Avenue, Santa Fe, New Mexico

Sunday, June 22, 2003
2:00-4:00 p.m

Please join us for a discussion of our joint NMJHS and UNM project, video footage of interviews, and a panel discussion with historians and project volunteers. A sampling of the families interviewed for this project, including descendants of the Taicherts, Herzstein/Goldsmiths, and Wertheims, will discuss their stories.

For more information please call the NMJHS office at 505-348-4471 or email to nmjhs@jewishnewmexico.org

This program is funded by The New Mexico Jewish Historical Society, The New Mexico Endowment for the Humanities, The Albuquerque Community Foundation, the New Mexico Historical Records Advisory Board, The Albert & Ethel Herztein Charitable Foundation, The UNM Center for Regional Studies, and private donors.



Clara Goldsmith Bowman Weil, ca. 1891.

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.

Calendar of Upcoming Events:

- Annual Membership Meeting: Lecture by Rabbi Dennis Sasso, of Indianapolis, IN on the History of Sephardic Jews in the Americas, and Presentation of Dr. Allan Hurst Award, Sunday, June 1, 1-5 p.m., Hilton Hotel de Santa Fe.
- "An Afternoon with Descendants Of Jewish Pioneer Families" Video History Project Event, Sunday, June 22, 2-4 p.m., Palace of the Governors, Santa Fe.
- Book Sale, Saturday/Sunday, August 30-31, Santa Fe, Wild Oats Community Room.
- Archives Reception, Week of October 6, New Mexico Records Center and Archives.
- Annual Conference, Albuquerque, November 7-9 .

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

Contribution Form

If you would like to make a contribution in honor or in memory of a friend or relative please fill out the form below:

Name of recipient: _____
 Amount: _____
 Donor's name: _____

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

A note acknowledging your gift will be sent on your behalf to the family of the recipient.

Membership Dues

Membership fees are as follows:

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

2003 2004

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
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Albuquerque, NM 87109

If you prefer to pay by VISA or
 MasterCard, please complete
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Expiration Date

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