

President's message

Moving forward and gaining attention

The "first quarter" whirlwind

Whew! Our heads are spinning. From being recognized by the state legislature to collaborating with organizations which have like missions or backgrounds, we have had a very busy and productive few months. Following the installation of new board members and me on January 16, it seems we've had at least one important event each month.



Victor P. Raigoza

In February, the museum was recognized in the Roundhouse by Memorial 49 introduced by Representatives Abbas A. Akhil, Damon B. Ely, Dayan M. Hochman-Vigil, and Gail Chasey. As a follow-up to that, we learned a bit later that the legislators have granted us a combined \$824,000 to be used for educating school students and other residents of New Mexico and *also* for upgrading our space. In a related matter, we have been working with a commercial realtor to identify locations that might house a permanent and expanded museum. We are very excited about the possibilities and hope to have good news soon.

We invested in donor tracking software and our website has been updated. It now allows teachers to schedule class visits and download materials, plus folks are given the opportunity to complete volunteer applications and make donations, all on line.

International Holocaust Remembrance Day was observed in January, and we participated with the Jewish Federation of New Mexico and Congregation Albert in a communitywide Yom HaShoah ceremony on April 27. Yom HaShoah was established in 1951 by Israel's Knesset (parliament) as a memorial to the six million Jewish people who were slaughtered by the Nazis between 1933 and 1945 while International Holocaust Remembrance Day was created by the United Nations General Assembly.

We sponsored a reception during the week of May 15 to 23 in the National Hispanic Cultural Center at ¡Resiliencia! which highlighted the extraordinary journey of the Jewish people to Spanish-speaking countries. Concurrently, we began the UPSTANDER campaign featuring pop-up displays and the work of fourth graders from Georgia O'Keeffe Elementary School. The pop-ups, which will be displayed around the state, implore viewers to speak out for what is right.

In a scheduled visit at the end of May, Albuquerque's Mayor Tim Keller toured the museum. His interest was apparent as he explored each and every exhibit and poured over archival material described by museum assistant Camelia Cation-Garcia.

In June, Stonewall was remembered (see page 4) with a celebration of pride and solidarity in the Governor's Mansion. Co-host of the reception was the Envision

Fund of the Santa Fe Community Foundation. Also in June, New Jersey author Kay Miller paid tribute to the late



Albuquerque Mayor Tim Keller and museum assistant Camelia Cation-Garcia examine artifacts during the mayor's May 28 visit.

(see Whirlwind months, page 4)

Museum curriculum projects expanded to elementary and middle schools

John Dewey, noted American psychologist, philosopher, and education reformer wrote, "There is a need of forming a theory of experience in order that education may be intelligently conducted upon the basis of experience."

Dewey's experiential learning theory is predicated on the notion that learning is doing and is created through the transformation of experiences.

Bringing student groups into the museum is one way to further the educational objectives established in the classroom. Another is to provide hands-on learning so students can apply information immediately.

This past semester we piloted two programs to help bridge students' understanding of the Holocaust to social justice issues today. These additions to our signature *Behind the Lens-Student Portrayals of a Troubled World* high school program enabled us to expand our community reach and meet the needs of different age groups and learning objectives.

The *Upstander Quilt* and *Stepping Stone* projects are centered around Elie Wiesel's sentiment that there may be times when we are powerless to prevent injustice, but there must never be a time when we fail to protest.

After reading Lois Lowry's *Number the Stars*,



the students in Ms. Robinson's 4th grade class at Georgia O'Keeffe Elementary School were challenged to answer the questions, "How can one person make a difference and what injustice do you see in the world today that you think needs an upstander?"

After an initial lesson on recognizing perpetrators, victims, bystanders and upstanders, students researched an issue that compels them to act. Raye Cohen, vice president of the museum board and exhibit committee chair, then went into the classroom and led the students to depict their cause using felt. The result is an upstander quilt that hangs in the front of the museum and will have a final place of honor at the school.

At the middle school level, our outreach program was the *Stepping Stone* project. Students in Ms. Champion's 7th grade class at Eisenhower Middle School and Congregation Albert School of Jewish Studies participated after an in-class study of the Holocaust.

The Holocaust occurred because of the silence and indifference of others, thus students were asked what they are willing to stand up for today.

(see Education programs, page 3)

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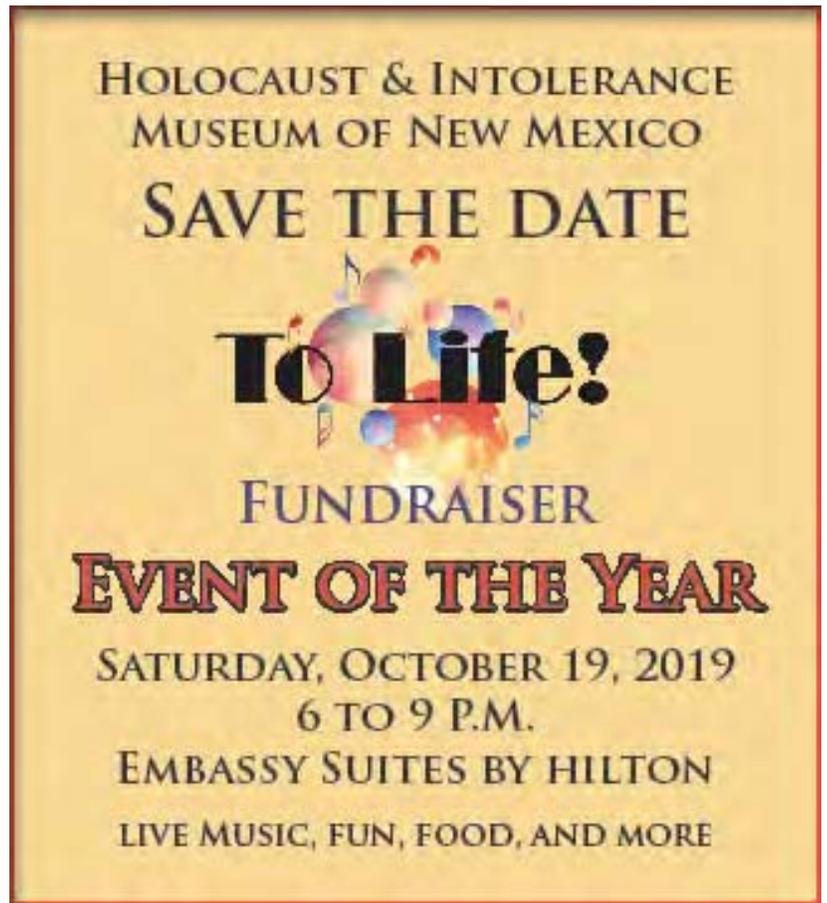
Education programs include various grade levels

(continued from page 2)

Ann Dunbar, a retired art educator, worked with the students to design and create mosaics on garden pavers that accurately mirrored a social justice issue that speaks to their passions. Student work reflected the immigration debate, global warming, LGBTQ and gender equality, endangered species, educational opportunities for all, and religious freedom. These pieces of art now reside in newly created “upstander gardens” at the schools.

The impact of these programs is already being felt. A day after the quilt was hung, a woman visiting the museum was visibly shaken by the content and could not understand the sheer inhumanity and cruelty that continues to rattle our society. When the quilt project was described to her, a smile replaced the tears and she said, “Now *this* gives me hope.”

Our educational programs may not prevent injustice, but we can empower children to recognize and protest when they see it.



50 years ago

Gay liberation movement spurred by Stonewall uprising

Fifty years ago in Greenwich Village, the fight for LGBT rights in the states got its start. Police raided the Stonewall Inn, a mafia property frequented by the most marginalized of the gay community: transgenders, drag queens, "butch" lesbians, male prostitutes, and homeless youth.

In the '50s and '60s, gay Americans were confronted with an anti-gay legal system and groups who believed gays could be assimilated or "retrained."

This all changed in the late 1960s when social and political movements became active including civil rights and anti-Vietnam War. Protesting became a way of life. These influences, as well as the liberal environment of the Village, were the catalysts for the riots.

When police raided the Stonewall Inn (not an unusual occurrence) on that night, June 28, 1969, a series of spontaneous and violent demonstrations took place. Raids on these bars were routine but police quickly lost control of the situation at Stonewall. More protests erupted the next evening, and again several nights later. Within weeks, Village residents organized activist groups establishing places for gays and lesbians to be open about their sexual orientation without fear of being arrested.

Within a few years, gay rights organizations were founded across the U.S. and the world. On June 28, 1970, the first gay pride marches took place in New York, San Francisco, Chicago, and Los Angeles.

In the Governor's mansion, June 4, 2019

This house is yours

"I might reside here, but this house belongs to all of you," claimed New Mexico Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham at a Stonewall Remembered event in her home.

"New Mexico has a proud history of equality," she emphasized. "We strive for truth, justice, fairness, equality and *kindness*.

"But we still have work to do."

She said all this and more while standing on a piano bench!

"It doesn't matter how tall; I will always stand up for you!"

In addition to the Envision Fund of the Santa Fe Community Foundation, the commemoration of Stonewall was supported by U.S. Rep. Martin Heinrich and staff members Brad Elkins and Joe Britton, U. S. Rep. Deb Haaland and Skip Sayre, Southwest Capital Bank, Albuquerque Pride Inc., and U.S. Eagle Federal Credit Union.



NM Governor
Michelle
Lujan Grisham

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

Whirlwind months put us in the forefront

(continued from page 1)

Lilo Waxman who gave us her dollhouse which became the permanent, precious exhibit, *Hidden Treasures*. Kay signed her book *Jews of the Wild West*. A reception followed the moving presentation.

Later in the month, educators and former board members Leslie Lawner and Susan Quintana, along with other experts, conducted a week-long institute for area educators, *Teaching the Holocaust for Social Justice*.

We forge ahead, and welcome this whirlwind of activities as we continue to be an advocate of human and civil rights. We are UPSTANDERS; may YOU be, too!

Lift Every Voice and Sing

by James Weldon Johnson
1871-1938

Lift every voice and sing
Till earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise
High as the listening skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us,
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun
Let us march on till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod,
Bitter the chastening rod,
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
Yet with a steady beat,
Have not our weary feet
Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered,
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,
Out from the gloomy past,
Till now we stand at last
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years,
God of our silent tears,
Thou who has brought us thus far on the way;
Thou who has by Thy might Led us into the light,
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee,
Lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee;
Shadowed beneath Thy hand,
May we forever stand.
True to our God,
True to our native land.

Many people are surprised to learn that "Lift Every Voice and Sing" was first written as a poem. Created by James Weldon Johnson, it was performed for the first time by 500 school children in celebration of President Lincoln's Birthday on February 12, 1900 in Jacksonville, FL. The poem was set to music by Johnson's brother, John Rosamond Johnson, and soon adopted by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) as its official song. Today "Lift Every Voice and Sing" is one of the most cherished songs of the African American Civil Rights Movement and is often referred to as the Black National Anthem.

SOURCE:

<http://www.pbs.org/black-culture/explore/black-authors-spoken-word-poetry/lift-every-voice-and-sing/>

Celebrate Juneteenth, the end of slavery in USA

On January 1, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation. It declared "that all persons held as slaves within the rebellious states ...are, and henceforward shall be free."

The nation was approaching its third year of bloody civil war.

Because of the proclamation, black men were accepted into the Union Army and Navy, and by the end of the war in April of 1865, almost 200,000 black soldiers and sailors had fought for their freedom.

For slaves in Texas, the story was different. They didn't hear of the Emancipation Proclamation until June of 1865, two-and-a-half years after the executive order of human freedom was signed.

The news was delivered by Union Major General Gordon Granger who landed in Galveston on June 19 that year. The reactions ranged from shock to glee. The institution of slavery was finished in the United States.

The date became known as Juneteenth, and rejoicing in freedom grew into a variety of festivities that became a time of celebration for slaves and their descendant all across America. It became an official Texas state holiday in 1980.

Today, Juneteenth celebrates African America freedom and achievement.

For in-depth information on Juneteenth, check the website: JUNETEENTH.com.

For in-depth information on slavery in America, *visit our museum*.

William Bernheim: A Survivor's Story

by Larry C. Malick

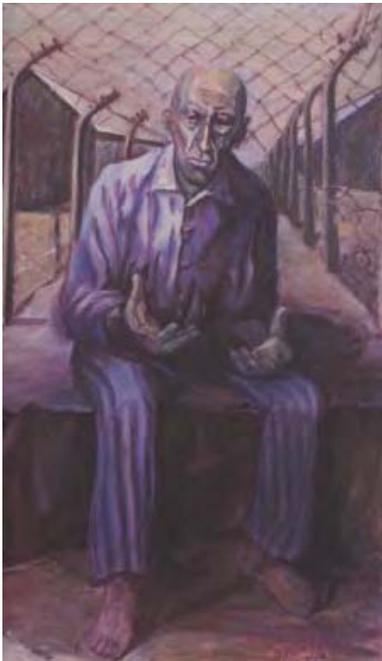
William Bernheim is a survivor of the “living hell” of the Nazi Holocaust. As an artist and lecturer he has shared his experiences for over 50 years. At age 95, in a recent book, he tells his story “from his youth in pre-WWII Poland, through German occupation of his country, loss of family and humanity, interment in the Lodz Ghetto, slave labor in German ammunition factories and the indescribable tortures of the Buchenwald concentration camp.” The book, entitled *My Story: From Hell to Rebirth*, is written in graphic prose and show-cases many of his paintings. It is both a witness to man’s capacity for inhumanity to his fellow man and a tribute to the human spirit. An original work of Mr. Bernheim’s, “Portrait of a Holocaust Survivor,”

Check it out

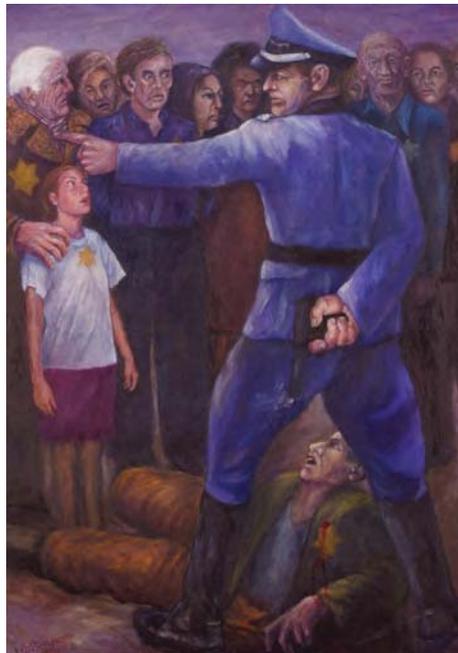
is on permanent display at the Yad Vashem, the World Holocaust Remembrance Center, in Jerusalem. That painting, along with others from the book, is pictured.

In December, 2018, Harrison Abramowitz, Mr. Bernheim’s grandson, honored the Holocaust & Intolerance Museum of New Mexico by presenting it with a copy of this beautiful and powerful memoir.

We encourage you to visit the museum where you can study and fully appreciate what a gift this book is to the library and to the literature of the Holocaust. The book reminds us that we must all stand up to hate and prejudice as we, the people of this country, must be the guardians preventing a repeat of this living hell.



Portrait of a Holocaust Survivor



You are Next



Deportation

Indifference to the persecution of others always has tragic consequences.

—Werner Gellert, Holocaust survivor and museum founder

Asylum seekers aided as they journey through Albuquerque

by Rhonda Manthei

When you visit our museum you will see the vivid photographs and read stories of the Holocaust and myriad genocides and how racism, Islamophobia, anti-Semitism, and xenophobia are growing worldwide. This will help you understand why several museum volunteers also give their time to help the growing number of asylum seekers who are released daily into New Mexico and other border states.

In March, the number of people seeking asylum in the United States suddenly increased. Thousands of people looking to escape horrors such as extortion, rape, and murder in their countries have made the grueling trek, mostly by foot, from their homes in Central America to seek asylum in the United States. When they reach the U.S.-Mexico border, they surrender themselves to Border Patrol who hand them over to Immigration & Customs Enforcement (ICE). They are detained until they can be processed. After meeting certain requirements, they are given documents and let go.

Previously, sites like Annunciation House in El Paso, and others in border cities were able to handle the numbers and provided food, clothing, medical help, housing, etc. while the decision was made whether or not to let them enter the U.S. As the numbers grew, there was a cry for help. Either these people would just be dropped on the streets in the border cities or other organizations would need to step up.

Albuquerque, the largest city in New Mexico, and with access to bus and train depots, and the airport, was especially called for help. That is when five local organizations started accepting busloads of asylum seekers.

Catholic Charities, Congregation Albert, St. Michael's and All Angels Episcopal Church, Lutheran Family Services, Interfaith Hospitality Network, and Congregation Nahalat Shalom have been working tirelessly to help asylum seekers reach their sponsors in places all over the United States.

The asylum seekers are transported to Albuquerque in prison buses with nothing but the clothing on their backs and the documents ICE issued to them. Often they have no idea where they are. Many have left spouses, children and other family members behind and do not know if or when they will see them again.

When they arrive, most are dehydrated, ill, hungry, frightened, and have not had showers in weeks. The organizations do their best to let them know they are now safe, but until they actually experience the kindness of the volunteers, they remain in a fearful state. They are fed their first hot meals in a long time, sleep on beds, receive new clothing and shoes, and are given medical examinations and treated for any conditions they might have.

One of the more difficult parts in this process is contacting the asylum seekers' sponsors to ask them to pay for the transportation to get their family and friends to them. As many of the sponsors also

(see Asylum seekers, page 8)



ICE removes the shoelaces of the asylum seekers.. One volunteer relinquished laces to a seeker.

Princesa Sophia

by Amy Malick

*Tiny brown girl digs through donations
and pulls out the purple taffeta costume
¡Princesa Sophia!*

*Later, she parades through the clothing room
transformed: purple gown, jeweled crown,
sparkly plastic heels, a bit too big*

*A long way from home in Guatemala,
her hair long and black, eyes like chocolate
she's the blue-eyed Sophia of girls' dreams every-
where*

*Like the man in and out all day
trying on hats and settling finally
for a straw fedora laced with bright strips of cloth*

*Hat tilted across dark forehead
Patagonia raincoat fitted below the knees
he puffs out his chest and points to himself: ¡Soy
USA!*

*Who were they in villages
two thousand miles and weeks south
before they fled on foot to this land*

*of costumes and shallow welcome
promise and false hope
new life and dashed dreams, USA?*

Asylum seekers get temporary respite in Albuquerque

(continued from page 7)

are refugees, there is some reluctance and often times not enough money. Therefore, travel arrangements are difficult to finalize and sometimes the asylum seekers are here four to five days. Sometimes, private cash donations have been solicited. When the arrangements are finalized and they are transported to the bus station or airport, they leave with food for the trip, sometimes tracfones for emergency use, and in a much better state than upon arrival. Tears are shed and calls of "Suerte"

can be heard as they are sent on their way.

Every one of these services is provided by donations; despite some rumbling to the contrary, taxes paid by citizens of Albuquerque and New Mexico are not used in these efforts. One can imagine that if the numbers of people seeking asylum keeps growing, sustainability of these efforts will become more difficult. Each organization has its own needs and procedures for accepting donations. If

you are interested in donating, please contact them directly to find out how you can help.

- Congregation Albert
jcorley61@msn.com
- Catholic Charities
www.ccasnm.org
- Lutheran Family Services
www.lfsrcm.org
- IHN
www.ihncares.org
- St. Michaels All Angels Church
www.all-angels.com

Archives Alive! by Camelia Caton-Garcia

Knowledge of this certificate sought

These images of Karoline (Steiniger) Kohn's certificate were issued in 1945 by the *Office of the Jewish Community in Vienna*.

Karoline (Steiniger) Kohn was born on April 10th, 1866, in Falkenau, Bohemia, now Sokolov in the Czech Republic. Genealogical records show she married Adolf Kohn and had two children, Marie (Kohn) Hecht and Ernst (Kohn) Kellermann.

Karoline was imprisoned in Theresienstadt concentration camp and these documents were issued after her release. Many displaced persons (DPs) registered in Vienna after liberation with the office in hopes of being reunited with their families. Preliminary research shows that Karoline's daughter was murdered in Riga, Latvia, in 1942, and the fate of Ernst Kellermann, Karoline's son, is unknown.

Karoline survived Theresienstadt and died in LA County on July 15th, 1947 at the age of 81.



Do you have a relationship to this document or know how it came to be in our precious collection? Please get in touch:
info@nmholocaustmuseum.org

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