



Holocaust & Intolerance  
Museum of New Mexico

# The Herald

WINTER 2018

## In this issue

Newly released books  
given to Silvan Library

p. 2

In honor of the Torah

p. 2

Striking it rich

p. 3

Confronting reality

p. 4

Family history retold

p. 5

Oasis class visit

p. 5

Highlights of 2017

p. 5

Good parties prevail

p. 6

Genocide awareness

p. 7

Holocaust

Remembrance Day

p. 7

SMILE

p. 8

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

President's message

## Kind actions result in feelings of wonder

by Jennie L. Negin

As I write this, I am in the middle of reading the book *Wonder* by R.J. Palacio. I was aware that a film was being made so I wasn't too surprised to see a review of *Wonder* in the morning paper.

Rick Bentley, Tribune News Service reviewer, writes, "It has a wonderful message about tolerance, acceptance, understanding and respect. There's no guarantee the message would register with all moviegoers, but **social ignorance can be cured one person at a time.**"

Sound familiar? Our mission, "**eliminating, hate and intolerance, one mind at a time,**" is congruent with his observation.

The harm of bullying is difficult to miss in *Wonder*. It brought to mind a letter to the editor by one of our volunteers a few years back.

Published in the local newspaper, it outlined the work of the museum. The writer pointed out that, in addition to the lessons of the Holocaust, we tried to make school children aware of bullying and how to deal with it.

In response, a letter from an irate reader expressed the opinion that aligning bullying with the Holocaust was demeaning the lessons of the Holocaust.

In my view, it is impossible to demean the Holocaust.

We must take every opportunity to tell all the stories – real and fictional – that amplify the consequences of the hurtful and cruel intent of bullying and other acts of hate and intolerance toward those who might seem different from us. Embracing the differences enhances our lives as well as the lives of those we perceive as different.

Kind actions result in feelings of wonder.

Collectively and individually we have a big job to do. Thank you for being a part of the HIMNM family and helping us "eliminate, hate and intolerance, one mind at a time."



Jennie L. Negin

In the Silvian Library & Study Center

## **Two new volumes donated by Arnold-Liebster Foundation**

The Silvian Library & Study Center recently received the first in a series of volumes about the history of Jehovah's Witnesses in Europe includ-



ing their resistance to the Nazi regime. The initial book consists of two volumes donated to our library by the Arnold-Liebster Foundation which was founded in 2002 by Holocaust-era survivors Max Liebster and Simone Arnold Liebster.

The foundation seeks to promote peace, tolerance, human rights and religious freedom by peaceful and non-political means. Log onto [www.nmholocaustmuseum.org](http://www.nmholocaustmuseum.org) for a link to the foundation's website.

And for those unaware: the Nazis not only annihilated two thirds of Europe's Jews, they persecuted and murdered Jehovah's Witnesses, Roma and Sinti, Poles and Russians, Communists and Socialists, homosexuals, political dissidents, mentally and physically challenged and more.

## ***The Herald***

Is created four times a year by staff and volunteers.

### **Editors**

Lyn Berner  
Marcia Rosenstein

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## **In Honor of the Prestice Torah**

by Paula Amar Schwartz

This poem was written to honor a Torah from the Holocaust Memorial Trust, which came from Prestice, Czechoslovakia, and had survived the Holocaust. This poem also has been used at Congregation Albert which also has a small Torah from the Trust.

You come to us in the fullness of your years,  
little and frail, abused by fate, trodden by time.  
You come to us for warmth and care, for sanctuary.

You come to us for love, old woman, child, reborn.  
we welcome you, shalom. What say you to us,  
child of the storm, mother of learning?

*I am like an old shoe, softened and worn,  
patched and worn again; dried on the sands of time,  
stretched on the last of life, soaked in the rain of tears,*

*broken by fate, abandoned,  
left in the debris of death,  
I return, renewed, made whole,*

*redeemed by love of learning,  
my parchment soft and trembling,  
my handles smooth and warm,*

*my words faded but clear.  
I ask to be held, I ask to be touched,  
I ask to be cherished and loved.*

*The law of Adonai is perfect, restoring the soul.  
The testimony of Adonai is sure, making wise the simple.  
the precepts of Adonai are right, rejoicing the heart.*

*Come to me, and be restored.  
Hear me, and learn of wisdom.  
Know my precepts, rejoice.*

You come to us for sanctuary, and bring us shelter.  
You come to us for care, and bring us warmth and love.  
You come to us old and worn, and bring us rebirth.

Little and frail, abused by fate,  
trodden by time, we welcome you,  
Shalom.

*They keep our purpose alive*

## Museum wealth found among volunteers

Whether they come in twice a week, show up as needed, or work off site, we would not be where we are today without a cadre of dedicated volunteers. While we are a small museum with limited financial resources, in many ways we are very rich. Our wealth is in our extraordinary volunteers. We could not open our doors six days a week without them. It's not always an easy or interesting job but a belief in our mission spurs them on.

Visitors are greeted at the door by volunteers who come in on a regular schedule, some more than once a week. They are the face of the museum, the first with an opportunity to make an initial good impression on our guests. Often they need to be able to read signals from the visitors. Some will want a guided tour while others prefer to be left on their own. How to recognize and deal with these matters often is considered

and shared at monthly volunteer meetings. Many of these discussions help make the museum a more interesting and comfortable visitor experience.

Did we mention that being a front desk volunteer is not always easy or interesting? The mundane occurs with the opening and closing details of the day: sweep the front, put the sign out, empty the trash, activate the exhibit videos and make sure brochure holders are well stocked, turn on the lights. Whew! That's enough, but isn't always everything.

The opinions of volunteers about item placement and exhibit ideas always are entertained and respected by staff and various museum committees. Many of our volunteers serve on those committees (education outreach and exhibits are only two).

Another team of volunteers is responsible for the Silvian



David R. López

Library & Study Center in the lower level of the museum. This work is much more than processing donated items and archival materials. The group also plans special events to promote awareness and entice the general public into the museum.

Some of our volunteers are trained as docents. They guide school groups and other visitors around the museum explaining

*see Museum wealth, page 8*

### ***We struck it rich when these \*volunteers chose us***

Rapheal Begay  
Rick Bickhart  
Wren Yoon-Jung Caplan  
Tillery Dingler  
Kimberly Caputo-Heath  
Camilia Caton-Garcia  
Meredith Chapman

Peter Eller  
Harold Folley  
Amber Grey-Fenner  
Shelly Gross  
Marissa Hernández  
Miranda Jacobson

Jordan Kosberg  
Diane Kozelka  
David Lopez  
Christin Moreland  
Wille Peters  
Kimberly Peterson

Mary V. Pratt  
Brenda Rabinowitz  
Harriet Romero  
Richard Roy  
Jerry Small  
Daniel Taradash  
Matthew Teubner

\*Our dedicated board members also are volunteers. That's an article for another issue of *The Herald*.

The editors would like to apologize *immediately* if we have forgotten to list someone. Let us know, and we'll fix it.

# Confronting difficult realities

by Zach Benjamin. Executive Director, Jewish Federation of New Mexico

Like much of the country, New Mexico's Jewish community watched with concern and more than a little horror as Nazis terrorized the streets of Charlottesville, Virginia, in a violent demonstration that left three dead – including two law enforcement officers – scores wounded, and millions more emotionally scarred. This is far from the first time in recent decades that white supremacists have taken to American streets. However, the loss of life and the images accompanying the tragedy have turned what would, at best, have been a display of the country's ugliest political underbelly into a potentially seminal American moment in which the deepest recesses of our national soul were laid bare, leaving us no choice but to confront difficult realities.

## WHAT'S BEEN LEFT OUT?

One of those realities is evident not in what has been said since the Charlottesville tragedy, but indeed in what has been left out of the narrative. The official name of the march on Charlottesville was "Unite the Right to End Jewish Influence in America." Those who perpetuate Hitlerian ideology are a threat to all of us, and certainly to minorities and vulnerable communities of all stripes. In this particular case, Jews were



among the primary stated targets of the perpetrators' hate.

Ask most Americans, however, and they are unaware of this reality. They may be vaguely familiar with the "Unite the Right" branding of the riot, and certainly with the fact the riots were fueled by abject bigotry, but the second half of the neo-Nazis' phraseology "...to End Jewish Influence in America" has been largely ignored. Despite the fact that Jews were specifically targeted, anti-Semitism has been excluded to a significant degree from the narratives emerging in response to events in Charlottesville.

## POLITICAL ISOLATION

This is the latest evidence that American Jews are increasingly, unwillingly politically isolated. All too often, the principles of intersectionality are used to both exclude Jews from the socially responsible movements they

wish to join, as well as to replace a necessary confrontation of anti-Semitism with misplaced conversations about Israeli geopolitics and Jewish privilege.

Neither our socio-economic status nor our community's feelings of connection with Israel preclude us from being subject to deep-seated, violent, and dangerous persecution, both in this country and across the globe.

Thus, it is imperative that we welcome unconditionally in efforts to fight persecution, bigotry, and bias of all kinds.

## PATTERN OF HOSTILITY

The minimizing of anti-Semitism as part of the post-Charlottesville narrative follows an unsettling pattern of hostility toward Jews from some of the social justice movements in which many among us believe so deeply. Reports of Jews being told that they are unwelcome in the activities of Black Lives Matter, especially on college campuses, followed the inclusion of anti-Israel rhetoric in the charter of the Movement for Black Lives. This year, participants carrying rainbow flags emblazoned with Stars of David in the Dyke March – an offshoot of the annual Chicago Pride Parade – were told to leave, citing "Zionist symbolism" that

see *Confronting difficult realities*, page 5

Survivors' daughter shares family history

## Educational outreach includes personal story and video presentation

As it becomes more difficult to find Holocaust survivors who are able to travel, we are pleased and fortunate that a daughter of survivors is a willing partner in our educational outreach program. Brenda (Nussbaum) Rabinowitz, an Albuquerque resident and retired schoolteacher, takes to classrooms a presentation about her family that she created several years ago.

The story she tells is personal yet oh so universal.

Brenda's parents "met on the boat" but other family members were not so fortunate. The well matched couple arrived in New York City in October of 1938. Their two daughters were born and raised in Washington Heights.

"All of our friends and friends' families were Holocaust survivors," recalls Brenda. "Our family moved to Rochester where my father got a job. I was nine."

Brenda's presentation explores her parents' ability to leave Germany. What happened to her father's parents and sister as the Nazi organization took over is the rest of the story.

Last year Brenda traveled to a

middle school in Farmington. She also spoke to homeschooled students of all ages in Rio Rancho.

Her availability is tied to some grandmotherly duties so teachers who want to schedule a visit should contact the museum.

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## 2017 highlighted

*An Address in Amsterdam*, January 11<sup>th</sup>: Book talk by author Mary Dingee Fillmore.

*Lawyers without Rights: Jewish Lawyers in Germany under the Third Reich*, February 6<sup>th</sup> to March 11<sup>th</sup> in UNM law school (cooperative effort).

*New Mexico's African American Legacy: Visible, Vital, and Valuable* installed March 27<sup>th</sup> on loan from the African American Museum and Cultural Center.

Opening reception June 4<sup>th</sup>. *Yom Hashoah* observed in the JCC on April 23<sup>rd</sup>.

In May the *Czech Memorial Scroll Trust* approved a new loan agreement with the museum, now the official caretaker of an orphan scroll.

*Teaching the Holocaust for Social Justice*: The New Mexico Summer Satellite was held June 12<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup>, led by museum board members Susan Quintana and Leslie Lawner.

Opening reception for the new exhibit *Overtured: A Life Etched in Stone* was held on June 18<sup>th</sup>. The JCC hosted a similar event on the 20<sup>th</sup>.

In June, the board voted to open the museum a sixth day, Sunday. By August 29<sup>th</sup>, *three exhibits were upgraded with the addition of sound sticks* thus eliminating dueling audio in our small space. On September 17<sup>th</sup>, the museum proudly launched Phase I *The African American Experience, Slavery 1619-1866*.

October 22<sup>nd</sup> marked the day of the *second annual To Life!* fundraiser.

Kristallnacht (night of the broken glass) was commemorated November 9<sup>th</sup> in the museum.

## Confronting difficult realities

*continued from page 4*

was deemed offensive to other marchers.

In the massive Venn diagram of political and social perspectives that exist among decent people, social justice movements must focus on the common ground shared by all of us who reject bias in all its forms. In the same spirit, anti-Semitism must be included – not above other forms of bigotry, but alongside them – in the narrative against hate. Only once we cease to dwell in those areas where our perspectives differ, and only once we focus instead on those areas where we share common vision, will the broad fight for social justice have a chance at success.

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# We throw the *best* parties

... and have the most fantastic sponsors!

Just ask anyone who was there October 22 in the social hall of Congregation B'nai Israel. We had some fun.

By all indications, our second annual fundraiser was a success. Attendance was up from last year, and you could not surpass the food and drink, the music and dancing, the games and the raffle prizes.

We are so grateful to our wonderful and generous sponsors, our donors, the fun lovers who attended, and the committee members – all volunteers – who worked so hard to make it happen.

In her opening remarks, board president Jennie L. Negin welcomed two special couples, friends and family.

“I was delighted when I heard that two of the museum’s most generous donors and highly valued personal friends – Paula and Mel Schwartz – reserved enough tables so that 30 of their friends could attend to help celebrate their 35th wedding anniversary.”

She added, “Harold and I are happy that our children, Sue and Scott Folley, are here from Morgantown, Indiana, to be here with us to share our commitment to the museum.”

Jennie continued her introductory remarks suggesting that, while our subject matter may be unpleasant, our mission is pure. “The type of events which enabled the Holocaust to happen are alive and well in our country, in our state, in our city. When you visit our museum, you play a role in building a better community. Our mission is to eliminate hate and intolerance, one mind at a time. You are part of that.”

Not listed in the next column as a sponsor is the caterer, Gourmet to Go. Jennie made sure to point out, “Sharon Levin gives us a discount we can’t refuse.”

The generous donors at the 2017 fundraiser helped us raise more than \$10,000 for upgrading our Holocaust exhibits and for educational outreach.

Many thanks.

## **EVENT**

The Alarm Store  
Helen Grevey & Jay Hertz  
Aquasense  
Judy Berner  
Mary V. Pratt, M.D.  
Jennie Negin & Harold Folley  
Juanita Garcia & Jordan Kosberg  
Lois & Tom Ruby  
Linney Wix

## **TABLES**

Raye & Mark Cohen  
Leslie Lawner & Bob Carroll  
Raigoza Wealth Management, Inc.  
Paula & Mel Schwartz  
Steve Stearns

## **RAFFLE**

Buffalo Thunder Resort & Casino  
Remedy Day Spa  
Total Wine & More  
Betty’s Bath & Day Spa  
Mark Diamond’s Jewelers  
Canvas Salon

## **IN-KIND**

Rick Bickhart  
(partners-by-design.com)  
Nexus Brewery  
St. Clair Winery  
The 45’s Classic Oldies Band

# Oasis class schedule includes museum visit

On February 8 from 11 to 12:30, an Oasis class will be held in the museum. It will include a docent led tour and a special talk by Daniel Taradash, Ph.D. about his work and research regarding the

new African American Experience display.

The exhibit covers the historical, cultural and social impact of African American slavery from 1619-1866 examining the daily

lives of slaves, the experiences of slave women, the Civil War, and the transition from slavery to freedom.



## April in Arizona

### 5th Annual Genocide Awareness Week approaching

An impressive lineup of lectures, exhibits and events are on tap for the 5th Annual Genocide Awareness Week: Not on our Watch, April 17-22, at Scottsdale Community College.

Events are free and open to the public.

Once again, Oskar Knoblauch, an active Holocaust survivor, will share his story. Knoblauch's talk is scheduled for opening day, April 17, at 10:30 a.m., following a presentation on Native American Genocide at 9 a.m. by Dr. Jaakko Puisto, a history professor at the college.

John Liffiton, professor and co-founder of the event, stated, "We learn something each year and keep improving to provide an experience that will help attendees grow in their knowledge and understanding of genocide and how to prevent these atrocities.

"We say 'never forget' and 'never again' but we need to keep striving for that," said Liffiton. "Some people still have the idea that this happened 80 years ago only. It continues today."

A new focus this year is the

1936 Olympics, with lectures, a panel discussion and an exhibit that will be on display for the entire week.

Genocides of the 20th Century will be in the student center lobby. The traveling exhibit delves into the Armenian mass murders, which occurred in the early part of the century, the Holocaust perpetrated by Nazi Germany in the 1930s-40s, and the Rwandan genocide in the mid-1990s. It features photos, archives and history of each period. This is the U.S. premiere of

the exhibition which opened at the Mémorial de la Shoah in Paris in 2015.

Throughout the week, topics to be covered by survivors, scholars, humanitarians and activists, include: Armenian Genocide, Native American Genocide, Genocide in the Renaissance, Violence and State Repression in the Midst of Refugee Crises, and Genocide in the Age of Climate Change. Also, the Theatre Department will present the play *Kindertransport*.

For the full schedule of events go to [www.scottsdalecc.edu/genocide](http://www.scottsdalecc.edu/genocide).

## Remembering the Holocaust

International Holocaust Remembrance Day, designated by the United Nations General Assembly resolution in November of 2005 is January 27. It is an international memorial day commemorating the tragedy which occurred at the hands of the Nazi regime and collaborators during World War II.

The genocide resulted in at least 11 million deaths including Jews, Romani and Sinti, Jehovah's Witnesses, mentally and physically disabled, homosexual men, political dissidents, and Soviet prisoners of war.

That year, the assembly marked the 60th anniversary of the liberation of Nazi concentration camps and the end of the Holocaust. On January 27, 1945, Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest concentration and death camp, was liberated.

