"Are we having fun yet?" Ma and Pa Nahm and their kin (the Nahm family of Las Vegas on holiday, circa 1920s, location unknown). These photographs are from the NMJHS Archives where they and others can be seen by appointment and at our June reception. We would love to have prints of your family photos (we'll pay to have them copied).
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 5 NMJHS Fourth Annual Membership Meeting, Social Hall, Temple Beth Shalom, 205 E. Barcelona Road, Santa Fe, 4:00 P.M. Buffet dinner will follow.

May 3 Spring Cleanup: Montefiore Cemetery, Las Vegas. Meet at the Cemetery at 10:00. Deli-style lunch hosted by Montefiore Cemetery Assn. For information, call Ellen Zieselman, 471-3033.


May 22-24 Silver City Field Trip. Jewish history of western NM. Stay at restored Palace Hotel, tour museums, Gila wilderness, enjoy receptions, architectural tours, talks. For information, call Stan Hordes, 983-6564.

June 17 NMJHS Archives Annual Reception, NM State Records Center and Archives, 404 Montezuma, Santa Fe, 11:30-1:30. Light refreshments. For information, call Suzan Campbell, 983-9516.

July 18-19 David Gradwohl, Professor of Anthropology, Iowa State University, "Cemetery Headstones As Expressions of Cultural and Religious Identity By Various Sects of Judaism." Lecture illustrated with slides. July 18: Santa Fe, 3:00 P.M.; July 19: Albuquerque, 2:00 P.M. (Locations to be announced.)

October 25 Fall Cleanup: Montefiore Cemetery, Las Vegas.

November 13-15 Fifth Annual Conference Commemorating the Quincentenary of the Sephardic experience in the New World. Santa Fe.

We still have exactly two copies of Henry Tobias' "History of the Jews in New Mexico" on hand. This hard-covered book, which was published at $24.95, and which we offered to our members for $19.95, will be shipped postage paid for $14.95 each to the first two members who order them.
MEMORIAL DAY FIELD TRIP TO EXPLORE "JEWISH" SILVER CITY

Jewish Silver City?? That is exactly what participants in the annual NMJHS Memorial Day Weekend Field Trip will explore this May 22, 23 & 24.

Jewish miners and merchants, including Henry and Morris Lesinsky, David Abraham, Max Schutz and Isaac Cohen, were instrumental in establishing some of the earliest commercial establishments in this copper and silver boom town in the late nineteenth century.

The three day trip will begin when our chartered bus departs Santa Fe on Friday morning, May 22. After picking up the Albuquerque passengers, we'll eat lunch at the historic Val Verde Hotel in Socorro, arriving in Silver City later that afternoon. There we'll rendezvous with the contingent from Las Cruces, El Paso and points east. Headquarters for our excursion is the 110-year-old Palace Hotel, which will be turned over to us for the weekend. Former Santa Feans and present Silver Ciudadanos (?) Leonard and Geneva Pritikin have kindly invited us to their home for a reception on Friday evening, where Dr. Henry Tobias (author of A History of the Jews in New Mexico) will offer some comments of the history of the Jewish presence in Silver City. Paul Malmuth and his sisters, Bertha Fine and Dorothy Glane, will share family stories about the experience of their father, Isidore Malmuth, who operated a commercial establishment in town in the early twentieth century.

Saturday's activities will include a walking and driving architectural tour of town, a tour of the Silver City Museum, hosted by Museum Director Susan Berry (who lives in the house formerly occupied by Isaac Cohen). After a box lunch at the Museum, we'll get back on the bus and head over to the Catwalk, a spectacular metal grillwork suspended between the walls of Whitewater Canyon. Later that evening, we'll travel down the road to the old mining town of Pinos Altos, where we will dine at the old Buckhorn Saloon.

After enjoying a continental breakfast at the Palace Hotel on Sunday Morning, we will board the bus for our return trip north.

For those participants from Albuquerque and Northern New Mexico, the trip will cost $69.00, which will include transportation, the Friday reception, Saturday lunch and dinner. For those traveling from the east, south or west in their own vehicles, the cost will be $31.00. You are encouraged to make your own arrangements with the Palace Hotel, which is offering us all of their rooms for the weekend. Each room provides a different type of accommodation; rates vary from the $20's to the $50's. The room rate includes a continental breakfast.

For more information, please contact either Stan Hordes at 983-6564, or Ralph Thaler at 471-6461.
[The following is from an article by Clark DeLeon that appeared in an unidentified Philadelphia newspaper on January 22, 1992. The complete article is in the NMUHS Archives in Santa Fe.]

Ashes: Who Knows Where the Sunshine's Best?

This is a story about how four women from a Quaker college outside Philadelphia drove to a desolate no-name desert crossroads town near the Mexican border in the middle of August in order to pray in Hebrew over the ashes of a beloved professor before scattering them to the winds in the wrong Sunshine. Our story starts in Las Vegas -- no, not that Las Vegas -- and it moves to Bryn Mawr before returning to New Mexico, which wasn't even a state when Milton C. Nahm was born in December 1903 in a New Mexican town that is always confused with the more famous Las Vegas in Nevada. The story offers a valuable object lesson to anyone writing a will: If you want your ashes scattered in the right place, be specific. As it was, there didn't seem to be any reason to suspect that the instructions in the will of Bryn Mawr College philosophy professor Milton C. Nahm were anything but clear when they were read shortly after his death last March at age 87. "I direct my executors to scatter my ashes in Sunshine, NM," Nahm's will stated.

"I was surprised," said Margaret Healy, who is the treasurer of Bryn Mawr College and co-executor of Nahm's estate. (Nahm was Healy's mentor during the eight years it took her to complete her Ph.D. dissertation at Bryn Mawr between 1961 and 1969.) It was Healy, along with Bryn Mawr College president Mary Patterson McPherson, director of admissions Elizabeth Vermey and college provost Judith Shapiro, who traveled to New Mexico last August with two cardboard boxes containing the philosopher's ashes. Healy had written to two friends living in New Mexico seeking directions to Sunshine, and both friends mailed back maps showing a town about 40 miles from the Mexican border. Armed with these directions, the four women headed off in a rented car from Santa Fe for the six hour drive to Sunshine. Before leaving, they had tried to reach the son of an old friend of Nahm's who lived in Albuquerque to see if he knew anything about why Sunshine meant so much to Nahm. The farther they drove on I-25 from the breathtaking mountains of northern New Mexico where Nahm had vacationed every year to the scrubby brown flatlands in the south, the more they wondered about Sunshine. Why? Could the love of his life, someone other than his late wife, Elinor, be from Sunshine? Or -- Oh, no! -- could he have meant Sunshine, NM, as in, "under the sunshine" in his home state?

By the time they arrived in Sunshine, which was not a town at all, but a crossroads in the middle of the New Mexican Nowhere without so much as a sign identifying it, the ash bearers from Bryn Mawr were troubled. They stopped in the Sunshine Elementary School, where the principal told them that, no, there was no trout stream nearby (Nahm loved to fish), no sites of interest, no reason for anyone outside of Sunshine to come to Sunshine. So the four women found the prettiest place they could find in those parts, "an attractive place near a low mountain in a field with sage and flowering cactus," said McPherson. And there they recited the Kaddish, the Jewish prayer for the dead, in English and Hebrew, before each took turns scattering the ashes of a wise and generous teacher.

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"Sunshine?" said the son of Nahm's friend when they reached him later before flying back to Philadelphia. "Sure we used to go there every year with the Nahms to go fishing. He loved Sunshine Valley. It's north of Taos." "I guess he figured we would have had more sense," said Healy of her mentor's instructions in his will. "What did we know -- we were students!" "Fortunately," said McPherson, "we held on to some of his ashes because it didn't feel right." They plan to return to New Mexico this summer to finish the job, after which it can be said that Milton C. Nahm spread Sunshine from one end of the state to the other.

* * *

FROM THE PRESIDENT: At our April 5 Annual Meeting, I will pass the presidential giant aspirin and the office that goes with it to President-elect Stan Hordes. In view of Stan's pioneering work in illuminating the history of the crypto-Jewish experience in New Mexico and the Southwest, it is fitting that he will preside over the NMJHS during the 500th anniversary of the expulsion of the Jews from Spain and Columbus' arrival in the Americas. This is an important year for New Mexico's Jewish community, and we all will be the beneficiaries of Stan's vision and outstanding accomplishments when we gather in Santa Fe on November 13 for our Fifth Annual Conference, whose program will highlight the Sephardic experience in the new world. Stan and Dennis Duran, our new NMJHS President-elect, have put together an outstanding program featuring internationally known experts, world class entertainers, and special events, all in a setting that harks back to the time of the earliest Jewish settlers in this region. We expect participants from all over the world and hope that you'll be among them.

Carlsbad members Jeanette and Norman Sparks sent the wonderful story about Milton C. Nahm that appears here. Since acquiring the Nahm material for our archives and my talk on their Las Vegas years at our annual conference two years ago, I've had a special interest in Milton, and I'm happy that we now have this delightful postscript to his lettered life. Alvin Appel continues to send information on the Jewish community of Las Vegas at the turn of the century that increases our understanding of that vibrant frontier era. With his help, we're building an excellent file on Las Vegas in our Archives. Thanks, Jeanette, Norm, and Al. Good friends like you have contributed significantly to the effectiveness of the NMJHS and have helped make my year as NMJHS President personally rewarding. I hope the many new friends I've made will become old friends through the years. The NMJHS Board of Directors has been the driving force behind the success of the Society and, largely because of their dedication and humor, I'll miss the many joys of being President. I must confess, though, that I'm eager to turn once again to developing the NMJHS archives, confident that our achievements in 1991 will lead to an even more outstanding 1992 as we come together to share a rich heritage.


--Suzan Campbell
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

New
Renewal

NAME

ADDRESS

Phone(day) ___________________(evening)____________________

AMOUNT PAID:   Regular - $20.00   Supporting - $50.00

Sustaining- $100.00   Patron - $250.00

Other - $____________________

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 the date is 4/92 or earlier, please renew your subscription 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.

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