

# Holocaust & Intolerance Museum of New Mexico

combating hate and intolerance and promoting understanding through education

Holocaust & Intolerance Museum of New Mexico  
616 Central Avenue SW, Albuquerque, NM 87102  
www.nmholocaustmuseum.org,  
info@nmholocaustmuseum.org  
505-247-0606

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## Newsletter

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*"You are our life blood."*

Please make a donation.  
See Page 8.

### **To Volunteer:**

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

## Thoughts on the Sticky Note Board

By Marcia Rosenstein  
Vice-president, Volunteer Coordinator

Last year at the New Mexico State Fair, volunteers Jessica Reichenbach and Claire Lissance set up a booth promoting the museum and inviting visitors to write their own thoughts about hate and intolerance.

After the fair, it was decided to continue the conversation by displaying the bulletin board in the museum. That bulletin board, brightly peppered with orange and yellow sticky notes with thoughts of our visitors scrawled on them, demonstrates the impact our museum creates. Here are a handful of visitor comments:

"Hating someone is a choice. Why not choose love?" (Signed with a heart symbol)

"People are meant to be unique. So who cares if you are black or white, Jew or German. We need to love each other, but no one realizes it..." Calleen

"Stop the hate! Love each other! We're all created equally!"  
JB- TX 2016

"It begins & ends with me. I choose not to hate. I choose to be tolerant."

"Love one another. Respect one another. Honor one another."

"[Hate] causes depression, isolation, and loneliness. If we can increase our own tolerance and accept others as they are, all our hate will become love and create more joy in the world."

When visitors leave the museum, it is hoped they carry these messages with them in their hearts.

## Aesthetic Empathy Exhibition

By Barbara Resnikoff

### **AESTHETIC EMPATHY EXHIBITION**

continues through April 20, 2016



**Special open studio art making**  
**Saturday, April 16 from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.**

Our current exhibition, **Aesthetic Empathy**, which celebrates the work of artist, Friedl Dicker-Brandeis, who taught creative art classes to children in the Terezin concentration camp 1942-1944, continues through April 20, 2016.

Visitors to the museum on **Saturday, April 16** will have the opportunity to participate in an open studio art making where art supplies will be available and visitors can learn about and be able to apply the techniques used by artist Friedl Dicker-Brandeis. Linney Wix and Daniel Wolfskehl, curators of the exhibition, will be available from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

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*“...taught creative art classes  
to children in the Terezin...”*

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***The Holocaust & Intolerance Museum of New Mexico is open:***

***Tuesday – Saturday, 11 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.***  
***Admission is free.***

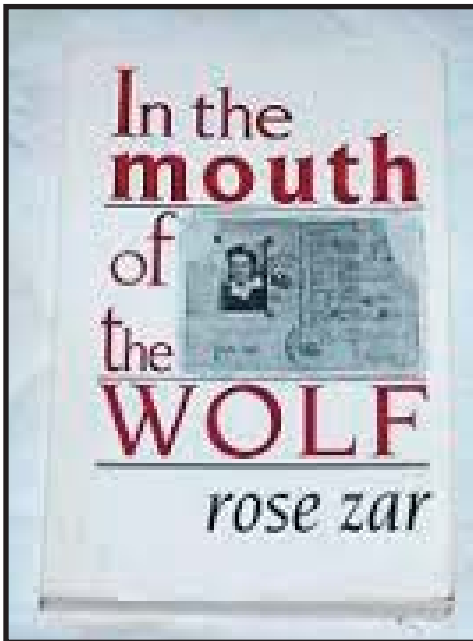
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*Editor - Marcia Rosenstein*  
*Production - Jorgie Winsberg*

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## ***In the Mouth of the Wolf*** **by Rose Zar**

A summary by Scarlet Ochoa



*“If you’re ever on the run and have to hide, the best place is right in the mouth of the wolf. If the police are looking for you, hide in the police station. Hide in the policeman’s house or, better, under his bed. Hide in the most obvious place you can, because that’s the one place they never look.”*

This was Herman Guterman’s advice to his daughter Ruzska in 1942 when Jews failed to die off in sufficient numbers from disease, starvation, and simple suicide in the ghettos and when the extermination program was falling behind schedule. This was the summer that the Germans surrounded one block of houses in Piotrkow, Poland with barbed wire to make a compound called the “small ghetto”. Ruzska noticed friends, neighbors, and people disappearing without a trace. Some went into hiding and some crossed over to the Aryan side with false identities.

Because neither Ruzska, eighteen years old at the time, nor her younger brother, Benek who was just sixteen, looked especially Jewish, it was decided that they should obtain false papers and cross over to the Aryan side as “Poles”. Benek became known as “Tadeusz Stempien” and Ruzska transformed herself into “Wanda Gajda”. When they crossed over to the Aryan side, one man at a train station helped them and gave them some very earnest advice. He said, “My advice is keep apart. Don’t travel together. Don’t let anyone know you’re related. A single Jew can get by. Two, never!” So, following the stranger’s advice, “Tadeusz” was able to obtain a job as a Barber’s apprentice in a small town on the outskirts of Warsaw and “Wanda”, after a series of many jobs and problems, ended up in Krakow working for an SS Officer as a servant to his wife and as a nanny to their newborn son...right “in the mouth of the wolf”.

Ruzska survived the war and so did her brother Benek although her parents and little sister did not. When the Russians crossed the Vistula, driving straight for Krakow, the Germans could not hold them back and the SS Officer, who never knew that she was a Jew, promised to take her to Germany where he had already sent his wife and infant son. As she watched over his furniture, his most prized possessions, which had come from an SS warehouse filled with valuables stolen from Jewish homes, the phone rang. Ruzska did not answer that phone call...the phone call that would take her into Germany. Instead, she rushed outside with everyone else to welcome the Russians and rejoice for her freedom.

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*“My advice is keep apart. Don’t travel together.”*

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## A Special Visit

By Harold Folley

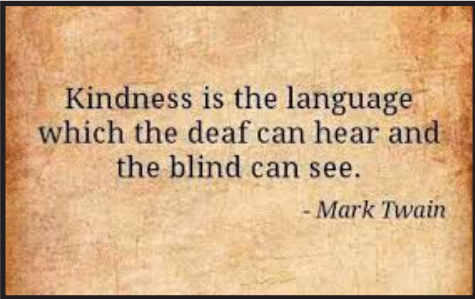
On Saturday, March 29, 2016, a special visit to the Museum was arranged for the Zia Deaf and Blind Club from Albuquerque. The person who arranged this exceptional visit was Mary Kroner, one of our most recent “graduate” docents. After witnessing her performance I would say she graduated “with highest honors”.

The group consisted of a dozen adults who were either deaf or functionally blind, or both. About ten translators arrived to assist Mary in presenting her message, and in explaining the Museum. Mary even arranged to have a few artifacts out of their containers so that visitors could touch and sense them.

Mary’s message focused in part on the Nazi’s effort to rid themselves of the burden of those “unfit to live”. She presented her information in a very effective way; pausing to be sure the translators would be able to do their job and avoiding names that would be difficult to easily spell. Both Mary and I were slightly apprehensive of the possible reaction to this shocking subject, but the group leaders assured Mary it would be no surprise to these visitors and that they would not be distressed by it. That indeed proved to be true; they accepted it very matter- of- fact.

The translators included a number of rather young persons, which greatly impressed us. We watched as those who were both deaf and blind, held the hands of their translators so that information about what was happening and being said could be “signed” to them. My mind flashed back 75 years to my childhood when I first heard the marvelous story of Helen Keller.

Mary, you truly excelled in bringing understanding and help to a few people who desperately need it. As a footnote, the entire group of visitors lined up in the front of the museum for a group photo, smiling broadly. This is what the Museum is all about.



Kindness is the language  
which the deaf can hear and  
the blind can see.

- Mark Twain

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*“The translators included  
a number of rather young  
persons...”*

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## Yom HaShoah

by Raye M. Cohen




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*"...the never ending thread of anti-Semitism ..."*

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We are pleased to partner with the Jewish Federation of New Mexico, the Jewish Community Center of Albuquerque, and Congregations Albert, B'nai Israel, and Nahalat Shalom to commemorate Yom HaShoah on Sunday, May 1 at Congregation B'nai Israel.

The event, which begins at 2 P.M., will include musical performances, a candle lighting ceremony, and a one-act play, *Suicide Run*, by Raye M. Cohen, about an encounter between a Holocaust survivor and a troubled teenage boy.

The program will be followed by the opening reception of the art exhibit, *In Memoriam*, at the Holocaust & Intolerance Museum of New Mexico, 616 Central Avenue S.W. from 4 P.M. to 7 P.M.

The exhibit will include Claire Lissance's prints telling the story of her family's survival, from the anti-Semitic pogroms rampant in Russia at the end of the 19th century to barely escaping capture during the Holocaust. Claire digs deeply into her grandfather's memoirs kept throughout his life from 1872-1943, beginning in the Ukraine and ending in New York. Much of his writing concerned his experiences with the never-ending thread of anti-Semitism until he came to the United States. Claire chose the title "*Imprisoned by Heritage: Escape Macht Frei*" as both a reference to the inscription at the gate of Auschwitz ("*Arbeit Macht Frei*") and the idea that we all carry our heritages and family wherever we go.

In addition, filmmaker Reinhard Lorenz will present a sound installation based on stories of survival by Albuquerque Holocaust survivors. Among the stories featured will be that of Werner Gellert, founder of the Holocaust & Intolerance Museum of New Mexico.

The third exhibit, *Kaddish*, is a sculpture installation by Raye M. Cohen, to honor those who died in the Holocaust and were deprived of any sense of humanity. Over 1,000 pounds of clay were used to make each set of clay bones, one at a time, to symbolically acknowledge each individual whose contribution to our world was forever lost.

Please join us for both events, Sunday, May 1.

## Summer Institute

By Leslie Lawner



Two new Holocaust and Intolerance Museum of New Mexico board members, Susan Quintana and Leslie Lawner, are educators dedicated to teaching the lessons of the Holocaust to students in New Mexico. Susan, who teaches courses on history and the Holocaust at Pojoaque Valley High School, and Leslie Lawner, who teaches Language Arts and Social Studies to the students at Sidney Gutierrez Middle School in Roswell, work with the Memorial Library/Olga Lengyel Institute and the HIMNM to hold a five-day program, the Summer Institute on Teaching the Holocaust for Social Justice.

This institute is open to all teachers in New Mexico, grades five and up, and is intended to help teachers understand the events that led up to the Shoah, the atrocities of that period, the reactions of the people and nations involved, and, especially, the lessons that can be learned from it.

The primary focus of the Institute is on how to bring those lessons to the classroom in a constructive way. The program includes guest speakers, hands-on activities, testimony, and field trips, including a visit to the Holocaust and Intolerance Museum of New Mexico. Topics include the history of antisemitism in Europe, how “identity” factored into the Holocaust, stories of the ghettos, camps, and resistance, the use of propaganda, and the roles of the victim, perpetrator, bystander, and upstander.

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*“This institute is open to all teachers in New Mexico...”*

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One day of the program is dedicated to using the Echoes and Reflection curriculum created by the Anti-Defamation League in a classroom. Both Susan and Leslie have been trained at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, and Susan is a Teaching Fellow for the USHMM. Both have also done extensive work with the Memorial Library in New York City to develop this program with a particular focus on the needs of educators in our state.

This will be the 3rd Summer Institute Susan and Leslie have conducted. Several of the HIMNM docents attended last year’s program and we hope to have more attend this year. The dates are June 13-17, 2016. The program is free for teachers and applications can be made online at:

[thememoriamlibrary.org/satellite-program/new-mexico](http://thememoriamlibrary.org/satellite-program/new-mexico).

## Upcoming Events

### Yom HaShoah - Holocaust Remembrance Day Events Sunday, May 1, 2016



The Holocaust & Intolerance Museum of New Mexico, the Jewish Federation of New Mexico, and the Jewish Community Center of Albuquerque invite you to join us for **two community events** to remember and honor the six million Jews who perished during the Holocaust.

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*Yom HaShoah*  
*Holocaust*  
*Remembrance Day Events*  
*Sunday, May 1, 2016*

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#### EVENT ONE:

**WHAT:** Musical performances, candle lighting ceremony, and an original one-act play, *Suicide Run*, by Raye M. Cohen about a Holocaust survivor's encounter with a troubled teenager boy.

**WHERE:** CONGREGATION B'NAI ISRAEL (Indian School & Washington)

**WHEN:** Sunday, May 1 from 2 - 3:30 PM

#### EVENT TWO:

**WHAT:** OPENING RECEPTION for our new exhibit, *In Memoriam: Imprisoned by Heritage*, prints by Claire Lissance based on her family's stories of survival; *Kaddish*, a sculpture installation by Raye M. Cohen; *Voices from the Dark*, a sound installation of Albuquerque survivors' stories by Reinhard Lorenz.

**WHERE:** HOLOCAUST & INTOLERANCE MUSEUM of New Mexico (616 Central SW)

**WHEN:** Sunday, May 1 from 4 - 7 PM

Both community events are free. Free parking Sundays.

Download free parking pass for lot at NW corner of Central & 6th  
<http://www.nmholocaustmuseum.org/complimentary.pdf>



