



When Opportunity Knocks

by Jennie Negin



My daughter Rachel and son-in-law, Steve, were visiting when I got a call from Leona Rubin, asking me to write an article for the NMJHS *Legacy*

newsletter.

While I was busy asking myself, “Why me?” Rachel wrote:

“My Mother’s legacy reminds me of this Indian proverb: *Blessed is he who plants trees under whose shade he will never sit.*”

Even though she’s small in stature, she stands tall as a pillar in her community, juggling more Jewish organizations than one can count. Just like planting a tree and knowing it’s for the next generation (and a squirrel or two), her efforts have surely left roots and branches that will bear fruit for years to come.”

What immediately came to mind was an article published in the local Jewish newspaper when I was president of the Jewish Community Center of Greater Albuquerque (JCC). My granddaughter, Marlee, decided to donate 10 percent of the money she received for her Bat Mitzvah to the JCC in Albuquerque. When asked “Why?,” she answered (and it still makes me tear up), “The JCC is important to my grandma, and my grandma is important to me!” This was a fast-growing tree! And guess what. Three years later my grandson, Nathan, followed suit.

It’s difficult to write about oneself, but I thought back to a class on ethical wills led by Rabbi Paul Citrin. It doesn’t feel self-serving when you want your posterity—in this case, your community—to

know you: your values, your life stories, your foundation.

So, let’s get started.

I joke about it now, but as a young girl with freckles, curly hair, and glasses, I knew I would not be able to depend on looks to pave my way. Since I was good at math, I felt I had something others, especially girls, didn’t have. Growing up in a family with a father born in Poland, a mother born in Brooklyn (to us that was also a foreign country), two brothers and a younger sister, I knew that education was the key to the future. There were spelling tests at the breakfast table, summer reading programs, expectations of good report cards. The fact that the four of us have seven degrees between us illustrates the education focus success.

Our household in Tampa, Florida, was very modest, and since my parents couldn’t donate in dollars, they donated in time. My father was the Scoutmaster of the Boy Scout troop at the JCC. In addition to the Jewish boys, he also had boys from the local orphanage. He would pick them up, load them into the back of his pickup truck, and take them to meetings and camping. I was the person who sewed on their merit badges and, on occasion, drove them to scout-related appointments. I mention this only because I felt put upon. I didn’t realize at the time that I was learning and living a Jewish value—chesed—kindness.

In junior high school, I was sent from the classroom for misbehaving—probably talking—to the library. I was perusing a *Life* magazine that had a spread on the Holocaust. Until that time, my only knowledge of the Holocaust was the number on our Hebrew teacher’s arm. If

we said “Hess” instead of “Chess,” we got the lampshade story. Both experiences opened my eyes to the tragedy of our people. Without my realizing it at the time, a seed was planted that foretold current volunteer activity.



Jennie Negin

In ninth grade, I fell in love with algebra and continued taking every math course through high school. My math teacher and the guidance counselor encouraged me to apply for a Florida university teacher’s scholarship. I did and was successful. The scholarship paid for tuition—for each year you were obligated to teach for one year. If you didn’t teach, you had to repay for the years you didn’t teach.

In 1957, I was off to Gainesville and the University of Florida (UF). I joined a Jewish sorority and was active in Hillel. A young protestant minister was in one of my classes. We often chatted after class. One day he asked me why I was Jewish. Without thinking, I answered, “because my ancestors had to struggle to be Jewish—often losing their lives. I can’t dishonor their struggles by turning my back on Judaism when it’s so easy to be Jewish in America.” I remember

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President's Column



As we move into the fall, we always say to ourselves, "the summer flew by." It has been a wild summer for so many, with hot weather, too little or too much rain, hazy skies from fires nearby and as far away as Canada. Let's hope for cooler weather and beautiful fall colors.

As mentioned in our recent emails, the Fall Conference is around the corner, and the Program Planning Committee has been busy putting the final touches on the program and logistics with the many moving parts involved. We hope you'll join us either in person or via Zoom for what promises to be an interesting program, with good speakers and panelists. It is our annual signature event. Along with the Conference program itself, after membership it is our second major revenue stream, not only by way of your attendance but also conference sponsorship. Your support allows us to continue our speaker's program, *Legacy* newsletter, and special projects, to name a few.

There are several sponsorship opportunities from which to choose, and please do consider it. Sponsor donors will be recognized on our website and in our Conference program booklet. All contributions are tax deductible. If you have any questions, please contact either me or the NMJHS office at admin@nmjhs.org or by calling 505-348-4471. Thank

you in advance for your consideration.

We are also delighted to announce that we were awarded a \$5,000 "Mini Grant" from the New Mexico Historical Records Center Advisory Board to complete the final phase, Phase III, of our work on the papers of the late Rabbi Leonard Helman. This is the third grant we have received in support of this project. Phase III focuses on two remaining collections: 1) Life Cycle Events such as Weddings, B'nai Mitzvah, and Eulogies, and 2) Lectures.

This has been a huge undertaking over the last three years, reviewing, sorting, and organizing over 500 documents! Once Phase III is completed at the end of this calendar year, we will work with the New Mexico State Archives to access these documents from the NMJHS collection in Santa Fe. Our team through the different phases includes Dr. Noel Pugach, Patricia Carlton, Harvey Buchalter, Karen Payne, and myself. Volunteers include Marcia Greenbaum and Leona Rubin. A huge shoutout to each of them!

See you at the Fall Conference! ✨



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Sharing Your Family History

NMJHS continues to collect New Mexico Jewish family histories through oral interviews to share with the public and preserve in the New Mexico State Archives.

If you are interested in participating, contact the NMJHS office:

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IN MEMORIAM

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When Opportunity Knocks (*continued from p. 1*)

thinking, being Jewish means actions, not just words.

I got my B.S.E. in three years at UF and looked for a job in Gainesville, as my husband (married young the first time) was still in school. I learned quickly that the professors' wives had dibs on teaching jobs, and I couldn't find one. I decided to go to graduate school instead.

I entered graduate school in the fall of 1960, with a teaching assistantship. I finished all my course work for an M.A. in math by the end of summer 1961. I was successful in getting a teaching job in a middle school, so I could start working off my teaching scholarship. I worked on my thesis during the winter and graduated in February 1962 with my M.A.

But I didn't enjoy teaching middle school. When summer rolled around, I called the math department and asked if I could have a teaching assistantship for the summer. The answer was "yes," but it was at the Computer Center. I said OK without having any idea what computing was about.

As soon as the school year ended, I began my life at the UF Computing Center. I taught myself FORTRAN and started teaching a class in that programming language—one week ahead of the students. When the end of summer rolled around, I was offered a full-time job, making almost twice as much as my teaching salary. I accepted and was able to pay back my scholarship with ease.

Let's pause to reflect on why this narrative is important. At Passover, our family and friends go around the table to impart a bit of wisdom, something we're thankful for. I remember distinctly the year I said: *When opportunity knocks, open the door.* I was lucky enough to see opportunity and take it, but usually opportunity is due to those who pave the way for us. For me it was my beloved aunt Rose, teachers, coworkers, bosses. It becomes our responsibility to "pay it forward" to others.

In 1968, my then-husband was offered, and accepted, a postdoctoral position at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL). We packed up our station wagon, with our four-year-old daughter Rachel ensconced in the back and drove west. On the road from Santa Fe to Los Alamos, we stopped the car and took in the landscape. I was in shock. Where were the trees and flowers I was used to seeing? I think back on that day. Little did I know how I would come to love the open space, the ability to use the mountains as a map, the lack of humidity, the change of seasons.

Even though I was managing a staff of six at the UF Computing Center, I was only offered a job interview after I got to Los Alamos. I was offered, and accepted, a job in the Computing Division. The fact that women were not equal to men was subtle, but existed. I used to kid that I never even got an interview lunch. My husband and I had started adoption proceedings. I went to my boss and explained that I could not predict when a child would be available, but when the time came, I would like to have time off. His answer was, "As long as it's not hunting season." And he was serious. I moved to another organization with a caring boss. In 1970, our son Neil joined the family. There was an opening for a group leader, and when I wasn't interviewed, I asked why not, and was told they knew I wouldn't want to take time away from my family.

During my time at LANL, I got involved in the state chapter of the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM). It was an opportunity to meet other computing scientists throughout the state and the country. I was president of the state chapter when, after six years at LANL, I moved to Albuquerque in 1974.

In 1975, I was contacted by Sandia National Laboratories (SNL, aka Sandia). They wanted to try out a job-share concept, and offered me a half-time job in a computing organization. I accepted, and eventually became full time. My assignments included both system design and

implementation—Radiation Dosimetry Monitoring System and Nuclear Materials Management. I was transferred to Personnel Computing and realized I was interested in managing people. I was successful in moving to management, eventually becoming a middle manager—one of the few women at that time.

After LANL, I became very aware of salary disparity between men and women. I learned how to ask the right questions, request the right data and charts, and be assertive, to see that I was paid in line with my male counterparts.

Sandia was very community-minded and gave me the opportunity to engage with the greater Albuquerque community. I was a United Way Loaned Executive in 1982 and 1983, and Division Chair for Architects and Engineers in 1987. I also had the privilege of being in the first Leadership Albuquerque class of 1986. I received YWCA's Women on the Move Award in 1987 and the Governor's Award for Outstanding Women in 1988.

I was a founding member of the New Mexico Network for Women in Science and Engineering, and served as president and keynote speaker at our annual Expanding Your Horizons Conference for girls in middle school in 1981.

I retired in 1999 from work at Sandia but not from work in our community. As is said, *the best was yet to come.*

When I moved from Los Alamos to Albuquerque in 1974, for the first time since leaving home, I had the opportunity to join a shul with a rabbi. Congregation B'nai Israel (CBI) became an important part of my life—bat and bar mitzvahs, weddings, baby namings. Sitting on the board and committees, donating quilts to fundraisers, enjoying the peace of Shabbat services, making friends. Next year will mark the 50th anniversary of my membership.

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When Opportunity Knocks (continued from p. 3)

Early on I got involved in Women's American ORT and served as president from 1981 to 1983. At one event, the late David Cooper talked about philanthropy and the power of being generous in your lifetime (he donated his social security check every month). It set a standard for me and my husband, Harold Folley. I still cherish the friends I made in ORT.

Like most of my life, my greatest rewards in the Jewish community were not planned, but a combination of seeing need, feeling I had something to contribute, and saying "yes" to leadership roles. A door was presented, I opened it, and I walked through to deep satisfaction.

Each presidency has a story. In 1985, my mother came to live with me. Her health dictated that she needed extra help. I reached out to Jewish Family Service (JFS), but wasn't happy with the information that was given to me. The director suggested I join the board of directors and make a difference. I was on the board from 1987 to 2003 and was president from 1996 to 1998. JFS will always be in my heart, and I was thrilled when the Jewish Care Program was established after the demise of JFS. Footnote. One good result was my mother went to live at the David Specter Shalom House for some very good years.

At the time of my father's death, I had been asked to be president of the JCC. I was newly retired and said that I wasn't interested. At the graveside service for my father, my younger brother related stories of our father and his Boy Scouts. He said, "You know, our father was the only father those boys knew." I said to myself, "this is a sign—this is what I was raised to do—to take on the JCC presidency (2005-2007)." So, I said "yes" to the JCC in honor of my father and never looked back. I was involved from 2002 to 2015. In 2010, Harold and I were honored by the JCC with the Harold B. Albert Community Service Award.

In 2014, there was crisis at the Holocaust and Intolerance Museum of New Mexico (currently NMHIM). The officers of the board resigned in toto, and the Jewish Federation of New Mexico cut their funding. The museum was very important to my husband, and I couldn't see another Jewish institution closing. I volunteered to reconstitute a board of directors and was elected president in 2014, serving until 2019. I am still serving on the board—looking forward to a bright future for the museum and its current leadership.

The Jewish Community Foundation of New Mexico (JCFNM) has been an opportunity to learn as a trustee and organization representative. The JCFNM is playing a valuable role in the legacy being established in our state-wide Jewish community. If not us, who?

In 2018, I was deeply touched to receive the Inaugural Mimi Efrogmson Life of Leadership Award.

It's a lot of alphabet soup: JCC, UF, LANL, SNL, CBI, ORT, NMHIM, JCFNM. It may not be chicken soup, but it certainly nourished my soul.

I am fortunate: raised in a family of love and volunteerism, educated in the math world that enabled success in the tech job market, and landed in a welcoming, small-but-energetic Jewish community. And I am married for 36 years to the man who has made my life complete.

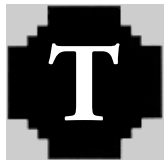
That's my story and I'm sticking to it. ☆

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Jewish Merchants of Santa Fe: the Twentieth Century Golden Age

by Ron Duncan Hart



The new documentary film, *Jewish Merchants of Santa Fe: The Twentieth Century Golden Age*, tells the rich story of Jewish life at the commercial center of the "city different". Although the focus is on the 20th century, any accounting of the Jewish merchants of Santa Fe ultimately starts in the 1800s, because some of those businesses lasted well into the 1900s. The history and descendants of those first Jewish merchants are still with us. Betsy Nordhaus Messeca, great-granddaughter of Abraham Staab, who came to Santa Fe in the 1850s, grew up with stories of how her ancestor and other early merchants shaped the development of the town. In the film, Betsy tells about Abraham becoming successful as a merchant and returning to Germany to look for a Jewish wife. He met Julia Shuster, and they were married and returned to Santa Fe to live on Burro Alley, which was not an elegant address. Abraham had promised that he would build her a grand house in keeping with her station, and he did build that house on Palace Avenue. It is now part of La Posada.

Betsy went on to tell the Staab family story about the yud-hey-vav-hey inscription in the keystone above the doorway into the Cathedral Basilica of St. Francis that Archbishop Lamy built. The local merchants had a poker game on Saturday nights, and Archbishop Lamy would attend with a bottle of wine to socialize and observe. One night he was glum, and Abraham Staab asked him what the problem was, to which the Archbishop answered that he had run out of money to complete the Cathedral. According to the story, Staab offered to make a major donation if the Archbishop would put the Hebrew inscription above the doorway. That is the explanation of how the sacred name of God in Hebrew came to be placed above the entrance to the Cathedral. The Spiegelberg family has a similar story about that event.

Although the film is primarily about the second generation of merchants, who be-

gan arriving in the early 1900s, some of the older merchants overlapped with the earliest arrivals of the second generation. Abraham Staab lived until 1913, and his business continued after he died. Solomon Spitz *Ron Duncan Hart* was another of the first generation of German Jewish merchants. Although he died in 1927, the jewelry store he established in 1881 finally closed in 1974. His grandson, Robert Spitz, speaks briefly in the film about Jewish life in Santa Fe. Some of the leading 20th century merchants were Johanna Blatt of the Blatt/Petchesky/Silver family, Morris Bell and later his son Irving of the Bell family, Henry and Emil Pick of the Pick family, and Gustav and Walter Kahn of the Kahn family.



Ron Duncan Hart

Lance Bell set up an interview with Sam Pick, the former Jewish mayor of Santa Fe, to talk about his family and life in the city. We met Sam at the Iconik coffee shop on Cerrillos Road, next to the White Swan Laundry, which belonged to his family. Sam was mayor of Santa Fe from 1976 to 1978 and again from 1986 to 1994 and had a major role in promoting the city. During his tenure, Santa Fe was selected as the nation's most livable city with a population under 100,000. He supported public art projects and had a major influence in supporting the growth of tourism. His father, Emil, was from Austria, and his mother, Elizabeth Schultz, was from Germany. Sam was 87 at the time of this interview; an inveterate storyteller, he told stories, narrating stories from his own family and from others of his generation. Sam's stories ranged from one about his uncle being murdered taking the payroll to his employees to one about meeting the Dali Lama when he came to Santa Fe. Then, there was his story about Santa Fe cologne, a fragrance for men. You will have to see the film for more. If you are talking with Sam, you cannot go more

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Jewish Merchants of Santa Fe *(continued from p. 5)*

than a few minutes without laughter as he finds the ironies and sometimes absurdities in human life.

The Blatt/Petchesky/Silver families had a rich history, beginning with Johanna Blatt who started the White House clothing store in 1912 in the Catron Building on the Plaza. She bought the building in 1927. Her daughter, Pauline, and son-in-law, Barney Petchesky, opened the Guarantee Shoe Store next door, and their daughter, Marian, and son-in-law, Abe Silver, ran the store until it closed in 1988. Marian and Abe Silver and their daughter, Carolyn, gave rich personal details about life in the Santa Fe Jewish community, from humorous stories about life in the stores, to Marian's stories about life with the few Jewish families that lived in the city. A judge's wife asked Marian's grandmother to send back a dress in the store window because she had already bought one just like it in El Paso. No one else could have a dress like hers in the town. Abe Silver told about Georgia O'Keefe buying house shoes. Carolyn brings her grandparents, Barney Petchesky and Pauline, and great-grandmother, Johanna, to life with her richly textured descriptions of who they were and how they lived in the community.

Walter Kahn's father arrived in New Mexico at the beginning of the 20th century and bought a store from Walter Benjamin in Albuquerque. He later moved to Gallup. Once he was established there, he went back to Germany to find a Jewish wife. They had a store in the rough-and-tumble world of Gallup until the 1930s, when they came to Santa Fe with the assistance of Emil Pick, Sam Pick's father. In 1935, Walter's father opened a shoe store on San Francisco Street near Bell's Department Store and later moved up to the Plaza taking over the location that had been Julius Gans' Indian arts and crafts store. They eventually bought the building. Throughout the film Walter narrates the location

of the various Jewish businesses around the Plaza and along San Francisco Street with his personal comments about the character and finances of the individual store owners.

The Bell Department Store was one of the anchor stores in downtown Santa Fe from the time of its opening in 1926 to its closing in 1985. It started in the building that had originally been a Staab store on San Francisco in the 1800s, then it had been a Charles Ilfeld store before becoming Bell's, which was an interesting sequence of stores by different Jewish families in the same location. That happened in other stores also. Bell's was the department store, and it had clothing for men, women, and children. It had a wedding section with a history of mothers and later daughters getting their



La Fonda Hotel, Santa Fe

wedding dresses at Bell's. They sold more Levi's jeans that anyone else in Santa Fe, and they had luggage and more. It was a true department store for middle-class Santa Feans.

Morris Bell had originally come to New Mexico as a peddler and opened his first store in Española. Before the Depression, he had several stores around Northern New Mexico, but, after the Depression, he concentrated on the Santa Fe store, which Irving Bell, Lance's father, would eventually run.

The Santa Fe Jewish community was small. There was no synagogue until the mid-1950s, when Temple Beth Shalom was established. Marian Silver, Sam Pick, Robert Spitz, and Lance Bell tell about Jewish holidays and Shabbat services being observed in individual's houses. Barney Petchesky,

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Rabbi Leonard A. Helman's Coin Collection

by Gail Rapoport, retired Executive Director, Congregation Beit Tikva

Santa Fe Congregation Beit Tikva was started in 1995. As the Executive Director of Beit Tikvah when Rabbi Leonard A. Helman returned to Santa Fe at the end of that year, I was frequently reminded of how different he was. One of his lesser-known idiosyncrasies was a precious antique coin collection he had amassed through all of his adult years. The coins were like his children, and I visited them with him numerous times at his numerous safety deposit boxes.

He told me he wanted the coins displayed, museum-like, after his death. Thus, he left them to Congregation Beit Tikva after a stint at the Oklahoma Jewish Museum. He put me and Paul Grace, *ala ha-shalom*, in charge. He also left me some money, which I used to build the cases to display the coins. It has been a long process with the untimely death of Paul. But I was determined, and now on Paul's 10-year *yahrzeit* anniversary (DOD June 6, 2003), I have completed the project. I learned a lot and am proud of the results. I still miss Rabbi Helman every day.

One can view the coins in the Helman Library. Call 505-820-2991 to make an appointment for a visit. The coins are permanently installed in the Helman Library, which he helped build, by funding its construction.

It is still hard to believe he is gone. I worked for him for 30 years and consider it an essential part of my adult life. Rabbi Helman is buried at Santa Fe Memorial Gardens, in a dedicated Jewish section of the cemetery I was proud to get started in 1995-96.

The following is some information on the over-100-coin collection that Rabbi Helman wrote:

"A naked woman caused my becoming a Jewish numismatist. I was a passionate reader of the *Sunday New York Times*. One Sunday about 30 (now over 40) years ago, I read in the Times about a coin, the Naked Maja, made by a West

Indies nation. It wasn't very expensive, so I sent my check, and in a few weeks it arrived and I was hooked! Next I got the great idea of specializing in coins that connected with Jewish history. Years ago, coins were not as expensive as today. I ordered catalogues from auctions and submitted winning bids, and even traveled to Amsterdam to buy some coins. It was fun, and as a rabbi, I was doing something Jewish. It became one of my favorite hobbies.

So what did I buy? I bought coins which had an important relationship to Jewish historical events. For example, an important date in American Jewish history is 1664. In that year, Jews from Recife, Brazil, were expelled and ordered to be returned to Spain. One such Jew was Asher Levy. As his ship was sailing for Spain, it was seized by a French vessel and returned to New Amsterdam. The Governor of New Amsterdam was Peter Stuyvesant, who decreed that the Jews could stay, and that is the beginning of American Jewish history.

But was it? Maranos came to the New World in the 16th century; of course, the prize coin would be an *excelente* or *sevilla* of Ferdinand and Isabella, rulers in 1492, the year Jews were expelled from Spain. Gold coins of these dates can be researched by looking at the scholarly book, *Gold Coins of the World*. In my search for historical coins, I learned a great deal about Jewish history.

Other examples of coins in the collection are a Marc Anthony; an Oliver Cromwell, who was instrumental in returning Jews to England in 1654; a Nerva, who as Roman Emperor in CE 96 decided to eliminate a tax, the *Judaici Calmnia Sublata*, on Jews. The coin has the initial S C (by the consent of the Senate) on it. There are some Bar Kochba coins. Simeon Bar Kochba was a charismatic Jewish general who led a revolution against the Roman Empire from CE 129 to CE 135, and was eventually captured. Many Jewish historians believe that the failure of the Bar Kochba revolt was one of the greatest

calamities to befall the Jewish people. The modern state of Israel has also produced a number of beautiful coins.



Gail Rapoport

As an avid collector, I own several hundred coins. I have collected in two distinct areas: coins relating to Jewish history, and American coins. I hope someday the coins from the Jewish history collection will be placed in a museum. Seeing these coins will remind us that Jews played an important role in the world commerce." — Rabbi Leonard A. Helman

So, at his request, we have created a museum in the library of Congregation Beit Tikva.

I take great pride in establishing the Jewish section of Santa Fe Memorial Gardens, where Rabbi Helman is buried, and for completing and dedicating the display of his coin collection housed at Congregation Beit Tikva. I owe Lance Bell much gratitude for encouraging me in these projects. ☆

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Jewish Merchants of Santa Fe (continued from p. 6)

who was from New York, was trained as a cantor, and he regularly led services for people in his own home. Walter Kahn also mentioned that at another time, Louie Rosen had led services when a minyan was required for a *yahrzeit* or burial. Marian Silver and Leah Kellogg were primarily responsible for teaching children about Judaism, and Marian talks about holding those classes in the basement of the Baptist church. Rabbi David Shor from Congregation Albert in Albuquerque would come up monthly to help with Hebrew lessons.

By the 1970s and 1980s, the Jewish businesses in downtown Santa Fe were closing one by one, as the city became more tourist oriented and national corporations began to dominate the economy. Spitz Jewelry closed in 1974. Bell's store closed in 1985. Kahn's Shoe Store closed in 1986. The Guarantee closed in 1988. By the end of the 1980s, all of the Jewish businesses that had anchored commerce in downtown Santa Fe had closed. Although it was the end of an era of 140 years of Jewish retail merchants at the center of commercial life in the city, some of the families continued to own the buildings where their stores had been, and their businesses morphed into real estate rather than retail commerce. They are still there but less visible than they once were.

Everyone who spoke about Jewish Santa Fe in the 1900s remembered it in glowing terms. There was no discrimination against Jews, and Sam Pick talked about New Mexico being a very open state. Marian Silver called Santa Fe a "fun place," a good place to grow up and live. We can see from those who remember the people of that time period that the Blatts, Petcheskys, Silvers, Ballens, Gardeskys, Kahns, Spitzes, Goodmans, Bells, Taggarts, Livingstons, and others made Santa Fe a better place by the richness of their lives.

The film *Jewish Merchants of Santa Fe* went through several planning stages over the last couple of years, with three sources coming together in the making of this film. First, I had wanted to interview Lance Bell about his family, and second, Lance was advocating making a broader film on the

Jewish merchants. Linda Goff pulled those interests together and successfully applied for funds to assist in making the film. The funds were granted by the former Jewish Federation and paid through the Jewish Community Foundation. The three of us began working together over the next several months to identify major narrators and set up interviews.

Gloria Abella Ballen, co-producer of the film, was also the primary interviewer. She had done the earlier interview with Marian Silver in 2018, and she conducted the 2023 interview with Lance Bell about his family. And, finally, she and Lance together conducted the interview with Sam Pick.

As native New Mexicans and descendants of important Jewish families, Lance Bell, Carolyn Silver, and Betsy Messeca Nordhaus had extensive video and photographic materials in their family archives, which they generously made available for the film. In addition to their archived materials, we also had taped interviews with Betsy Messeca and Marian Silver in the Gaon Film archives. After we added the new live interviews with the historic footage, we had ten hours of video material and dozens of photographs. Gloria Abella Ballen assisted me in the two-month-long post-production process of reviewing, evaluating, and editing the video materials down to the 36 minutes of the final film, catching the richness of Jewish merchant life in Santa Fe in the 1900s with its entertaining and informative essence.

After the premier online showing of the film on October 17, it will be available free and open to the public on the website of the New Mexico Jewish Historical Society (www.nmjhs.org) and the Jewish Learning Channel (www.youtube.com/c/JewishLearningChannel). ✧

Ron Duncan Hart, Ph.D., is a cultural anthropologist, Indiana University with postdoctoral work at the University of Oxford. Hart is a former Dean of Academic Affairs and has written on *Jews and the Arab World* and *Sephardic Jews*. He has been an invited lecturer for universities across the U.S.

2023 NMJHS Annual Meeting



Left to Right: Lewis Terr, Nancy Terr, Jim Terr, Laurie Terr Acenzi, Lance Bell



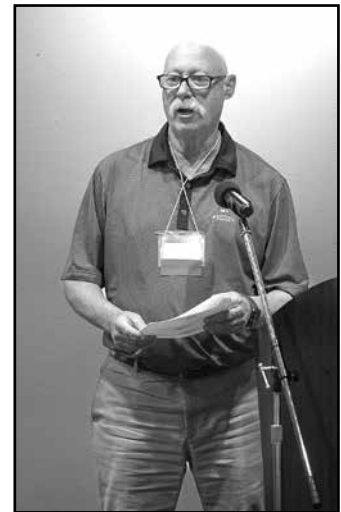
Lance Bell



Linda Goff, President



Lance Bell, Linda Goff, Doris Francis, and Gail Rappaport



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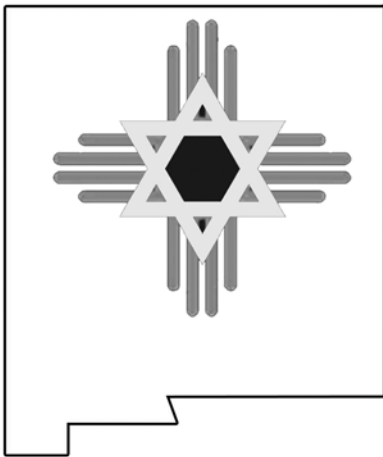
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Future Events

March 11, 2024, 7:00 p.m. “Iraqi Jewish Cooking and History,” via Zoom, Rivka Goldman

April 15, 2024, 7:00 p.m. “Nooks and Crannies of New York City,” via Zoom, Justin Ferate, Urban Historian

Annual Business Meeting and Speaker Program, Sunday, June 9, 2024, 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Speaker: Dr. Ron Duncan Hart. “Crypto-Jews: Intriguing Stories of Jewishness from the Inquisition in Cartagena, Columbia”