

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:

- National Archives Week, October 5 - 11: State Records Center and Archives, Santa Fe
- Panel Discussion co-sponsored by the NMJHS Wednesday, October 8, 4-7pm
- Event to Commemorate the Gifting of Books to the MNM History Library: Tuesday, October 21, Fray Angelico Chávez History Library, Santa Fe, 6 - 8pm Please see ad on page 2.
- NMJHS 16th Annual Conference: "Views of Jews: Gentile Perceptions of Jews in New Mexico, 1598-2000": November 8 - 9, DoubleTree Hotel, Albuquerque
- Annual NMJHS Cleanup of Congregation Montefiore Cemetery: April 2004, Las Vegas
- Screening of *Adio Kerida* - Presentation by Producer Dr. Ruth Behar: Spring 04, Albuquerque

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.

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

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

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

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

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

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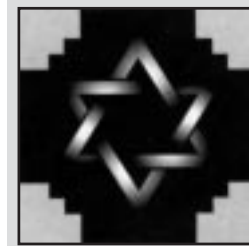
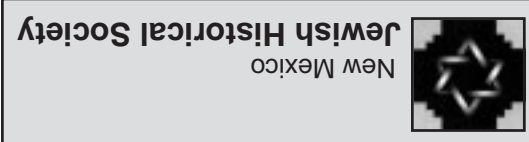
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New Mexico Jewish Historical Society
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Newsletter

New Mexico
Jewish Historical Society

Volume 17, No. 3
October 2003

Sixteenth Annual Conference, "Views of Jews," Holds Historical Mirror to New Mexico Jewish Community

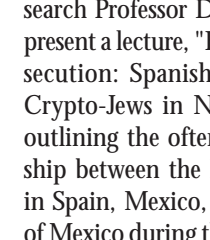
by Stan Hordes

The NMJHS 2003 Annual Conference, to be held in Albuquerque, November 8-9, will focus on how the outside community has regarded the Jews of New Mexico over the course of the past four centuries. Entitled, "View of Jews: Gentile Perceptions of Jews in New Mexico, 1598-2000," the program includes the participation of scholars, community leaders, and people who have interacted with Jews from various parts of the state during the past several decades.

This year, in response to concerns raised by Albuquerque synagogues, the Society will experiment with a new format, opening the Conference after the conclusion of the Sabbath on Saturday night, November 8, and continuing through Sunday afternoon, November 9. The venue for the 2003 Conference will be the DoubleTree Hotel, 201 Marquette Ave. NW, in downtown Albuquerque.

The program will begin with a banquet and keynote address on Saturday night by Dr. Michael Perko, SJ, Professor of History at

Loyola University of Chicago, entitled, "Saints, Santos, and Tzadikim: Changing Attitudes of the Catholic Church toward Jews and Crypto-Jews." Dr. Perko, who specializes in Jewish and Catholic history, will provide a broad context for the weekend by examining the evolution of Catholic policy towards Jews and conversos in Europe and the United States over time. The next morning, NMJHS President and UNM Adjunct Research Professor Dr. Stanley M. Hordes will present a lecture, "Between Tolerance and Persecution: Spanish Colonial Policy Toward Crypto-Jews in New Mexico, 1598-1821," outlining the often-misunderstood relationship between the Inquisition and conversos in Spain, Mexico, and the northern frontier of Mexico during the Spanish colonial period. Next, Dr. Henry Tobias, Professor Emeritus, University of Oklahoma, and author of the definitive *History of the Jews of New Mexico*, will offer a lecture, "We're All in This Together: Jews as Anglos in New Mexico History," in which he discusses assimilatory trends and relative absence of anti-Semitism experienced by the New Mexico Jewish community in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Concluding the Sunday morning program, Susan Seligman, Director of the Anti-Defamation League for New Mexico, will examine the relationship between the Jewish and Gentile communities in her presentation, "Looking in, Looking out: A Reflection on Jews, Anti-Semitism and the Place of Jews in New Mexico Today."



Dr. Michael Perko, SJ

Following a lox-and-bagel brunch, the Sunday afternoon program will feature a panel discussion moderated by Melanie LaBorwit, NMJHS board member and Director of the Las Vegas City Museum. Participating in the discussion will be Gary and Jeannie (Martinez) McKinley, of Las Vegas; NMJHS Vice-President Gerald González, who grew up in Las Vegas and Santa Rosa; Tomas Jaehn,

Librarian of the Fray Angelico Chávez Library of the Museum of New Mexico; Antoinette Silva, of Bernalillo; and Mary Eduvigen García, of Santa Ana Pueblo, who traces part of her family to Solomon Bibo and Juana Valle, of Ácoma Pueblo. The panelists will share with the audience their observations of Jewish-Gentile relations based on their study of, and interaction with the Jewish community in the last half of the twentieth century.

Registration for the Conference is \$85.00 for members, \$120.00 for non-members, and \$40.00 for full-time students. An additional \$20.00 will be charged for registrations received after October 27. The fee includes admission to all programs, the Saturday night banquet, and the Sunday afternoon luncheon. Van transportation to the Conference from Taos and Santa Fe is available by calling Twin Hearts directly at (800)654-9456. Mention the NMJHS for a discount rate. Day care is also available by calling Professional Nannies of New Mexico at 505-299-6181 by Monday, November 3. The NMJHS assumes no liability for this service.

Prior to the Conference, some of the local synagogues will offer sermons and/or discussions featuring historical themes as part of their Shabbat services. In addition, the New Mexico Holocaust & Intolerance Museum and Study Center will conduct tours on Saturday afternoon.

The NMJHS is deeply grateful to Claire Grossman, the Hyman and Marjorie Weinberg-Berman Foundation, Rick and Kathy Abeles, the estate of Barbara Bender, and anonymous donors for their generous contributions, which help to defray the costs of the Conference, and to keep the registration fees as low as possible.

For more information on the Conference, please contact Society Administrator Julie Gordon at: (505) 348-4471, or nmjhs@jewishnewmexico.org, or visit the Society's website, www.nmjewishhistory.org.

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Video Oral History Update

by Judy Basen Weinreb

It is hard to believe that a project that has been so long in the making is entering its final stages. The NMJHS Jewish Pioneer Oral History Project began its planning phase more than two years ago. In the interim an advisory panel was formed, grants were written, volunteers were recruited and trained, and families were interviewed.

With the excellent production assistance of Lisa Witt, the project director, and her staff at Avista Video Histories, twenty-three people have been interviewed, transcripts have been written and templates for formal booklets are being created. Document and photographs have been digitally copied and materials have been collected. All of this material will become part of two archives, the NMJHS Archive in Santa Fe and the UNM Archive in Albuquerque. That way this information will be available to anyone with an interest in this fascinating subject.

The highlight of the last few months of the project was a public event held on June 22 of this year, at the Palace of the Governors. A standing room only crowd braved the heat of a Santa Fe summer to hear Gail Jamin talk about her experiences interviewing members of the Herztein and Goldsmith families. John Feldman, Louise Taichert and Robert Taichert, who had been interviewed by Paula Steinberg, spoke of their family stories. Paula shared some of the information that she had uncovered in her research about the Taichert family. Anita Miller spoke of her research and then introduced Bob and Jerry Wertheim, who shared their experiences of being part of a pioneer Jewish family and of growing up in New Mexico.

Drs. Noel Pugach and Henry Tobias, members of the advisory panel who have

steered the academic aspects of the project, informed the audience of the historical value of this work and shared their excitement at the new information that has been uncovered.

The audience, some of whom were members of other pioneer families, and the panel exchanged questions and answers until long after the program officially ended.

Thanks must go to Dr. Frances Levine, Director of the Palace of the Governors, who allowed us to use the Community Room for the meeting, and to the NM Endowment for the Humanities, whose grant helped sponsor the event.

The last major component of the project will be booklets based on the volunteers' templates. These booklets will present a capsule view of the information that has been gathered in this project. A fundraising effort is currently underway to help to fund the booklets. If you are able to help, please contact the NMJHS office.

This project has been a remarkable experience. We have realized that when we conclude our task we will have only done

a small part of the work. There are families still to be interviewed, documents to be read, photographs to be copied and stories to be told. It is the hope of the many people who have given so much of their time and effort to this endeavor that others will continue this work. There's still much to be learned!

Reception to Celebrate the Gifting of Part of the NMJHS Book Archive to the Museum of New Mexico

Tuesday, October 21, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Fray Angelico Chávez History Library, 120 Washington Ave. Santa Fe NM 87501.

Dr. Stanley Hordes and Librarian of the Fray Angelico Chávez History Library, Tomas Jaehn, will speak at this event.

Refreshments will be served. Free admission.

Main Street New Mexico: National Archives Week 2003 is Coming October 5 - 11

The New Mexico Commission of Public Records, the National Hispanic Cultural Center, & the New Mexico Jewish Historical Society PRESENTS

the following Panel Discussion

A journey through New Mexico's Main Street Different. Historians will present original scholarship highlighting New Mexico's unique and diverse main street and settlement experience, including the formation of town sites around plazas. Presenters will examine how various cultures viewed, contributed to, and experienced settlement, economic development, and social change in New Mexico.

Wednesday, October 8, 2003 • 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm • New Mexico State Records Center & Archives • 1209 Camino Carlos Rey • Santa Fe, New Mexico 87507
For complete schedule of events visit our website at: www.nmjewishhistory.org

Howard Kastner, Living Treasure, Dies at 85

by Celia Shatzman of the Santa Fe *New Mexican*



Howard Kastner, who along with his wife, Meriom, was named one of Santa Fe's Living Treasures last year for their community involvement, died Tuesday, August 5, from complications of Parkinson's disease. He was 85.

The Kastners moved to Santa Fe in 1984 and quickly became involved in community activities.

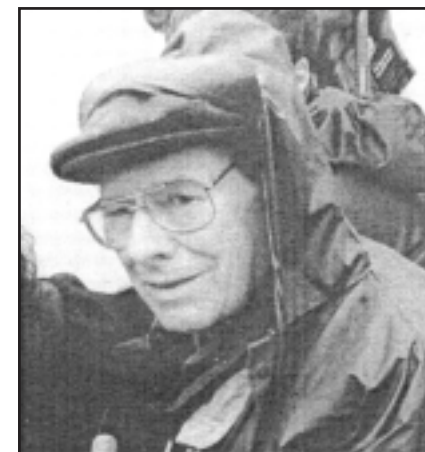
"When my parents first moved to Santa Fe, they immediately started volunteering for a million things in town, and they were just so involved in giving back," their daughter, Barbara Kastner, said of the Living Treasure honor. "So after 18 years, they were recognized for their incredible philanthropy and spirit. They always worked together as a team, and if there was something that needed to be done they would always do it," Barbara Kastner added. "For me it was so neat to see some recognition and appreciation given back to my mother and father after all they had done in Santa Fe."

Howard Kastner was born in Vienna, Austria, and immigrated to New York when he was a young man. During World War II, he served in the Army in Europe, then settled in New Jersey with Meriom to raise a family. They started a successful international business but sold it so they could move to Munich, where they lived for 12 years while Kastner represented his former firm in Europe.

After retiring and moving to Santa Fe, Kastner became heavily involved in the community with organizations such as the symphony guild, Bienvenidos, Friends of the Palace,

Newcomers Club and Santa Fe Corral of the Westerners.

Kastner was a docent at The Santa Fe Opera, the International Museum of Folk Art and the Museum of Fine Arts. He also volunteered at the Randall Davey Audubon Society, the state archaeological society, Jewish War Veterans, New Mexico Jewish Historical Society and many other local organizations.



Kastner's hobbies included skiing, enjoying music, playing the piano and supporting local theater. He loved to travel and spoke English, German, French, Italian and Spanish. "He could speak 10 sentences in 20 other languages, because everywhere he traveled, he picked something up," Barbara Kastner said. She said his influence on her will always live on. "He gave me my sense of justice and how to treat people, my love of music and the theater," she said. "I have a silly memory of sitting in a cafe in Europe with him, just laughing. When he'd wake up, he'd be singing or whistling. Calling him on the phone always lifted my spirits."



Wife Meriom with Howard

A private service was held and a memorial service – a "Celebration of Life" – was held at the Museum of International Folk Art on Friday, August 15. Donations may be made in memory of Kastner to a charity of choice.

Kastner is survived by his wife, Meriom, and their children Kenneth, Abby, Debby and Barbara, and their families.

"He loved life, and he loved people," Barbara

Kastner said. "I never in my life met someone that people responded to so well. People just genuinely liked him and wanted to do things for him and with him because he genuinely liked people. We're all going to miss him a whole lot."

The New Mexico Jewish Historical Society sends its condolences to the family of Howard Kastner. He was a vital member of the NMJHS Board and his presence is missed. As a tribute to Howard's contributions, the Society, together with personal contributions, has purchased six reference books for the New Mexico State Library's genealogical collection. Each is inscribed with a NMJHS bookplate indicating that it has been donated in Howard's memory. The books represent the most current research pertaining to both Ashkenazi and Sephardic family history:

Beider, Alexander, *A Dictionary of Ashkenazic Given Names: Their Origin, Structure, Pronunciation, and Migrations*. Bergenfield, NJ: Avotaynu, 2001.

Beider, *A Dictionary of Jewish Surnames from the Russian Empire*. Teaneck, NJ: Avotaynu, 1993.

Beider, *A Dictionary of Jewish Surnames from the Kingdom of Poland*. Teaneck: Avotaynu, 1996.

Greenbaum, Masha. *The Jews of Lithuania: The History of a Remarkable Community, 1316-1945*. Jerusalem and New York: Gefen Press, 1995.

Malka, Jeffrey S. *Sephardic Genealogy: Discovering Your Sephardic Ancestors and their World*. Bergenfield: Avotaynu, 2002.

Mokotoff, Gary and Sallyann Amdur Sack, with Alexander Sharon, *Where Once We Walked: A Guide to the Jewish Communities Destroyed in the Holocaust*. Bergenfield: Avotaynu, 2002.

As the Library's patrons leaf through these important resources searching for information relating to their families' histories we are certain that, when they see Howard's name on the inside cover, they will pause and reflect on the contributions made by this wonderful man.

Annual Membership Meeting Focuses On History Of Jews Of The Caribbean

by Stan Hordes

Before a sellout audience of over 120 people, Rabbi Dennis Sasso, of Congregation Beth-EL Zedek, offered a fascinating account of the history of Sephardic Jewish settlement in Central America and the Caribbean. Rabbi Sasso presented his lecture as part of the NMJHS's Annual Membership Meeting, held at the Hilton of Santa Fe on Sunday afternoon, June 1.

The afternoon's events also featured the

presentation of the Dr. Allan Hurst Award to the Taos Jewish Center in recognition of the group's contributions to Jewish history and culture in Northern New Mexico. In accepting the award, Bruce Grossman expressed his gratitude to the Society, and discussed the accomplishments of the Center over the course of the past year and a half. Also sharing the podium was Secretary of Tourism and Economic Development, and former Mayor of Taos, Fred Peralta, who lauded the Taos Jewish Center for its positive accomplishments.

The program culminated with a moving presentation by Trudi Alexy, author of *The Mezuzah in the Madonna's Foot*, who discussed the many challenges involved in the writing and publication of her newest book, *The Marrano Legacy* (University of New Mexico Press, 2003).

The reception that followed included book signings by Ms. Alexy, and by Rabbi Sandy Sasso, author of several books dealing with the teaching of spirituality to children.



Honorable Fred Peralta speaking, observed by members of the Taos Jewish Center.



Rabbi Dennis Sasso of Indianapolis, Indiana.



Honorable Fred Peralta



Stan Hordes presenting award to the Taos Jewish Center, accepted by Lisa Guttman.



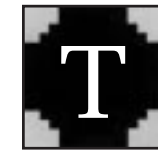
Author Trudi Alexy



Emilio Coca

Zeckendorfs: Pioneers of the Southwest

by Abe Chanin



The following article is a fascinating documentation of a Jewish family of the early American Southwest moving from one territory to another. The article is excerpted from the book *Cholent and Chorizo* by Abraham S. Chanin, former director of the Bloom Southwest Jewish Archives at the University of Arizona and now a board member of the New Mexico Jewish Historical Society and editor of this newsletter.

It could be said that from William to William there was none like William Zeckendorf the First. This is not to denigrate William II for he built a coast-to-coast real estate and development empire. William helped put together the land parcel that John D. Rockefeller donated to the United Nations for its headquarters in New York City. William II had his scandalous moments, as he revealed secret affairs, financial collapse, and bankruptcy in his autobiography, *Zeckendorf*. William III is the quietest of the three. He sits at the head of another Zeckendorf empire in New York City at the time of this writing, but he is without the flamboyancy of his father or grandfather.

The Zeckendorf story is a true American saga. Three brothers came to America in the early 1850s. Aaron and Louis traveled to Santa Fe in the Territory of New Mexico to learn the art of trade from their cousins, the Spiegelbergs. It was commonplace in those early years for relatives to aid each other in the art of merchandising. As it happened in other families, the Spiegelbergs' Solomon Jacob Spiegelberg was one of the earliest of the pioneer Jews in Santa Fe "taught their cousins to trade with Hispanics and Indians of the area. When the Zeckendorf brothers learned the ways of the frontier, including language skills, they were aided by the Spiegelbergs in opening their own store in Santa Fe. That was remarkable considering that the

Zeckendorf store was on the plaza in Santa Fe not far from the Spiegelberg general store.

The Zeckendorfs prospered in New Mexico, and so they brought their youngest brother to America. William I was a fourteen-year-old when he landed in New York City November 13, 1856. He was a well-educated teen-ager, who had learned five languages, including Hebrew, in Germany where the Zeckendorf home had been in Hemmendorf. William I came to Santa Fe in 1856 and learned the trade while the Zeckendorf empire began to expand to Albuquerque and also to Mimbres, New Mexico, where Aaron served as postmaster. When the Civil War began, citizens of New Mexico were enlisted in the militia to fight the Confederates who had come to the territory seeking gold and silver to bolster the treasury of the Confederacy. William had military experience in Germany and so he was commissioned a lieutenant and saw action in the battles at Valverde, Socorro, and Glorieta. The unit also was involved in the Indian wars, thus giving William experience with Apaches, which he would need in later years.

Louis, oldest of the Zeckendorf trio, made an early trip to the southern Arizona village of Tucson, and it was there the family looked for expansion of their growing empire. Already they had secured government supply contracts and mail routes and had interests in both land development and mining. So looking for new frontiers, the Zeckendorfs sent twelve wagon-loads of merchandise down along the Rio Grande and across the deserts of New Mexico and

Arizona to Tucson. The year was 1867; Tucsonans apparently were starved for merchandise, and they bought everything from the wagons. What does a good merchant do in that case? Well, the Zeckendorfs returned the wagon train to New Mexico and loaded up sixteen wagons and sent them on the long journey to Tucson. This time Tucsonans either had all the supplies they needed or were out of money, and so the wagons remained with a full stock of merchandise. William II, writing in his autobiography, had a different story. He claimed that Tucson merchants were so frightened about the prospect of a



William Zeckendorf

Zeckendorf store opening in their town that they raised \$75,000 to buy up all the merchandise of the first wagon train. Whatever the truth, the Zeckendorfs opened a modest store that was to grow into a merchandising empire. Even with its times of bankruptcy, change in ownership, and court suits, the store was to last more than one hundred years.

In 1868 William I was sent to manage the A. & L. Zeckendorf Company in Tucson. Before long William became so popular, was the center of so many exciting adventures, that newspapers of the day referred to him merely as Mr. Z. As a merchandiser he proved to be a flamboyant entrepreneur; as a politician he headed the county Democratic Party and was a member of the Territorial Legislature. He was a social lion in the community, and his family life often was quite dramatic. In fact, there is a wonderful story of the time William brought his bride Julia from New York to the West. The young couple was preparing to leave a

hotel in San Diego for the long, weary, and often perilous stage coach trip to Tucson when William descended the staircase. The young bride, waiting in the lobby, was stunned to see her husband attired as a typical gunman of the West with bandoliers of ammunition criss-crossing his chest, pistols on his hips and a shotgun in his arms. It was obvious he was either trying to impress or frighten Julia. However, after the Zeckendorfs arrived in Tucson, they learned that the stage coach that preceded them and the one that followed their coach both were held up by bandits...

In another view, history shows Zeckendorf as a cultured gentleman, a politician, a civic leader and a devoted family man. In their home William and Julia held evening soirees with poetry readings and musicals. A territorial legislator and Democratic party leader, Zeckendorf was so well considered that he was named a commissioner to represent Arizona at the World's Fair in Chicago in the 1890s.

There were times of dispute for the Zeckendorfs in Tucson, periods of business failures, and court fights including one that went as high as the U.S. Supreme Court. There still remains the question of how Jewish was William Zeckendorf? The answer comes in a most unusual testimonial that displays still another side of the character of Mr. Z.

In 1883 Jewish women in Tucson saw the need for a charitable organization and formed the Hebrew Ladies Benevolent Society. Mrs. M. Czerwinsky was elected president and after serving three years, she retired from office to be honored at a rather lavish affair for the desert frontier. In her honor a properly engraved silver tray was ordered from a San Francisco jeweler, and

the committee sought a speaker to make the presentation. Who would it be? None other than Bill Zeckendorf!

As the twentieth century came on, the Zeckendorf name became a memory in the territories of Arizona and New Mexico.



Julia Zeckendorf

Aaron, oldest of the three brothers, died at the age of thirty-seven in 1862 in New Mexico. The Arizona Citizen said of him in an obituary that Aaron "was always noted for his integrity and fair dealing." Louis lived a long life, dying in New York in 1932, five years short of becoming a centenarian.

William and his family left Tucson in 1878, and in 1906 at the age of sixty-four he died in

New York City. His death was a shock to Tucsonans who remembered his leadership and the family's pioneering not only in merchandising, but as well in mining, cattle-raising, and farming. He was also the first to experiment in growing potatoes in Pima County.

News of William's death reached Tucson in a telegram received by his nephew, Albert Steinfeld. Albert had come to Tucson in 1872, nine years after he had arrived with his family from Germany. When the Steinfelds left for Albuquerque, young Albert was left in a boarding school in New York City. He tired of school and at age fourteen went to work as an errand and messenger boy. When his family moved to Denver, Albert traveled west in 1871. It was Aaron Zeckendorf who met Albert in Denver and took an immediate liking to the youngster. He offered him a job in the Tucson store at fifty dollars a month; Albert accepted and left for Tucson. It did not take long for young Albert to voice his feelings that the store was poorly run (even though

Zeckendorf's was a great success). The store was located in an adobe building that Albert felt was a shambles. He disapproved of the way goods were strewn on the floor or thrown on counters. The Zeckendorfs listened, and Albert was allowed to make changes once he was named manager. When the Zeckendorfs decided to leave, it was Albert Steinfeld who purchased the store and added to the fame of the firm.

In 1883 Albert returned to Denver to marry Bettina Donau, described as "a beautiful Jewish girl"...

Steinfeld was such a futurist that he had one of the first automobiles in Tucson. His chauffeur was driving the Pierce Arrow when he was stopped for speeding in 1909. A fine of \$25 was paid for exceeding the speed limit of twenty miles per hour. The chauffeur was stopped by two officers of the law who chased him down on their bicycles.

Albert Steinfeld died February 8, 1935, and was buried in Masonic services. The Jewish community remembered him as a founding member of the Hebrew Benevolent Society, the organization that had set the plans to erect Temple Emanu-El, the first Jewish house of worship in Arizona. He was also a charter subscriber of the Jewish Cemetery Association in 1890. He and other Jewish pioneers such as Samuel Drachman, Barron Jacobs, Adolf Goldschmidt and William Zeckendorf each paid \$3.50 to become charter members.

Albert and Bettina Steinfeld had two sons and two daughters. Harold took over the business from his father, and when he married, he moved into an apartment in the Pioneer Hotel. He and his non-Jewish wife died when the hotel was torched in 1970 by a young man who gave no reason for his action.

Mrs. William Zeckendorf III of Santa Fe recently was honored with a 2003 Governor's Award for Excellence in the Arts.

Why You Want to Join the New Mexico Jewish Historical Society

by Ned Miller



Society.

For the huge sum of \$35.00 per year you get to participate in the preservation of our state's Jewish history – past, present and future.

By becoming a member of the Society, your dues entitle you to a \$35.00 discount on the registration fee for the Society's 2003 Annual Conference, "Views of Jews" (see accompanying story). In other words, you are getting a 100% allowance to attend this fantastic meeting!

But the Annual Conference is but one of many informative and entertaining events sponsored throughout the year. The So-

ciety also sponsors lectures, films, tours, and genealogy workshops. It also conducts an annual cleanup of the Congregation Montefiore Cemetery in Las Vegas, the oldest Jewish cemetery in the state. Among the Society's most recent accomplishments are the establishment of the Society's archives at the New Mexico Records Center and Archives, and the initiation of a project to videotape descendants of New Mexico's pioneer Jewish families.

The Video History Project has already resulted in some tangible video programs, available for viewing. One such program comprises a 20-minute video featuring Irene Bibo Arrossa, who was interviewed by her niece, Jean Bibo. Irene is the grand-niece of Solomon Bibo, whose marriage to the daughter of the chief of Acoma Pueblo led to his selection as governor of the tribe in 1885 — the only

Jewish tribal governor in New Mexico history. Other videos include an interview with one of my former neighbors, Bob Nordhaus, who claims not only U.S. citizenship, but "territorial" citizenship, having been born in 1912 when New Mexico had yet to have achieved statehood. In addition, the Society has produced video interviews with members of the Seligman family of Albuquerque, the Wertheim family of Carlsbad, the Herzstein family of Clayton, and the Spiegelberg family of Santa Fe.

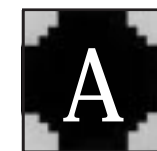
The future? Ah – that's where you come in. You can, of course, obtain further information about the NMJHS from the Society's administrator, Julie Gordon, by contacting her at: 5520 Wyoming Blvd. NE, Albuquerque, NM 87109; nmjhs@jewishnewmexico.org; 505-348-4471.

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Another Big Book Sale: Big Success

by Sheila Gershen



A wonderful tradition continued on Labor Day weekend of 2003 when the NMJHS held its Second Annual Book & Etc. Sale. Thanks to the expertise and hard work of local bookseller and Board member Shirley Jacobson, the fundraising event was so successful that plans are already underway for next year's sale.

There was an amazing variety of new and used books, with something for everyone, and irresistibly low prices. This year there was an especially impressive selection of beautiful new art books and every imaginable type of crafts book. For the collectors, there were autographed first editions, rare books, and Judaica. The Etc.

part of the sale included one-of-a-kind jewelry from around the world.

The sale was held again at the Wild Oats Community building on Cordova Road and we thank them for their continuing support. It's a big, bright room in an excellent location with lots of parking right out front.

The El Rito Library was again the recipient of many of the unsold books. Some go on the shelves and the rest will be part of their book sale and book signing on October 18 ñ 19 during the El Rito Studio Tour.

Many thanks to all the volunteers from Santa Fe, Albuquerque, and Las Vegas

who contributed their time and talent and to all those who donated their excellent books. It's not too early to start thinking about what you can clear off your shelves for the Third Annual Sale. We already know that next year's sale again will include an outstanding selection of new art books and lots of crafts books. And consider being a volunteer for next year; it's fun, it's for a good cause, and when the sale begins you'll have first chance at some wonderful bargains.