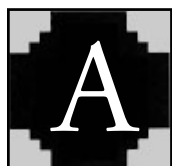


## **Eighteenth Annual Conference To Focus On New Mexico Jews In The Military And The Peace Movement**

by Stan Hordes



Albuquerque will be the site of the 2005 Annual Conference of the NMJHS. This year's theme is "New Mexico Jews in War and Peace" and features the participation of historians, as well as veterans of the armed forces and the peace demonstrations of the 1960s and 1970s.

The event will take place on Veterans' Day weekend, November 11-13. The Conference venue will be the historic La Posada de Albuquerque, originally the old Hilton Hotel, constructed in 1939, conveniently located in downtown Albuquerque.

The conference will begin Friday evening with a dessert reception and a screening of a video produced by NMJHS member, Jim Terr, "In Their Own Words: Twelve Veterans of World War Two," which includes interviews with Leah Kellogg, who served as a nurse at the Brunns Hospital, now the College of Santa Fe, during the War. The evening's program will conclude in time to allow those who wish to attend Shabbat Services at one of the local synagogues.

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

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

**Administrator:** Bobbi Jackson  
**Office Hours:** Monday, Tuesday, & Thursday  
 9:00-2:00 pm  
**Managing Editor:** Bobbi Jackson

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

Saturday morning's agenda begins with a presentation by former Society President Stanley Hordes, "Crypto-Jews in the Military in Colonial New Mexico," based on research that he conducted for his recently published book, *To the End of the Earth: A History of the Crypto-Jews in New Mexico*. Historian Henry J. Tobias follows with a thoughtful analysis, "The Effects of World War II on Religious Tolerance in New Mexico," based on the career of former Albuquerque Rabbi David Shor, who served as a chaplain in the Second World War. Next, Carlsbad native, retired Admiral Robert Wertheim, will discuss his distinguished career in the U. S. Navy in "Experiences of a Navy Nuclear Cold Warrior".

Following lunch, researchers Ellen Bradbury and David Snow will share the results of their research into the startling history of Soviet espionage involving two Russian Jewish Émigrés living in Santa Fe in "Capital Pharmacy as a

Soviet Safe House in the 1930s and 40s."



Leah Kellogg -Courtesy of Leah Kellogg.

Then, for something completely different, Anti-Vietnam activist and long-term Albuquerque resident, Mark Rudd, will draw upon his experiences in the Movement to discuss "Why Were There So Many Jews in the Students for Democratic Society During the Vietnam War?" Later in the evening, internationally renowned writer Mark Kurlansky, author of *A Basque History of the World*, *History of Salt*, *History of Cod*, and, most

recently *1968* (featuring Mark Rudd and the peace movement, among other topics), will offer a provocative keynote banquet address, "Jews in 1968 and Today: What's Going Wrong?"

Sunday morning's program comprises two panel discussions: one featuring veterans of the military, including WWII vets, Abe Chanin and Leah Kellogg, as well as David Pollak, who served as an officer in the Israeli army and the other, veterans of the anti-Vietnam war demonstrations at the University of **continued on p. 4**

### **SAVE THE DATE!**

**November 11 - 13, 2005**

**NMJHS 18th Annual Conference**

**"New Mexico Jews in  
 War and Peace"**

**La Posada Hotel, Albuquerque**

**The Conference Brochure  
 will be mailed to NMJHS  
 members in September.**

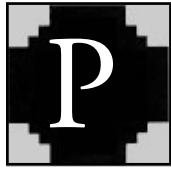
**Please mark your calendars now  
 for this intriguing Conference.**

### **INSIDE THIS ISSUE**

Annual Conference .....	1
Annual Membership Report .....	2
Message From the President.....	3
Walter Kahn Obituary .....	3
Genealogy Corner .....	5
Leona Hurst .....	6
New Mexicans, Old Jews .....	7
Isobel Hertzstein Lord Obituary .....	8
The Nuclear Jewish Family .....	9
Calendar of Upcoming Events .....	12

# Report On Annual Membership Meeting

by Dorothy Corner Amsden



Planned and chance encounters added another dimension to the NMJHS Annual Membership Meeting, held at The Screen Theater in Santa Fe on Sunday afternoon, June 26. The sold-out event featured the documentary *Watermarks* by Israeli director Yaron Zilberman, about a champion women's swimming team that was part of the legendary Jewish sports club Hakoah Vienna. (Hakoah means *The Strength* in Hebrew.)

*Watermarks* tells the story of seven members of that team and brings them together for a reunion in Vienna 65 years later. Images of the vibrant young women from the 1930s are juxtaposed with footage of their reunion.

Adding depth to the film are interviews with the women, now in their eighties, who reflect on their youthful experiences.

Visually, the film is beautifully done, weaving back and forth in time. Most of the older images are black and white photos of the young swimmers and other athletes, although some old footage was filmed at the 1936 Olympics in Berlin, where the Austrian Jewish team was booed from the grandstands. Interviews filmed in

color with the women, who now live in England, Israel and the United States, are particularly moving. The spark still burns in them from their youth, yet in their maturity, they reflect on what has happened since those innocent days. The interviews are conducted in the language of the country where they settled. Those who went to England and the United States had no need for subtitles, at least for English speaking audiences. Those who made it to Israel spoke in Hebrew. I had a great time making

out part of what they said, though I would have missed a lot without the subtitles.

The sound track soars with romantic Viennese music. To younger ears, it might sound syrupy, but for those who miss the old Vienna, it recaptures a poignant period in time. Two disconcerting moments occur during

the otherwise delightful reunion. One of the women athletes, who now lives in Israel, is filmed riding in a Viennese taxi. As she chats in German with the driver about events in the late 1930s, he remarks "It was difficult for non-natives," implying that the Jews were something less than native Austrians, despite having lived there for generations. Another disconcerting moment happens in a ritzy café with a singer in a tuxedo, who, after serenading the women and their families with old familiar

songs, launches into a song that Jewish prisoners were forced to sing at Auschwitz, composed under duress by the librettist for Franz Lehár.

The showing of *Watermarks* also made possible another reunion of sorts, one planned, the other a surprise, between two former members of Hakoah Vienna in the audience, who remembered swimmer Annie Wagner from ever so long ago. Dr. Annie Wagner Lampl had been scheduled to come to Santa Fe from Los Angeles where she now lives for the film showing, but couldn't make it at the last minute due to illness. Dr. Henry Grant, one of the former athletes, now a Santa Fe resident, had been looking forward to greeting Annie in **continued on p. 4**



Lance Bell and Rabbi Leonard Helman at the 2005 Membership Meeting. Photo by Harold Melnick



Rabbi Leonard Helman. Photo by Harold Melnick

## 5th Annual Book Sale

Held on  
Sept. 3rd & 4th, 2005

Thank you to  
Wild Oats, Shirley Jacobson,  
Sheila Gershen, Paul Hordes  
and ALL the volunteers who  
made this event another huge  
fund-raising success.

### TRIBUTE

Please consider making a tribute to your loved one by making a donation to the NMJHS, whether a marriage, birth or the loss of someone dear to you.

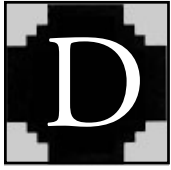
Telephone: (505) 577-7395 Fax: (505) 982-6211  
E-Mail: [p.saltz@comcast.net](mailto:p.saltz@comcast.net)

**PHILIP SALTZ**  
Attorney at Law

Offices: Santa Fe - 2019 Galisteo, #D2 Eldorado - 5 Caliente Road, #2A  
Mail: P.O. Box 9333 Santa Fe, NM 87504

## President's Message

by Lance Bell



Dear New Mexico Jewish Historical Society Members:

As you can see from this newsletter, we have had a busy 2005, with more to come. We hope you find this edition of our quarterly newsletter informational and enjoyable. We'd like you to share your comments and suggestions with us, so we can strive to have a better publication. Better yet, share your family story and consider submitting an article for the newsletter. Please mark your calendar for our Fall

Conference, which starts on November 11th. This year's conference title is, "New Mexico Jews In War & Peace".

Please make sure your membership is up to date and consider making a donation to the New Mexico Jewish Historical Society. This can be done via several routes: you can contribute directly to the society; you can purchase gift memberships for friends and family; you can designate your gift to the Jewish Federation of Greater Albuquerque, earmarked for the society or you can advertise your business in our newsletter.

We had a sold out show at our Annual Membership Meeting in Santa Fe to view the film *Watermarks*. We would like to do more educational and/or documentary historical films. If you would like to help with our developing Film Committee, please call Bobbi. If you would like to help with one of our other committees, which include Archives, Membership, Newsletter or Program and Finance committees, please contact Bobbi or me.

With that said, thank you for making our society a growing organization, with a very bright future.

## Jewish Historical Society Mourns the Passing of Native New Mexican Walter Kahn

by Lance Bell



We mourn the loss of Walter "Wally" Kahn, a tower of strength to many in Santa Fe and a pillar to Jewish History in New Mexico. On July 4, 2005, after a brief ill-

ness, Walter Kahn, 87, beloved husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle and friend to us all, passed away. Walter, born in Gallup, represented one of the New Mexican Jewish merchant pioneer families. Walter's passing is a personal loss to me and to the New Mexico Jewish Historical Society family.

I knew Walter for 39 years, having met him at my bris at St. Vincent's Hospital. I learned early on from Walter that friendships do not have to arise only from one's contemporaries. I had more in common with Walter than I did with most friends from my own generation. We were all blessed that Walter always had a story to tell, that we could really learn something from his words and that he was a "go-to person" to ask any type of question about New Mexico, Jewish history, downtown Santa Fe and about people in general.

I fondly write about Walter because he was a personal link to my family history. Walter knew many members of my family who passed away long before I came on the scene. Since there were some unanswered questions about my family and since my father passed away when I was 15, Walter shared many wonderful personal sto-

ries about them that I treasure today. I always asked and he always had an answer. Now many of those stories are priceless to me. The lesson learned here is: ask your family and friends questions while they are still around and still enjoy talking about the past. During September of

Kahn's Shoe Store for great service, dependability and quality products. From Red Goose to Florsheim, they had the greatest brands and shoed many generations of Santa Fe locals. The employees at Kahn's knew that if Walter could not remember a customer's name, he never forgot a customer's shoe size.

Speaking of the Kahn family history, as pioneer Jewish merchants, they were the finest example of the great reputation that European Jewish immigrants brought to New Mexico starting in the mid-1800's. In 1906, Walter's uncle, Sig, arranged for his brother Gus to arrive from Germany to help in the family business, which started



Rabbi Leonard Helman and Walter Kahn.

2001, Walter volunteered his time for the New Mexico Jewish Historical Society to lead a group, along with his friend Mayor Larry Delgado, on a walking tour of downtown Santa Fe. Those who attended were able to learn first-hand from Walter's stories, about how Santa Fe changed throughout the generations. If anyone is interested in viewing this video, please let us know; copies are still available for purchase.

Santa Feans knew shoes and Kahn's was synonymous with shoes. They knew they could trust



Walter Kahn and Lance Bell with "George" at the Santa Fe Car Show.

in Gallup, NM, in 1911. Walter's parents were married in 1914 and lived in Gallup until 1932. After liquidating the Gallup store, they relocated to Albuquerque. After several years in Albuquerque, while Walter was still a young man, his family moved to Santa Fe. Walter became a lifelong resident of this city, which he loved and

Continued on p. 4

Walter Kahn - continued from p. 3

whose history he knew in great detail.

In 1935, with \$3,200 and the help of the Pick family, Gus Kahn started his shoe business at 127 W. San Francisco Street. In 1946, Walter married the love of his life, Lorraine Kempenick, the daughter of Alfred and Mabel Kempenick, another prominent New Mexico merchant family. The Kempenicks had a curio store near the Plaza called "Kemps". In the late 1960's, Kahn's Shoes moved to its final and prominent Plaza location at 80 E. San Francisco Street, in what is known as the Gans Building, which the Kahns purchased in 1979 from Harold Gans.

Walter was a well respected businessman,

known for his integrity and his desire to serve. He was highly regarded and admired by his loyal clientele and his valued employees.

Walter was a true patriot and served with distinction in the military during both World War II and the Korean War. He was founder and president of Temple Beth Shalom and was a founding and active member of Congregation Beit Tikva. Walter was a founding member of the New Mexico Jewish Historical Society and was a recipient of the Dr. Allan Hurst Award for distinguished leadership to the New Mexico community.

He was past-president of the New Mexico Chapter of the Classic Car Club of America

and his 1928 Green Lincoln Roadster, complete with rumble seat (it was affectionately named "George" after a prior owner), was an important and significant part of Walter's life. Walter and "George" participated in many parades and car shows and recently "George" was restored to a grandeur that Walter was really proud of.

Walter's journey touched all of our lives. Walter, we will miss you; we will always keep you in our thoughts, whether at car shows, at Lion's Club meetings, putting up USA flags, at Synagogue services or when we are on the Plaza. We will all have a little smile, knowing you would be happy just knowing that the activities you loved so much are still enjoyed by us all.

Annual Conference - continued from p. 1

New Mexico in the late 1960s and early 1970s, Janice Hart and Enid Howarth.

Following the conclusion of the formal program, attendees will be treated to the Society's traditional Lox and Bagel Brunch, supported by the Estate of Barbara Bender.

For details to attend this event, please contact Bobbi Jackson at 505-348-4471, or email at nmjhs@jewishnewmexico.org. The registration fee of \$75.00 for members and \$100.00 for non-members, includes admission to all lectures, Friday evening dessert reception, Saturday evening dinner and Sun-

day brunch. It does not include hotel accommodations. You can make your own hotel reservations at the La Posada de Albuquerque Hotel directly at 505-242-9090 or 1-800-777-5732 and asking for the NMJHS Conference rate of \$69.00 for a single/double and \$79.00 for a triple room, available Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights.

Report on Anual Membership Meeting - continued from p. 2

person. He was able to speak with her during the brief speakerphone interview before the film. The surprise encounter was another former member of Hakoah, Walter Kune, who saw the publicity for the film and decided to attend.

A short business meeting and award presentation preceded the film. Society president, Lance Bell, welcomed attendees and introduced members of the NMJHS board. One of the early

highlights of the meeting was the presentation of the Dr. Allan Hurst Award, an annual award that recognizes excellence in personal or institutional contribution to Jewish history in New Mexico. The award was presented by Leona Hurst, widow of Dr. Hurst, to Rabbi Leonard Helman, this year's distinguished recipient. Rabbi Helman came to Santa Fe in 1974 and has been a rabbi in New Mexico longer than any one else. Recognized as one of Santa Fe's "Living Treasures," Rabbi

Helman is currently the state legislative chaplain. Over his many years in New Mexico, he has dedicated himself to bridging the gaps among all faiths and religions. Rabbi Helman graciously accepted this year's award - a beautifully designed plaque by Arias Tile - and shared some of his favorite experiences over the past 30 years. This year's Annual Membership Meeting generated a renewed interest in the Society and resulted in several new memberships.

A Historical Exhibit Voyages to Freedom: Viajes a la Libertad  
Opening Reception is September 17th from 2 to 4 p.m.  
Date: September 17th - December 10th, 2005

Dr. Stanley Hordes will speak and sign his recently published book "To The End of The Earth: A History of The Crypto-Jews of New Mexico".

A Historical Exhibit on The Jewish Diaspora from Iberia to The Americas, 1492-2000

Location: The National Hispanic Cultural Center, History & Literary Arts Bldg. - 1701 4th Street SW, Albuquerque, NM

Contact: Carlos Vasquez at the NHCC - carlos.vasquez@state.nm.us - 246-2261 for more information.

Part of the show will be a selection of 10 photographs from the photo project CULTURE AND MEMORY by Cary Herz. Images will include mostly descendants and a couple of headstones including "The Five Commandments".

Weddings  
Celebrations  
Meetings



www.sunrisesprings.com  
Consuelo Constantine  
Sales Manager

Retreats  
Bar Mitzvahs  
Bat Mitzvahs

505 428-3607 direct

505 471-7365 fax

constantine@sunrisesprings.com

Toll-Free: 800 955-0028 ■ 242 Los Pinos Road, Santa Fe, NM 87507



Jewel Mark  
Fine Jewelry - Cartier  
Baume & Mercier - Corum

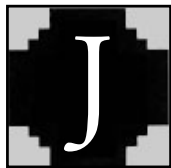
Michael and Rita Linder  
Owners

80 E. San Francisco St.  
Santa Fe, NM 87501  
(505) 820-6304  
Fax (505) 820-2220

Custom Designing  
Expert Jewelry & Watch Repair  
www.jewelmark.net

## Genealogy Corner, Charting Your Course in Jewish Genealogy

by Dorothy Corner Amsden



Jewish genealogy is not all that different from mainstream genealogy. The methods and resources are practically identical. We draw on the same census information, naturaliza-

tion and vital records, land deeds and wills. However, if your family has lived in the United States since the mid 1600s, as my husband's family has, the records are generally available. It still is a lot of hard work, but at least the relevant records are on these shores, within reach. If your family got off the boat in the early 1900s, as mine did, your task is somewhat more difficult. The records are in other lands, if they exist at all. Tracking them down is a real challenge involving unfamiliar languages, currencies, bureaucracy, customs, migrating borders and changing town names.

I learned a lot about basic genealogy from a course taught by the local genealogy society in Los Alamos in 1997, shortly after I retired from Los Alamos National Laboratory. After the course, I found that members of the society focused on migration patterns that didn't mirror my family. Land deeds and Civil War records were interesting, but they weren't part of my family story. Members of the society weren't pursuing the questions and histories that I needed to know about. When I discovered Jewish genealogy, I was hooked after reading *From Generation to Generation*<sup>1</sup>. I knew I needed more than the mainstream genealogical societies could offer. *Avotaynu*<sup>2</sup> and JewishGen<sup>3</sup> satisfied those needs and through those associations, I have made invaluable contacts.

Why do people pursue their family history? They do so for many reasons. But first, let me share a story about my father. After my mother died, he moved to a retirement home, where, among many activities offered to residents, was a genealogy society. He sneered in disdain as we passed the room on a tour of the building. He obviously had no use for such pursuits. "Why, Dad, what's the matter with genealogy?" He was reluctant to say, but eventually, it came out: genealogy is for snobs who are trying to prove how important they are by showing their ancestral lineage. Times have changed; genealogy today has a much better reputation.

We demonstrate our ancestral lineage via the pedigree chart, also known as the ancestral chart. Not so long ago, genealogists tried to prove that they were descended from a king or had noble blood. They would proudly show you the family heraldic shield. They had blue blood; somehow that made them superior to the rest of the common herd. My dad had a point. The funny thing is, we are all descended from someone famous. Just trace any line back far enough

and it will converge on a famous person. Some genealogy used to be conducted by unscrupulous experts who claimed they could prove you came from a noble lineage. But today genealogy is much more democratic. We don't fall for the commercial come-ons; we aren't looking for status; we don't want the easy answers. We want to know the messy details, the challenging search, the skeletons in the closet. We want to know where our ancestors lived; what their lives were like; what occupations they practiced; what difficulties they faced. We definitely want to know what illnesses we may have inherited from them.

Interestingly, genealogy today still uses some of the same nomenclature from older times. We fill out pedigree charts to show who our immediate ancestors are. A pedigree chart places our name first and then shows two branches: one for our father, the other for our mother. Their names also show two branches, for their father and mother and so on back in time, as far as one can reach. A pedigree chart is useful for showing the different generations, although it doesn't allow for siblings. Not to worry; another chart lets you fill in that information. When you start to fill out a pedigree chart, you begin to realize what you know and what you don't know. What was grandfather's full name? I just knew him as Grandfather. What were his parents' names? I know he was born in Russia, but what was the name of the town? When was he born, not just the year, but also the date? What was the date of his death? What calendar was in use when those dates were noted? The gaps in our knowledge become painfully obvious.

To show brothers and sisters, we fill out another type of form, called a family group sheet. A genealogist fills out a family group sheet for each marriage. This form includes the names of the two married people and their children's names, in birth order, with dates and much additional information about the parents, such as the names of their parents. If either of the spouses remarries, a new group sheet is called for. This is an interesting exercise when you start to realize how few of the blanks you can fill in from memory.

The pedigree chart and family group sheet are the basic forms that genealogists use to keep track of what they know about the families they are researching. To find copies of these sheets on the Internet, go to <http://www.ancestry.com/save/charts/ancchart.htm> for a blank pedigree chart. For blank family group sheets, go to <http://www.ancestry.com/save/charts/familysheet.htm>. I'll have to admit that the space on the family group sheet reserved for the date of christening really used to annoy me. Now I think of it as the bar or bat mitzvah date. In fact, I've designed my own custom template for a family group sheet to fill in right on my own computer, instead of hav-

ing to write, and rewrite, everything.

One misconception I used to have about Jewish genealogy was that Jews couldn't possibly be snobbish about their family roots, because after all, they come from such humble beginnings. It turns out Jewish genealogy has its own dynasties, usually rabbinical, but sometimes wealthy merchant families and statesmen like the Sassoons and Rothschilds. Some Jewish families are quite proud of being descended from a certain famous rabbi or other notable figure in history. By proving that you come from a famous person, you can tie into "proven" genealogy, which links that famous person all the way back in Jewish history, usually to King David. Must be nice. For example, the Dayan family of Aleppo claims unbroken male descent from King David and can prove it.<sup>4</sup> Another example is the Lurie/Luria family, which traces its roots back through Rashi and Hillel to King David.<sup>5</sup> If you are fortunate enough to be able to link your family to illustrious figures in the past, you will find that a written record is more likely to exist, than if you are trying to find simple, uneducated ancestors.

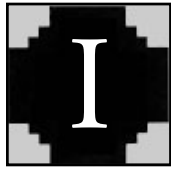
On another topic, I would like to call your attention to an upcoming Jewish genealogical research trip to Salt Lake City at the end of October. Every year, at about this time, two seasoned genealogists, Gary Mokotoff and Eileen Polakoff, arrange for Jewish genealogists to meet in Salt Lake City for a week, to conduct research at the Family History Library. I took this trip four years ago and it was an eye-opener. Many people go year after year because there are so many relevant records to search for; yes, Jewish records. It doesn't seem possible that a Mormon institution could have anything pertinent to Jewish genealogy, but it does. Eileen calls it the "Candy Store" of Jewish genealogy because it has the largest collection of records anywhere in the world and all in one place. The Mormons have made a concerted effort to microfilm European records for their genealogy library. Since the Soviet Union dissolved, more and more records have become available for microfilming and that is what they are doing. They are even beginning to transcribe those microfilms onto digital media. For more information, go to <http://www.avotaynu.com/slctrip.htm> for information about the Salt Lake City trip. To see the catalog for the Family History Library, <http://www.familysearch.org>, click on Family History Library System and then on Family History Library Catalog.

*Genealogy Corner will become a regular feature in quarterly issues of the NMJHS newsletter. This is the second in a series of articles on Jewish genealogy that will introduce potential genealogists to the delights and challenges of researching their family history. Dorothy Amsden, who grew up Dorothy Corner in Albuquerque from 1956 to 1964, has*

**Continued on p. 11**

## Dr. Allan Hurst and wife Leona R. Hurst and the NMJHS

by Leona R. Hurst



In 1939, Allan Hurst became Dr. Allan Hurst. His education, in the specialty of chest and allergy, had been completed. Allan decided not to go into private practice, but to work for the New York Public Health Services as the Assistant Head of Contagious Diseases.

At that time, tuberculosis was rampant and highly contagious. There was no cure for it, no protection with shots, no sulfa or penicillin drugs; just the same treatments of rest, sunshine and isolation.

When we entered World War II in 1941, after the attack on Pearl Harbor, Allan tried to enlist. The New York Tuberculosis Control would not release him – he was too important to our country as a tuberculosis specialist.

In 1950, Allan was invited by the Israeli government to speak on the control of tuberculosis in their country. At the end of his two-week stay, and because of his exceptional talent in this field, the Israeli government offered him a permanent position in Israel. He refused, with thanks, and returned to the United States to his former job in New York City.

Soon after that, he received, and accepted, an offer from the National Jewish Hospital in Denver, CO., to be the Medical Director of the hospital. He remained there for ten years before he went into private practice.

Before we knew it, his retirement was fast approaching and we had to decide where we would spend our retirement years. We had a home in Denver and a wonderful summer cabin in the mountains near Denver. This summer cabin was an important part of our lifestyle. Our little cabin, with its evergreens, wonderful climate, clean air, no television, primitive in a modern way, (it had plumbing) was a delight.

Allan Hurst was a transplanted New Yorker when Florida called to him. We went to Florida for two winters and decided it just was not our style. Okay, now where? I casually said “How about Santa Fe, New Mexico?” He looked at me and said, “Great, all I really need is a book to read and a place in the sun.”

We returned to Denver, then visited Santa Fe for a week, where we found a lot in an area of new homes. “Quick decision” Hurst made

changes in the house plans, put the deposit down and gave me forty minutes to choose colors, plumbing and kitchen fixtures, tiles, etc., so we could be on our way. The house was to be “move-in ready” by March 4th of the following year. We returned to Florida where we decided what we wanted to take back with us, what to give away and to do all the other chores one must do to move to a new home and a new state. When our Santa Fe realtor told us that our house would be finished on time, we left Florida for Santa Fe.

While driving to Santa Fe, we talked about many things, including facts, philosophy and feelings, when it occurred to me that we didn't know if there was a Jewish community in Santa Fe. We hadn't a clue, but shortly after moving into our new home, we found, yes, there was a thriving Jewish community!

We joined Temple Beth Shalom, when Allan decided he wanted to give consultations to older people. He could not do this, however, without a New Mexico medical license. No problem! He attended classes, passed the necessary tests and received his New Mexico medical license.

A group of eleven dedicated, bright, interested people, which included Rabbi Leonard Helman, Manny Rodriguez, Dr. Allan Hurst, Stanley Hordes, Ralph Thaler, Walter Kahn, David Scholder, Peter Hess, Jerry Wertheim, Jim Mafschir and Leah Kellogg, met at Temple Beth Shalom, when Allan suggested there was a need for a New Mexico Jewish Historical Society. The group readily and quickly agreed.

Allan, who had been one of the founders and the first president of the Rocky Mountain Jewish Historical Society in Denver, led the group in what needed to be done, i.e., mission statement, committee boards, programs, etc., to get the organization going.

The first program was at the Hall of St. John's College, with two wonderful and vital speakers:

our own Stan Hordes and Rabbi Friedman, of Dallas, TX. When we walked into the Hall, we were absolutely and happily stunned. We expected a small attendance, but the place was packed, excitement filled the atmosphere and our first program was a great success. What a wonderful beginning!



*Leona R. Hurst. Photo by Harold Melnick*

The Second Annual Dinner Meeting was at our home, where I had a committee consisting of Paula Wolf, Lee Levin and Claire Grossman. This began a tradition and annual dinners were held at our home for several years.

I agreed to “do” the Annual Archives Meeting, held at the old New Mexico Archives Building in Santa Fe, for a number of years. I arranged to set up refreshments and to being the “hostess”.

Then my husband's health began to fail and neither of us could do what we previously had done for the society. After his death in 1989, I attended a few meetings and at one special meeting, Stan announced that the Board had voted to ask me to become a board member, replacing Allan. I thanked him and said, “I could not replace Allan, but would be happy to be on the board and make my own place”. I came up with the idea of giving an annual award to someone deserving, for hard work of any kind and who helped our society, city and state. After much discussion, the decision was made to give the award. I took care of getting the award and was part of a committee to choose the recipient. I also suggested that we have our own pin, with our then logo, which was designed by Irma Thalish. This, too, was accepted by the Board.

When the time came to give our annual award, the Board realized the award had no name. After much discussion, nothing seemed right until Stan Hordes said, “The name of this award should be the Dr. Allan Hurst Award”.

I am glad to be on the Board again: there has been a hiatus of a number of years since I last attended a meeting and I look forward to being, once again, a part of this wonderful group and to meet our new and younger members.

## New Mexicans, Old Jews?

### Long-held family traditions and whispered secrets backed up by DNA tests

by David Kelly



As a boy, Father William Sanchez sensed he was different. His Catholic family spun tops on Christmas, shunned pork and whispered of a past in medieval Spain. If anyone knew the secret, they weren't telling and Sanchez stopped asking.

Then three years ago, after watching a program on genealogy, Sanchez sent for a DNA kit that could help track a person's background through genetic foot-printing. He soon got a call from Bennett Greenspan, owner of the Houston based testing company.

"He said, 'Did you know you were Jewish?'" Sanchez, 53, recalled. "He told me I was a Kohen, a member of the priestly class descended from Aaron, the brother of Moses.

With the revelation that Sanchez was almost certainly one of New Mexico's hidden or crypto-Jews, his family traditions made sense to him.

He launched a DNA project to test his rela-

tives, along with some of the parishioners at Albuquerque's St. Edwin's Church where he works. As word got out, others in the community began contacting him; so Sanchez expanded the effort to include Latinos throughout the state.

Of the 78 people tested, 30 are positive for the marker of the Kohanim.

Michael Hammer, a research professor at the University of Arizona and an expert on Jewish genetics, said that less than 1 percent of non-Jews possess this marker. That fact, along with the traditions in many of these families, makes it likely that they are of Jewish descent, he said.

"It makes their stories more consistent and believable," Hammer said.

It also explained practices that had baffled many folks here for years: the special knives used to butcher sheep in line with Jewish kosher tradition, the refusal to work on Saturdays to honor the Sabbath and the menorahs that had been hidden away.

In some families, isolated rituals are all that remain of a once-vibrant religious tradition, diluted by time and fears of persecution.

Norbert Sanchez, 66, recalled the "service of lights" on Friday nights in his hometown of Jareles, N. M., where some families would dine by candlelight.

"We always thought there was a Jewish background in our family, but we didn't know for sure," he said. "When I found out, it was like coming home for me."

In 1492, Jews in Spain were given the choice of conversion to Catholicism or expulsion. Many fled, but others faked conversion while practicing their faith in secret. These crypto-Jews were hounded throughout the Spanish Inquisition.

"In the 1530s and 1540s, you began to see converted Jews coming to Mexico City, where some converted back to Judaism," said Moshe Lazar, a professor of Comparative Literature at the University of Southern California and an expert on Sephardic Jews. "The women preserved their tradition. They taught their daughters the religion. People began rediscovering their Jewishness, but remained Catholics."

In 1571, the Inquisition came to Mexico. Authorities were given lists to help identify crypto-Jews, Lazar said. People who didn't eat pork, knelt impatiently in church, quickly rubbed water off newly baptized babies or didn't work on Saturday, were suspect; if arrested, they were sometimes burned at the stake.

Many fled to what is now northern New Mexico and remained secretive even after the United

**Continued on p. 11**

#### ARCHIVES WEEK

October 16-22, 2005

**Lure of the Land: Records, Promises and Politics**

**October 16 - 1:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. - Santa Fe Film Center on St. Michael's Dr.**  
**Filmmaker Sallie Wagner will provide narrations for "Sallie Wagner's Home**  
**Movies taken at the Wide Ruins Trading Post".**

**October 21 - 9:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.**

**Land Symposium • Panel Discussion • Brown Bag Lunch**  
**State Records Center and Archives, 1209 Camino Carlos Rey**  
**FREE ADMISSION TO BOTH EVENTS**

The NMJHS sponsored a book signing event by Dr. Stanley Hordes, on Sunday, August 14 at the JCC. Dr. Hordes presented a lecture, followed by the signing of his book "To The End Of The Earth: A History of The Crypto-Jews of New Mexico". This sold-out event was a fund-raiser for the NMJHS, as Dr. Hordes donated a portion of the sales to the Society. Thank you Stan and Helen for your care and support.



**THE VAUGHAN**  
 COMPANY REALTORS

**Ed Cohen**  
 Realtor  
 BUYING/SELLING  
 Call for Free Market Analysis

EddieCohen@aol.com  
 www.vaughancompany.com  
 TOLL-FREE 800 288-1319

OFFICE 505 275-4000  
 MOBILE 505 363-SOLD  
 FAX 505 275-4099



10555 Montgomery Blvd. NE, Bldg. 2, Suite 120 • Albuquerque, NM 87111



**DEBORAH S. SELIGMAN**  
 ATTORNEY AT LAW

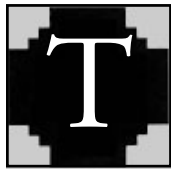
320 GOLD AVE. SW, SUITE 1221  
 ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87102

PO Box 7806  
 ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87194

PHONE (505) 247-3030  
 FAX (505) 247-3165

## Isobel Herzstein Lord (1909-2005)

by Noel Pugach



The New Mexico Jewish Historical Society sadly notes the passing of Isobel Herzstein Lord, a daughter of the most important Jewish Pioneer family in northeastern New Mexico. Isobel was the daughter of Simon and Maud Edwards Herzstein. Her father was the proprietor of Herzstein's Ready-to-Wear, Clayton's premier men's clothing store, which drew customers from all over the surrounding countryside and as far away as Amarillo. Simon came to Clayton to work for his uncle, Morris Herzstein, who established Clayton's major general mercantile enterprise and planted many of his relatives in northeastern New Mexico. Both Simon and Morris were active in Clayton's community affairs and Maud was famous for her formal dinner parties.

Isobel was born in 1909 in Clayton and spent her childhood there. One of her fondest experiences was when she joined her father on a business trip to New York and she had the chance to romp through the famous toy store, F. A. O. Schwartz. She briefly attended a high school in Tarrytown, New York. After starting college in Colorado Springs, Isobel married David Kay Lord in 1927. D.K., as he was always referred to, had been a banjo player

and bandleader in his home state of Oklahoma. Simon then arranged for D.K. and Isobel to manage the family owned store in Nara Visa. The parents were devastated when tragedy struck the family when their two beautiful children, David Kay and Deanne, died a year apart (in 1932 and 1933) from strep throat. After her daughter died in 1933, Isobel put down her violin (which she played very well) and never picked it up again.

The Lords moved to Clayton from tiny Nara Visa when D.K. went into the oil distribution business. In 1940, their daughter Sharon was born, but worried about her health, the Lords moved to La Jolla, California when D. K. sold his oil business and the family was financially comfortable. About 1947, the Lords relocated to Littleton, Colorado, where they built a beautiful home on twenty acres owned by Simon and Maud, who moved in with them. Isobel played a major role in designing and furnishing the house since she had an artistic flair and excelled in various crafts. She also loved to entertain their family and friends and made large dinner parties for them. The house now serves as the Littleton Museum.

In 1956, the Lords (including Simon and Maud) moved to Albuquerque, because D.K. returned to the oil distribution business (he also owned a number of gas stations) in New Mexico and spent increasing amounts of time there. Isobel occupied herself with her crafts, volunteering at one of the city's hospitals and working as a real estate broker. D. K. passed away in the 1970s. Isobel's health began to decline in the early 1990s. Her daughter Sharon of Albuquerque, a niece Linda Schwartz and three Herzstein nephews, David, Robert and Sigmund Jr, survive her.

The author thanks Sharon Lord and Robert Herzstein for providing very useful information for this obituary.

### NMJHS Board of Directors and Officers

#### Officers

Lance Bell, President - Santa Fe  
 Nancy Terr, Vice President- Albuquerque  
 Harold Melnick, Treasurer - Santa Fe  
 Sarah Godner, Recording Secretary - Albuquerque  
 Sharon Herzog, Corresponding Secretary - Santa Fe

#### Directors

Dorothy Corner Amsden, Los Alamos  
 Norman Budow, Santa Fe  
 Sheila Gershen, Santa Fe  
 Gerald González, Santa Fe  
 Julie Gordon, Tucson, AZ  
 Claire Grossman, Nashua, NH  
 Peter Hess, Santa Fe  
 Leona Hurst, Santa Fe  
 Phil Saltz, Santa Fe  
 Deborah Seligman, Albuquerque  
 Marjorie Weinberg-Berman, Kings Point, NY  
 John Wertheim, Albuquerque

#### Immediate Past President

Stanley Hordes, Ph.D., Santa Fe

#### Administrator

Bobbi Jackson, Albuquerque

### The NMJHS' Board's Appeal to Its Members

Our continued existence depends on the interest and support of our members. We need your cooperation to interest others to join our Society; we need your help to obtain archive material and your ideas. We urge you to please renew your membership when due. If you are already a 2005 member, please encourage your friends and family to join!

We are proud of our accomplishments, but we cannot rest on our laurels. It is your Society – we appreciate your continued interest and support.

Thank you.

### Know someone who is not a member?

A friend or relative? Ask that friend or relative to join the NMJHS! Every "old" member, please get busy and sign up a "new" member. A membership to the NMJHS makes a great and unexpected GIFT!

**Help us grow!**



Contact Lisa Witt at  
**505.828.2100**  
[www.AvistaVideo.com](http://www.AvistaVideo.com)  
 5353 Wyoming NE, Suite C



Family Video Histories • "Movie From Photo" Tributes

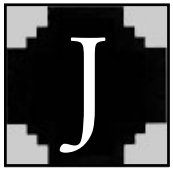
Event Videography • Tape and DVD Duplication

Ask about Avista's Marketing & Training DVDs



## Letter From Los Alamos: The Nuclear Jewish Family

by Barbara Sofer



ewish refugee scientists from war-torn Europe gathered in this desert terrain determined to beat Hitler's Germany in achieving nuclear capability.

The rabbi directs the classified research of 350 physicists and engineers. The synagogue's religion chairperson explores the interface of biological and inorganic materials; the president is an MIT-trained computer analyst in America's most important defense laboratory. The local Hadassah president works on radiation detection. Welcome to Los Alamos, New Mexico, population 18,000. To get there, drive two hours north of Albuquerque, 35 miles beyond Santa Fe, through the conical hills of the volcanic Jemez Mountains. Today, road signs point the way, but in the past, residents pretended their town didn't exist. Contemporary Los Alamos is hospitable and modest: it has mostly low-frills, one-story ranch houses spaced close together. There's a public Olympic-size swimming pool, a mountainside skating rink and a doughnut bakery where discussions thrive over mugs of steaming coffee and herbal tea. Hiking paths curve through pine, spruce and cottonwood trees revealing wind-shaped volcanic rock looming over pink and rose canyons. Below, the winding Rio Grande River courses by.

From 1943 to 1945, the allies' most gifted scientists - most of them Jewish refugees from Europe - congregated in the center of this rugged terrain. They were working to fashion a weapon that would halt the relentless conquest by the Axis forces. Nazi Germany occupied much of France, defeated the British at Dunkirk, boasted troops and weaponry superior to the British and was annihilating millions of Jews. And between 1901 and 1932, the year before Hitler came to power, German scientists won 33 Nobel Prizes, the United States only six. Impelled by the terrifying ramifications of the Nazis achieving nuclear capability first, scientists in Los Alamos were determined to beat Hitler to the atomic bomb.

Six decades after World War II, Los Alamos is still a company town. After the war, Congress decided to keep the well-equipped laboratory and establish the civilian Atomic Energy Commission. The Los Alamos National Laboratory (affectionately referred to as "the Lab") has been moved from downtown to a nearby mesa. Gray

and beige utilitarian-looking buildings cover 43 square miles of forests and canyons. Inside is a plutonium processing facility, Technical Area 55, not accessible to visitors. Today, the main mission of the Lab is maintaining the safety and reliability of weapons. It is also geared to respond to biological and chemical terrorism, as well as being a center for basic scientific research for such military spin-off sciences as robotics, genomics (Human Genome Project) and nanoscience research.

Like those who paved the way for them, today's resident scientists speak idealistically about their work, both in pure scientific research and in defense research. Hadassah chapter president Karen Hirsch, 34, a petite, athletic physicist, wanted to be a rabbi when growing up in Pittsburgh, before she became enthralled by the creativity of science. "I came here to do something to make the world a safer place and I believe that's what I'm doing," says Hirsch, whose doctorate explains the phenomenon of the Northern Lights. She now works on the detection of radiating materials, often on international programs and is part of the Institute of Nuclear Management. How much does the sense of the past impact on modern history and her work? "In Jerusalem, you're not constantly thinking of the city's past, but it is there all the time, you never exactly forget it. That's the way it is here," she says.

Ubiquitous old petroglyphs by nomads and Indians are sketched in the soft volcanic stone, but Los Alamos' modern history reaches only as far back as 1911, when Harold Brook homesteaded the area. He sold land to a businessman named Ashley Pond, for whom the natural pool in town was named. Pond opened the exclusive Los Alamos Ranch School for boys in 1918, combining studies with vigorous outdoor living. Students slept in unheated log cabins and rode horses on pack trips up the mountains.

Among the school's young visitors was Julius Robert Oppenheimer, a slender, gifted teenager from a prosperous Jewish family in New York. His father, a textile importer, sent his son west, with a teacher, to improve his health. Oppenheimer often rode across the valley from Santa Fe to Los Alamos.

After graduating from Harvard University, Oppenheimer traveled to the prestigious univer-

sity in Gottingen, Germany, to study with the great physicists exploring applications of the quantum theory to the structure of atoms. He earned his Ph.D. under the eminent Nobel Laureate Max Born. In March 1933, three months after Hitler became chancellor of Germany, the civil service dismissed all Jews. According to Jean Medawar and David Pyke, authors of *Hitler's Gift* (Arcade Publishing), "Of the 33 scientists of the four physics and math institutes at Gottingen, only 11 remained."

Leaving Germany that first year were 2,600 scientists and scholars, most of them Jewish. As Nazi power spread, they fled other European countries; among them were Victor Weisskopf, Edward Teller, Niels Bohr, Hans Bethe, John von Neumann, Enrico Fermi (not Jewish himself, but married to a Jew), Otto Frisch and Rudolf Peierls. Many would meet again on the mesas of Los Alamos.

On August 2, 1939, Teller, with Leo Szilard and Eugene Wigner, who worked on the Manhattan Project mostly out of Chicago, drafted a letter, signed by Albert Einstein, to President Franklin D. Roosevelt apprising him of the nuclear research in Germany. They warned him that uranium could be turned into a "new and important source of energy" and that the situation called for "watchfulness, and if necessary, quick action because extremely powerful bombs of a new type might be constructed".

Roosevelt appointed a commission to study the question and on January 1, 1943, the University of California at Berkeley was chosen to operate a new laboratory. The government turned to Oppenheimer, then at the university, to head the team. He suggested Los Alamos, with its sparse population, dense forest, distance from the nation's coastlines and its soul-enhancing beauty, for a secret laboratory site.

In October 1944, New Yorker Jacob J. Wechsler, 21, was pulled from his infantry unit to take a science test that he passed easily. Before enlisting, he had been studying engineering and physics at Cornell University. After a concentrated physics course, Wechsler was shipped out to "somewhere" in New Mexico, arriving at what looked like a hard-up military base where soldiers were interviewed for technical jobs. Word was that the interviewer was tough. When Wechsler's turn came, across the table sat a dignified man of 40 who spoke with an Austrian accent.

**Continued on p. 10**

## Letter From Los Alamos: The Nuclear Jewish Family - continued from p. 9

“We kind of hit it off right away,” recalls Wechsler, now 81. His interlocutor was Otto Frisch, the renowned scientist who, with his aunt, Lise Meitner, recognized and named atomic fission and later, with Rudolf Peierls, determined that an atomic bomb was possible. “Frisch told me we would be a group. He would be group leader and I would be alternate group leader. He sent me off to check out the equipment to build a physics lab.”

The enterprising spirit Frisch saw in Wechsler also contributed to the start of a Jewish community. Wechsler requested a motor pool truck to drive to Albuquerque for High Holiday services. Half a dozen G.I.'s showed up. They became known as the “Salami Club,” after the food gifts one of their mothers dispatched to the mysterious post office box to which all Los Alamos mail was sent.

Long before the term “interdisciplinary” was coined, Oppenheimer insisted on free discussion among departments to facilitate creative thinking. On July 16, 1945, 28 months after scientists arrived in Los Alamos, they tested the first atomic bomb. Three weeks later, on August 6, the second man-made nuclear explosion occurred over Hiroshima. Testimony taken from Japan's military leaders following the war revealed that despite the destruction of Hiroshima, Japan was prepared for a long resistance. On August 9, America's remaining atomic bomb was dropped on Nagasaki. Japan surrendered unconditionally five days later.

By the spring of 1946, Wechsler, who was among 302 discharged soldiers who had been rehired as civilians, returned to Los Alamos. (Until 1957, only families who worked there could enter the fenced-off town. His future wife, Carol, a native of South Dakota, was working as the senior secretary to the laboratory director.) Housing was scarce and Jewish food scarcer. Matzah meal and chicken fat for Passover were ordered from Chicago; 110 people attended a communal Seder.

Wechsler discovered a Torah in a portable Army chapel, used by the United Church. “The Jewish Welfare Board supplied Torah scrolls for units and I had a feeling there might be one in that building,” he recalls. “When we opened the altar door, sure enough, there it was inside, safe and sound despite its bumpy journey to Los Alamos”.

Wechsler successfully pressed the AEC for land

for a synagogue building. In January 1963, the Los Alamos Jewish Center opened at 2400 Canyon Road (telephone: 505-662-2140; <http://www.lajc.org>). It serves the community for worship, education, life-cycle events and social gatherings; services are held every Friday night and alternate Saturday mornings. The A-shaped structure is brown and white and has a menorah embellishing its outside wall. It features a wooden bima, beautifully wrought by a moonlighting draftsman-designer who worked at the Lab. Outside, mule deer and coyote provide the occasional distraction.

A stranger from Albuquerque, who had spent Rosh Hashanah in Los Alamos and later asked Wechsler to meet him in the parking lot, donated a second Torah scroll. Stored in his trunk was a 100-year old Torah, purportedly from the man's disbanded congregation. No one got the stranger's name.

The history of Los Alamos is recorded in a small local museum and public events are still held in the lodge of the old Ranch School, where Oppenheimer once gathered his team. The ice-house, where part of the first atomic bombs were assembled, still stands.

Los Alamos feels small town in the sense that it's easy to hitch a ride from the supermarket, but it also boasts some of the best public schools in New Mexico and a terrific local bookstore. Nonetheless, downtown still has something of an unplanned, unfinished look about it, as if the residents have tried to disturb the natural beauty of the mountains as little as possible. A new amphitheater will offer outdoor concerts against a backdrop of pastel canyons.

The Lab remains the town's largest employer, so even those who do not work there often have some connection. Philadelphia-born Andi Kron, a freelance cartographer, who first came on a field trip from Syracuse University, serves as the welcoming committee for visiting Israeli scientists.

Kron studies Hebrew every morning, driving to Santa Fe each week for lessons and through Hadassah, has taught beginning Hebrew to Jews and non-Jews. The drive to Santa Fe is the only time she uses a car; like many of the locals, she and her husband are outdoorsy and energy-conscious. Her attitude sums up the local esprit de corps: “I love the mountains, nature, the small-town ambience, the lack of traffic. I love the members of our community and the fresh air with

trails outside my door.”

Los Alamos Hadassah, was formally organized in 1947, but even during the war years, women made diapers, blankets and baby clothes for Palestine. Today, the chapter conducts educational activities, rummage and bake sales and published a cookbook with cake recipes scientifically adjusted for the 7,000-foot altitude of Los Alamos. There's an active Judaea. Some 80 families and singles are on the membership list for the Los Alamos Jewish Center.

“I'm proud to work in Los Alamos and of the role of Jewish scientists,” says chemist Andrew Dattelbaum, 30, who teaches the pre-bar mitzvah classes. Synagogue president Bob Newell became interested in Judaism while working in North Dakota. He taught himself Hebrew and Aramaic and every morning at 5:30, he studies a daily page of Talmud, in keeping with the international *Daf Yomi* study cycle.

Jack Shlachter, a young scientist with degrees from the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena and the University of California at Berkeley, moved to Los Alamos in 1979. He realized that his Conservative Hebrew school education and singing could add to the do-it-yourself congregation. While preparing Torah study sessions, he discovered that “Judaism wasn't just for children - that it had substance and was as intellectually rewarding as anything else I'd studied.” He married Kate Bowman, a local freelance book indexer and they have two children.

When Jewish Renewal Rabbi Gershon Winkler moved to New Mexico, Shlachter enrolled as a private student and was ordained in 1995. He aspires to reveal the “beauty and complexity of Judaism,” he says. In the meantime, Los Alamos' first rabbi has risen to head of the Physics Division of the Lab. “I don't see much of a dichotomy between religion and science,” says Shlachter. “God gave us minds to use and that's both a privilege and a responsibility.”

That's the spirit of Los Alamos.

Reprinted with the author's permission. Contact Barbara Sofer at [www.barbarasofer.com](http://www.barbarasofer.com)

## New Mexicans, Old Jews? - continued from p. 7

States gained control of the area in 1848.

"No one would come out and say 'I am a Jew.' That didn't happen until the 1970s," said Stanley Hordes, a professor at the Latin American and Iberian Institute of the University of New Mexico, who is writing a book on crypto-Jews. "The first few generations kept the secret because of danger of physical harm and later, they kept it because that was just what they did. The \$64,000 question is: Why the secrecy today? Why are people keeping this information from their kids and grandkids?"

Some haven't.

"I found out when I was 13," said Keith Chaves, 47, an engineer in Albuquerque. "My great-grandmother told me that we were Sephardites."

The family matriarch was a repository of knowledge and the keeper of secrets.

"She kept a kosher knife rolled up in a piece of leather that she would only use for killing," Chaves said. "And she would kill the animal by cutting its throat in one motion. She abhorred the ways others killed animals."

Born a Catholic, Chaves now attends an Orthodox synagogue in Albuquerque. He has made four documentaries on crypto-Jews and is working on a movie about his family history.

"When I found out about my roots, I went to the library and my world opened up. I started peeling what turned out to be a 500-year old onion," he said. "I have reclaimed my life. I live a Jewish life now. I think my great-grandmother told me because she expected me to do something fruitful with the information."

Others have sought the truth on their own. A strong-willed grandmother with strange habits raised Elisea Garcia.

"We would have a big dinner on Friday night with candles," said Garcia, 66, who is awaiting the results of a DNA test done on her son to see if he has the Kohlen marker, found only in the Y chromosome. "She would butcher the animals, then examine them inside out for any sign of impurity. On Saturday, we weren't even

allowed to wash our hair."

When her grandmother died, Garcia found a silver menorah hidden in her room. "I'm a curious person, but my uncle told me not to dig into things because they weren't important," she said.

Garcia, a Catholic, attends both synagogue and church. "It makes me aware of the whole concept of God," she said.

Greenspan, whose Family Tree DNA Company does the testing for Sanchez's project, said there has been a surge of interest in genealogy among Latinos looking for Jewish connections.

"We believe a fairly high percentage of the first families (arriving) in New Mexico were nominally Catholic, but their secret religion was Judaism," he said. "We are finding between 10 percent and 15 percent of the men living in New Mexico, south Texas or northern Mexico, have a Y chromosome that tracks back to the Middle East."

They are not all Kohanim and there's a slight chance some could be of African Muslim descent. But Greenspan said the DNA of the men is typical of Jews from the eastern Mediterranean.

Test participants scrape cells from the inside of their cheeks and mail samples to Greenspan, who has them analyzed by researchers at the University of Arizona. The process takes about a month, with costs ranging from \$100 to \$350, depending on the detail requested. Women, who do not possess the Y chromosome, must have a male relative take the test in order to participate.

Since discovering his past, Father Sanchez, who wears a Star of David around his neck, has traveled throughout the state giving talks on the history and genealogy of New Mexico. He also runs the Nuevo Mexico DNA Project and website that tells how people can take part.

Sanchez describes his Jewish history as 'a beautiful thing' complementing, not conflicting with,

his priestly life. "I have always known I was Jewish; I can't explain it, but it was woven into who I was," he said.

After Mass one recent morning, a group of parishioners filed out of St. Edwin's. None had a problem with their priest's dueling religious traditions.

"He has taken us back to our roots," Robert Montoya said. And Theresa Villagas smiles, "We are all children of God," she said. "I think this just adds richness to our lives."

David Kelly is Denver Bureau Chief for the Los Angeles Times.

2004 Los Angeles Times. Reprinted with permission.

## Genealogy Corner - continued from p. 5

*lived in Los Alamos since 1975 and been married to Anthony Amsden since 1976. Dorothy is formulating plans to bring practicing genealogists together for quarterly meetings under the auspices of NMJHS and to offer an annual Jewish genealogy workshop, with a range of sessions for newcomers and seasoned genealogists. Contact her at amsden@losalamos.com.*

1 Arthur Kurzweil, *From Generation to Generation: How to Trace Your Jewish Genealogy and Family History*, Introduction by Elie Wiesel, Jossey-Bass publisher, March 19, 2004, ISBN 0787970514, 400 pages hardcover.

2 *Avotaynu*, The International Review of Jewish Genealogy, published quarterly, [www.avotaynu.com](http://www.avotaynu.com).

3 JewishGen website, The Home of Jewish Genealogy, [www.jewishgen.org](http://www.jewishgen.org).

4 *Avotaynu*, Volume XX, No. 2, Summer 2004, article by Mitchell Dayan, "Dayan Family of Aleppo: Direct Descendants of King David."

5 Neil Rosenstein, *The Lurie Legacy: The House of Davidic Royal Descent*, published by *Avotaynu* in 2004, 432 pages hardcover.

### ADIEB KHADOURE FINE ARTS

Fine Art, Oriental Rugs & Fine Jewelry

### ADIEB KHADOURE NISSAN

PRESIDENT / OWNER

610 Canyon Rd.  
Santa Fe, NM 87501  
[www.akhadourefineart.com](http://www.akhadourefineart.com)

505-820-2666  
Cell 505-603-0630  
Fax 505-820-1666  
[akhadoure@aol.com](mailto:akhadoure@aol.com)

## CORRALES REALTY.COM



Alan P. Neuman GRI - Associate Broker

PO Box 2362  
Corrales, NM 87048  
fax: 890-3368

**890-3131**  
cell: 249-8612  
[alan@corralesrealty.com](http://alan@corralesrealty.com)

### The NMJHS WELCOMES its New 2005 Members:

Durwood Ball	Dorothy Hoffman	Daniel Nikuls	Naomi Sandweiss
Robert Bello	Leona Hurst	Adieb Khadoure Nissan	Vivian Skadron
Harriet Bull	Gail Jamin	Johnny Maldonado	Peter Tannen
Richard Deutsch	Phyllis Kapp	Dr. Yehuda Patt	Carol Venturini
Barry Goldberg	Lynn Kelly	Dr. Nurit Patt	Lilo Waxman
Julie Gordon	Michael Kelly	Sarah Payne	Joel Yarvis
George Hoffman	Steven Kesselman		

We apologize if there are any errors or omissions in this list. The NMJHS also wishes to thank ALL current Society members for their continued support and generosity. You make a difference!

*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.*

### Calendar of Upcoming Events

- September 17, Voyages of Freedom, Albuquerque
- October 16-22, Archives Week, Santa Fe
- Nov. 11 – 13, Annual Conference, “NM Jews in War and Peace”, La Posada Hotel, Albuquerque.

### 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.

### 2005 Membership Dues

Membership fees are as follows:

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

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**  
**5520 Wyoming Blvd. NE**  
**Albuquerque, NM 87109**

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

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
 U.S. POSTAGE  
 PAID  
 PERMIT NO. 1322  
 ALBUQUERQUE, NM

