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*Eliminating  
hate and  
intolerance,  
one mind  
at a time.*

*President's message*

## Eliminate hate, one mind at a time

by Jennie L. Negin

Yes, a board president presides over board meetings, but recently I had the distinct honor of presiding over the communitywide Yom HaShoah program.

It was important to me for many reasons.

First, when I introduce myself as "president of the board of the Holocaust & Intolerance Museum of New Mexico" (remember to breathe – I know it's a mouthful), it's not as an individual but as one who represents our staff, our volunteers, our donors. Even when I am not talking about the museum per se, people see the significance of the work we manage to do with minimal resources.

Second, it gives me a chance to review the literature associated with the Holocaust and renew my personal commitment to help us grow into a "real" museum with adequate space, expanded staff, and the financial support that enables us to tell our stories more effectively.

Third, it reminds me that there is no higher calling than to eliminate hate and intolerance, one mind at a time.

*Yom HaShoah – 2017*

## Communitywide event attended by more than 200

On April 23, more than 200 persons gathered to commemorate Yom HaShoah.

The assembly, in the Jewish Community Center (JCC), offered the opportunity to memorialize those who died and to acknowledge survivors, rescuers, and liberators.

Based on the Jewish tradition which commands us to remember, telling stories – giving testimony – became the most powerful way of remembering that Sunday afternoon.

Those who perished in the Holocaust and those who survived but are no longer with us were honored by these testimonies. Through their stories, the message was sent: We will

not let you be forgotten!

Andy Holten told his poignant survivor story of being a hidden child in Holland; Dr. Roy Shaffer's recollection of the liberation of the Flossenbürg camp and its flag was shared, and Susie Sandager presented a dramatization of Corrie ten Boom, a Christian Dutch woman who rescued many Jews during the Holocaust.

The survivors lit the six candles of the special menorah carved by sculptor Harvey Buchalter. Museum founder Werner Gellert spoke briefly.

El Malei-Rachamin, a prayer of remembrance to honor the souls of the six million deprived of a Jewish

see *Yom HaShoah*, page 3

# Plea in *The Link* begins long volunteer career

Intrigued by a plea for volunteers in *The New Mexico Jewish Link*, Harold Folley began a long and life changing career as a docent in our museum. While this is Harold's story, it begins with comment from our board president, his wife, Jennie Negin. She says that, because of a special interest, a photography exhibit drew him

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## My Lost Youth

by Aron Straser

October 2, 1935 – May 3, 2017

Between my childhood and maturity  
There a void still exists.

Something haunts me and questions  
And disturbs my peace.

And I miss you, my youth,

Due to circumstances denied.

Please return, to quiet my longing

Every day - Every night

Fancy free, like a bird

Like a beautiful dream

You promise happiness to everyone.

Somehow me, you overlooked.

I miss you mostly now

Not in adversity, but in peace

Cause age has diminished

The remaining flame

And I know, it's lost forever

But it hurts regretfully.

I feel I have been shortchanged

Happiness denied

My yesterdays cut short

Sunshine obscured

I will always yearn for you

My jewel, my youth.

*Originally written in Yiddish and translated by the poet who was born near Vilna and was in the Vilna ghetto.*

to our museum. Subsequently, he became a volunteer. It was that photography exhibit that deepened his interest



in the subject matter featured in the museum:

human rights, civil rights, genocide, intolerance.

"I love the way it changed him as a human being," said Jennie recently.

Harold's interest in the medium drew him more deeply into the message. Soon after this particular exhibit, he began his 14-year stint (and counting) as an educator in our museum, sometimes two and three days a week.

"One of the benefits of working at the museum is the opportunity to explain to visitors, especially to the young, not only the importance of our exhibits, but the many stories behind them. I love spending time with visitors," he added, "discussing the future of human kind."

Harold remembers childhood days in Indiana, lying in bed at night envisioning

the horrible scenes from death camps in newsreels and magazines. These memories also inspire him to continue educating our youngsters.

Having grown up in the town where once Abraham

Lincoln lived, he claims, "Lincoln was

an influence on my life; I was inspired by his ideals." He loves to tell the story that in 1941 he shook the hand of a man who, as a child, shook the hand of Abraham Lincoln. That story today still brings a trace of historical reality to the children who visit on their field trips.

As a practicing attorney, Harold witnessed many incidents of misconduct and horror. When he retired from Sandia Laboratory, he first volunteered at the Natural History Museum. For a time, he worked at both museums but soon we nabbed him "fulltime" with us. He remains one of our most knowledgeable and dedicated volunteers.

*For this, we are thankful.*

# Holocaust is specially remembered, twice

by Jennie L. Negin

In 1953, Israel's Parliament established Yom HaShoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day, as a memorial to the six million Jewish people who were killed by the Nazis. It is observed on the 27th day of Nisan. Jewish communities throughout the world join Israel in its observance. A siren sounds and all activity halts for two minutes of silent devotion in Israel. Imagine that siren, and stop for a few moments of self-reflection.

Five decades later, in 2005, the United Nations General Assembly designated January 27, the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, as International Holocaust Remembrance Day. The UN encourages countries to honor the victims of the Nazi era, 6 million Jews as well as 5 million others, and to develop educational programs to help prevent future genocides.

It is fitting that this overwhelming event have two holidays!



## Yom HaShoah Community event attracts over 200 *continued from page 1*

burial, was chanted by Cantor Barbara Finn of Congregation Albert. A special responsive recitation of Holocaust Mourner's Kaddish was led by Rabbi Harry Rosenfeld of Congregation Albert, Rabbi Min Kantrowitz, Rabbi Chava Karp, Rabbi Evelyn Baz of Congregation B'nai Israel, and Cantor Finn. The program was opened and closed by Rabbi Baz's moving cello music. For the 200 people in attendance, it was a poignant Day of Remembrance.

The communitywide event was sponsored by the Jewish Federation of New Mexico, our museum, the JCC, the Jewish Care Program, and the New Mexico Human Rights Projects. Representatives of each organization worked together to present a stirring program. Tom Ruby and Jennie Negin represented the museum on the planning committee.



## October 22nd Save the *new* date

If you had a good time at our 2016 fundraiser, prepare to do it again. If you missed it, but heard all about it, you too might want to save the date.

Plans are moving ahead, and we look forward to seeing you at B'nai Israel in the social hall from 6 to 9 p.m. We'll send more news as it becomes available.

**Music by**  
**The 45's Classic Oldies Band**

# Museum becomes official caretaker of Czech Torah

by Thera McAvoy

We are pleased to announce that we are now the official caretakers of the antique Czech Torah on display in the museum. We recently came to a loan agreement with the Czech Memorial Scroll Trust in London, which owns the entire collection of scrolls rescued from the Czech Republic after World War II. Our scroll, known by the trust as MST#666, will be staying with us for the foreseeable future. Identified by educators on our board as a primary source \* material meeting state core curriculum standards, it will continue to be a way to educate New Mexico school children and museum visitors not only about Torah scrolls and their place in Judaica, but also the history of the Czech Torah scrolls and how they survived WWII.

The Czech Torah scrolls, before WWII, used in Jewish communities throughout Bohemia and

Moravia, in the Czech Republic. In 1930 there were 356,830 Jews living in Czechoslovakia, and some 350 synagogues in Bohemia and Moravia. Fifty of these synagogues were destroyed during a pogrom in 1938, and most



of their contents lost.

When the Germans occupied Prague in 1939, Jews in the city recognized that the Nazis would ultimately destroy many religious objects in communities throughout Central Europe. In an effort to save as much as they could, they developed a plan to

move thousands of objects to the Jewish Museum in Prague where they could be kept safe, and managed to convince the Nazi occupiers to agree. The plan went to work in 1942, and more than 100,000 religious texts and

objects poured into a museum that had previously only had some 800 objects in its collection. Dr. Josef Polak was given the task of overseeing their arrival and cataloguing by the Prague Jewish community. His museum staff worked 12-hour days to catalog and preserve what they could ahead of the deportations that would ultimately see all of them transported to Terezin and Auschwitz, where only two staff members of the original 50 would survive. Dr. Polak himself ultimately joined the resistance movement, was arrested in 1944, and vanished into Auschwitz in 1945.

During the war more synagogues were destroyed, and those that were not, were left empty, abandoned, and decaying. Yet the objects they had sent to Prague survived safely inside the museum. After the war they were moved to a ruined synagogue in Michle, where some of the collection was sent out to congregations that were reestablishing themselves around the Czech

see Torah, page 5

# Torah finds home in museum

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Republic. In 1948 Communists took over the government, and the synagogues were closed again, and all their possessions went back into storage at the reopened Jewish Museum in Prague.

In 1963, 1,564 scrolls were offered for sale to a London art dealer by the Communist government. His client, Ralph Yablon, donated the money necessary to buy and move them into the care of the Westminster Synagogue in London. There, under Rabbi Reinhart, the Czech Memorial Scroll Trust was established and began to send the scrolls out to synagogues and organizations around the world. Ours came to

Albuquerque in the care of Congregation B'nai Israel, who in turn temporarily loaned it to the museum so that more people would be able to view the Torah and learn its history. The trust has since generously agreed to allow us to keep the Torah in perpetuity.

There are now only about 4,000 Jews living in the Czech Republic. Most of the rich Jewish culture that existed in Bohemia and Moravia before the Holocaust has been lost. Somewhere in the frantic rush to save the scrolls, the records attached to MST#666 disappeared, and we do not know which community our scroll came from. Yet it survived, despite it all, and still



exists today due to the efforts of the rescuers, who decided that their final, defiant act before being sent to a camp would be to give this Torah a shelter in the hope that it would outlast them.

More on the Czech Torah scrolls can be found at the trust's website: [www.memorialscrollstrust.org/](http://www.memorialscrollstrust.org/)

\*Other exhibits in our museum identified as primary sources are the Arbeit Macht Frei gate, the Flossenbürg Flag, and Janet's Trunk.

## *The Herald*

Is created four times a year by volunteers and staff of the Holocaust & Intolerance Museum of New Mexico

We have more than 1,000 persons who receive our newsletter. If you know folks who would like to receive it electronically, please ask them to contact [info@nmholocaustmuseum.org](mailto:info@nmholocaustmuseum.org). The subject line should read: Put me on your email list.

### **Editors**

Lyn Berner  
Marcia Rosenstein

## *Juneteenth*

### Late announcement becomes basis for a holiday

Celebrated every year on June 19, Juneteenth commemorates the day slaves in Texas learned they were free ... two-and-a-half years AFTER the Emancipation Proclamation had taken effect!

It originated in 1865 when delayed but welcome news reached Galveston. Celebrating started almost immediately and has continued yearly.

Today Juneteenth commemorates freedom and emphasizes achievement and education. In

cities across the country, people of all races, nationalities and religions join hands to acknowledge a shameful period in America's history. It has become the most popular annual celebration of emancipation from slavery in the United States.

In New Mexico, you can see the exhibit *African Heritage from Benin to Juneteenth* in the African American Performing Arts Center, 310 San Pedro Drive NE. The exhibit continues through July 28.

# Dr. Gloria Taradash focuses on service

No one would deny that education plays a major role in the life of Gloria Taradash, a museum board member since January.

From earning a diploma at South High School, Pueblo Colorado, to a Ph.D. in special education from the University of New Mexico and, in between, a bachelor's in African American Studies from University of California, San Jose, her life has followed a path. Her master's, by the way, is in secondary education.

"I have dedicated my focus to service," the Albuquerque resident shared recently.

While living on the reservation, she founded and served as first president of the Navajo Nation Association for Gifted and Talented Students.

"In the Council for Exceptional

Children (CEC), I served as president of TAG, an acronym for The Association for Gifted. I am honored that I received the outstanding service award in 2013."

Also, as part of CEC, Gloria was president of the Division for Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Exceptional Learners and on the board of the Black Caucus of Special Educators.

During Dr. Taradash's terms as president of the New Mexico Association for the Gifted and the Albuquerque Association for Gifted and Talented Students, she organized parent groups for gifted children across the state.

While serving for nine years as a governor's appointee to the Judicial Standard Commission of New Mexico, she was elected vice-chair throughout her term.



As one of several authors of the TAG book, *Increasing Diversity in Gifted Education: Research Based Strategies for Identification and Program Services*, her extraordinary reach extends beyond New Mexico.

In addition, she worked on the board of directors of the National Association for Gifted Children and served as president of the Special Populations Division.

And through all of this she had time for a family: Gloria's been married to Indian law attorney, Alan Taradash, for 40 years. They are the parents of four and grandparents of two.

"An unusual pleasure of mine is listening to my husband's precise, exacting, detailed response to a question I might ask."

Because she's a book club member, she obviously enjoys reading. She also enjoys gardening at home and working out at the JCC.

*We are so pleased to have Gloria as a board member.*

*Behind the lens: portrayals of a troubled world*

## Student films highlighted at recent festival

by Reinhard Lorenz

During the spring semester, our museum collaborated with 7th and 8th graders at the Bosque School and student filmmakers from Manzano High School to create films about young people facing and overcoming challenges.

Filmmaker Reinhard Lorenz and art educator Meredith Chapman worked with board member and artist Raye Cohen on this project which had students

research, write, edit, and direct films.

A festival highlighting the finished projects from both schools was a celebration of not only the filmmaking process, but also the potential and resiliency of young people across time and circumstance.

Topics included interviews with a survivor of the Korean War, teen homelessness in

see *Student*, page 8

Join us for two special events in June

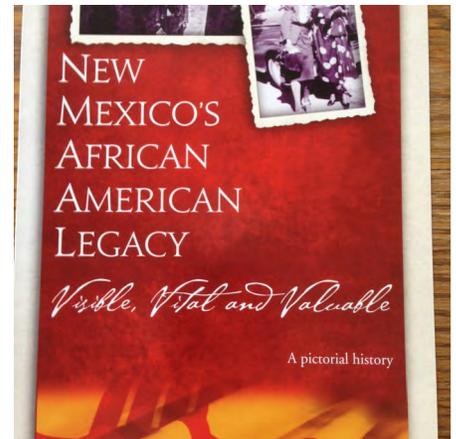
## New Mexico's African American legacy is visible, vital, and valuable

By teaming up with the African American Museum and Cultural Center of New Mexico, we are so pleased to have the *Visible, Viable, and Valuable* exhibit on display in our museum through the summer.

In panels of text and pictures – created and commissioned by our African American partners – the exhibit highlights the history of the presence of African Americans in the territory since the Spaniards arrived here with slaves. Others who were enslaved and brought to different parts of the New World migrated to this territory

and/or state seeking greater freedoms as cowboys, trappers, school teachers, miners, railroad employees, and skilled workers, among many other occupations.

These pioneers became intricately woven into the history of the territory and eventually the state. Self-contained African American communities, such as Blackdom, provided sanctuary, church, social and cultural activities as a means to perpetuate and maintain their sovereign self-definition. You can learn about



the myriad contributions made to the history of New Mexico. It is abundant with richness, dignity, faith, and perseverance.

### ***Opening reception***

**Sunday, June 4th, from 2 to 4 p.m.**

**Entertainment to include poetry, a vocal performance, and a few speeches. Refreshments, too!**

### **Follow-up panel discussion on the legacy scheduled for June 11th**

Our museum and the African American Museum and Cultural Center of New Mexico invite you to a panel discussion on African American civil rights in the areas of education, jobs, and housing.

Join us June 11 from 2 to 4 p.m. in the Jewish Community Center, Albuquerque, to learn more about the struggle for human dignity, social justice, and civil rights.

See you there: 5520 Wyoming Boulevard NE (87109).

Refreshments will be served.

**African American Museum and Cultural Center of New Mexico**  
**Phone: 505.345.8086**  
**www.nm.black.com**

### **Holocaust Museum's updated, upgraded exhibit coming soon**

Since Day 1, the Holocaust & Intolerance Museum of New Mexico has had an African American exhibit. Initially on display were photos and interviews with former slaves. Soon, added were highlights on Ralph Bunche, Juneteenth, The Buffalo Soldiers, and the Tuskegee Airmen. While we always felt it important to recognize African Americans, in the context of our mission, the exhibit

became a hodgepodge. That's going to change. The exhibit committee has a vision to bring us into this century.

Museum volunteer Dr. Daniel Taradash has been researching and writing for several months to present the story of African Americans from slavery through the Civil War and its aftermath.

His colleague on the project is designer Meredith Chapman who

also helps editing text. Working together in the museum weekly they are creating a professional, upgraded exhibit.

We appreciate Dr. Mary V. Pratt who provided start up funds for this project. She also donated start up funds for a new Native American exhibit, another work in progress by volunteers Sara Hamon and Jordan Kosberg.

