



Holocaust & Intolerance Museum of New Mexico

combating hate and intolerance and promoting understanding through education

Holocaust & Intolerance Museum of New Mexico
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April 1, 2015
Volume I Issue 1

You Can Help Repair the World

By Marcia Rosenstein, Secretary of the Board

Newsletter

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If you share a desire to start repairing the world, contact the museum. I grew up enveloped by the notion.

My mother volunteered for Sisterhood even though we didn't belong to the congregation. She volunteered for Hadassah. She led my Girl Scout troop. She attended various meetings and donor events important to her.

I tried to follow in her footsteps; it was what I was supposed to do. I enjoy volunteering. When an event is successful there is a wonderful feeling of satisfaction and accomplishment.

About 15 years ago I attended a Jewish Family Service convention (my husband, David was President and I was on the board of our local organization). By this time I had been a Sisterhood President twice and chair of many functions and member of the Women of Reform Judaism Pacific District Board.

At the convention, the meaning of Tikkum Olam, discussed in depth, made me understand that following in my mother's footsteps was the right way, that I had an obligation to do Tikkum Olam, start repairing the world. The task is huge and each of us can only do a little to accomplish that goal. While we probably will not finish the task personally, I feel we must start and work hard towards the goal.

*"...I had an obligation to do
Tikkum Olam,
start repairing the world."*

I volunteer at the Holocaust & Intolerance Museum because it is a place that reminds us of what can go wrong in the world. We need work together to achieve the goal of tolerance and caring for others with whom we share this planet. We can't allow the horrors of the Holocaust, slavery, senseless murders because of religious differences to happen now or in the future. Our goal is to create tolerance and understanding among all peoples.

To Volunteer:
Email:
info@nmholocaustmuseum.org
or call the museum
at 505-247-0606

If you would like to volunteer, please contact the museum. Our volunteers serve as greeters, docents, librarians and general helpers. There is a place for you.

Two New Mexico Students Create Rwanda Exhibit

By Lyn Berner, Staff



The Holocaust & Intolerance Museum of New Mexico might well have been the first in the country to have an exhibit on the “tolerated” genocide in Rwanda. We couldn’t make that claim if it hadn’t been for Haley Zachary and Kendra Poole.

In 2009, Haley, fresh from an undergraduate course on genocide at the University of New Mexico, walked into our storefront institution and offered to volunteer. Kendra was already a regular volunteer, having signed up after a field trip with her senior class from Valley High School.

While we don’t require our daily volunteers to be as conversant on the museum’s content as our docents need to be, the young women very quickly picked up on the intricacies of all our exhibits. From slavery in America to the treatment of Native Americans to the Greek and Armenian genocides to, of course, the Holocaust, these women demonstrated a keen interest in and understanding of our museum’s mission and subject matter. They discussed these atrocities in a mature, knowledgeable, and non-threatening manner with visitors of all ages and from all walks of life. In these encounters, they always displayed the traits of skilled educators.

On slow visitor days, they looked for meaningful projects. Soon they determined that an exhibit on the Rwandan Genocide would be an interesting and appropriate addition to the museum. They researched, developed and created an exhibit and later planned and executed a successful grand opening.

Kendra claimed, in August of 2013, that volunteering at the museum was the single most influential experience in her life, that it was the basis for further life decisions. After earning a degree from the George Washington University in Washington, D.C., she spent a year in Tanzania as a project coordinator with the 2Seeds Network. After her 2Seeds experience, she lived a contemplative life in Ireland for a few months. She is now back in D.C. working in the office of New Mexico Senator Martin Heinrich.

*“We would love to have more
young volunteers
just like them.”*

*Editor - Marcia Rosenstein
Production - Jorgie Winsberg*

Two New Mexico Students from Page 2

Visitors to our museum vary in many ways. Some are school children, some attend daily activities in senior centers. Once in a while the Gordon Bernell Charter School will make a reservation: some of those adults, not all, are incarcerated, and working on their GEDs. There are days when no one comes through the door... but several weeks ago, we had 33 walk-in visitors all on a usually slow Tuesday. So far in 2015, 117 school students have visited on field trips. Many more are scheduled for April and May. Additional guests include eight from other countries, 68 from other states, and 74 from New Mexico.



...an opportunity to easily reach thousands more students and other interested persons.

Haley completed her degree at UNM and headed to Tulane University in New Orleans, LA, where she earned a master's degree in public health. She is now an environmental epidemiologist for the Department of Health in Duval County, Florida. Additionally, she is an adjunct professor in the community health program at University of Northern Florida.

We would love to have more young volunteers just like them. Even though they stay in touch and continue to support the museum and its mission, we miss having them with us!

Museum Outreach and its Potential

by Harold Folley, Docent

A teacher recently contacted the Holocaust & Intolerance Museum of New Mexico to inquire about the availability of funds to provide a bus so she could bring her students to the museum. In the past, we had a fund to provide busing, but don't currently. So, I offered to come to the school and bring the museum to them. With posters and brochures, a presentation on hatred and intolerance was well received. The teacher was pleased, the students were wonderful and the desired effect seemed to be easily accomplished.

That outreach effort, in early 2015, has been followed by another in early March to the Youth Correctional Facility in Albuquerque after a request from the staff. Three docents from the museum went to the facility where a group of eager staff personnel and a dozen juvenile inmates talked with us about the Holocaust, personal responsibility, self improvement, and more. Everyone was extremely interested in the exhibits that we presented and discussion that followed. The young men fully took part in the discussion and exchange of thoughts, and the questions were quite good, all of which hopefully means that the staff will welcome repeat visits. (There are about 100 inmates in this facility, and there are others throughout the state.)



POLYPHONY:

Voices of New Mexico
Dr. Maxine Thévenot
Founding and artistic director

HOLOCAUST CANTATA by Donald McCullough

Yom Hashoah Commemoration

Sunday, April 12th, 3 p.m.

Congregation Albert
3800 Louisiana NE
Albuquerque, NM 87110

This **FREE CONCERT** is supported by
the Holocaust & Intolerance Museum
of New Mexico
and the Jewish Federation of New Mexico

Museum Outreach from Page 3

Within the next two weeks we have two engagements: at the Albuquerque Meadows Residents' Association, thanks to a board member's encouragement; and the South Campus of CNM for a presentation open to the student body and the general public. There are obvious pluses and minuses to this program. It may be too early to judge but, for now, I would sum it up as follows: Advantages: we can take our messages to the group in a comfortable, familiar surrounding; there is no great expense or inconvenience to them; more time can be spent on learning and less in traveling; and from what I have observed, the youngsters concentrate on the subject and spend no time goofing off as they sometimes do in the museum. Disadvantages: we may not have enough volunteers to handle what appears to be an unlimited demand (we have made no effort as yet to even advertise the availability of this service); probably not all volunteers will want to be involved, and the audience will not see the actual museum and exhibits. Although not as good as being at the museum, a video of the museum can be shown.

I am personally excited by the possibilities. We might have an opportunity to easily reach thousands more students and other interested persons. This could even be expanded to parochial and private schools, civic groups, employers who sponsor programs at work for their employees and much more.

This would require some degree of planning, but it does not appear to present a formidable challenge. And as a result, many more would eventually learn we are here!

100 YEARS OF REMEMBRANCE

EXHIBIT OPENING

GENOCIDE OF CHRISTIAN MINORITIES IN THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE

Friday, April 24th, 3 p.m.

Holocaust & Intolerance Museum
of New Mexico

616 Central Avenue SW,
Albuquerque, NM 87102

LUNCHEON AND PRESENTATION

GENOCIDE OF CHRISTIAN MINORITIES IN THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE

WHEN: Sunday, April 26th
12 p.m. to 3 p.m.

WHERE: Jewish Community Center
of Greater Albuquerque
5520 Wyoming Blvd. NE
Albuquerque, NM 87109

For more information and
to register call (505) 255-7952

