



The Herald

Summer 2021

Moving forward

NMHM board president shares vision

by Raye M. Cohen

In this issue

2

Archives *Alive!*

Robert Field sculpture evokes memories of Hiroshima

3

Local senior citizen braids to beat record

4

Another friend gone

5

Hidden child tells story at summer TOLI workshop

6

Museum artist designs poster for artwalk

7

Amazing story of Kubié family now in collection

Upstanders make a commitment to support the rights of all and have a strong sense of responsibility toward others.

-VISION-

We respect the vision of our founders as we thoughtfully and carefully move ahead, gathering research and information to inform our decisions and pursue a path to sustainable growth. The work on an in-depth business plan for our museum will involve a core team of several board members, two staff, our local exhibit designer, and a consulting firm with experience in Holocaust-related facilities.



to reconcile. He responded that it was imagining the anguish his parents must have felt in giving him up so he had a chance to survive. Students who hear that and then think about what is still

occurring at our southern border – parents choosing to send their children alone across the border so that they have an opportunity to survive – makes the story timely and resonant.

Our education programs build on that kind of conceptual understanding, allowing children time to absorb these lessons and make meaning of them through experiential learning and retelling the lessons through their own creativity.

We are onto something. Among those present were three teachers who used our outreach programs this year. Two of them, one from Las Cruces, and one we have known for at least four years, described the remarkable student reactions and their

-EDUCATION OUTREACH-

Our docent Andy Holten presented his personal “hidden child of the Holocaust” story in the museum last month to teachers participating in the Olga Lengyel Institute Summer Satellite program (see related story and pictures, page 5). We feel that because the participants were seated among our exhibits, context was added to his story which was incredibly moving.

It was heart-wrenching to hear him respond to a teacher’s question about the most difficult thing he had

(see President’s vision, page 3)

Archives *Alive!*

Robert D. Field sculpture evokes memories of Hiroshima

by Johnny J. Macas, curatorial assistant

This work, titled *Hiroshima Mon Amour*, is a wood and encaustic sculpture by the late artist Robert D. Field. It came into the collection as a personal gift from the artist, who also donated the ceramic sculpture *Shoah* in 2009. A lifelong art lover, Field earned a master's degree in art education at the

Institute of Design in Chicago. He used this degree to become a high school art teacher in New Mexico and California, and eventually became employed by the Internal Revenue Service. After his retirement in 1988, Robert and his wife Marie used their spare time to explore nature, hike, and mountain climb. He suffered a near-fatal heart attack while mountain climbing in 1990, which encouraged him to revive his passion for art and social justice in retirement. He has work on display at

places such as the Museum of Fine Art of the State of New Mexico, The Discovery Museum of Orange County, The Hispanic Cultural Association, as well as numerous pieces in private collections.

Field, who was also a navy veteran of World War II, created this piece to "evoke some of the horror of the nuclear destruction of Hiroshima." The piece

itself depicts a couple's embrace over the rubble of Hiroshima, their bodies suspended in stasis. The male figure, who seems to deny his position and looks for footing to stand on, tightly grasps his wife. She, in turn, has a solemn expression, but offers much less resistance to the realities of their

condition. Both their eyes are similarly closed in a gentle manner, as they both prepare to meet their impending fates. The surfaces of their skin and clothes are discolored, burnt, and chemically damaged, with some areas reminiscent of bubbling, blistering skin. It is as if they have been caught in a moment after detonation, but before incineration. The base of the sculpture, an abstract rendition of Hiroshima, is decorated with a Buddhist pagoda and what could be interpreted as either

apartment buildings or offices. The violent wood carved gestural marks of the base, however, point clearly to the ravaging and destruction of Hiroshima and its citizens caused by the United States' new war technologies.



(see Robert Field sculpture evokes memories, page 8)

Local senior citizen creates braids to beat record



She sits in the east window at 616 Central Avenue SW, Albuquerque, almost every day braiding yarn. It is her goal to set a new Guinness World Record and then continue until she reaches the goal of 6,000 feet (1828.8 meters).

Hiddekel Sara Burks will be featured in the museum until she reaches that zenith.

The master braider and ethnic folk artist began working on the world's longest hand-made textile braid in February of 2020;

however, the attempt was placed on official pause due to the pandemic.

After recovering from Covid-19 herself and now fully vaccinated, Hiddekel has resumed the attempt to complete her mission.

The installation features the actual braiding process to be witnessed by the public, as well as a portrait photo exhibit displaying braided hairstyles created by Hiddekel, founder of the National Braiders Guild and a recipient of the Illinois Arts Council Fellowship Award for Outstanding Ethnic Folk Artist. In addition, the multi-talented Hiddekel is a licensed cosmetology teacher and retired nurse.

Friendly and knowledgeable in myriad topics, Hiddekel is more than willing to discuss her project and other topics with museum visitors.

President's vision shared

(continued from page 1)

creative projects. Several teachers expressed interest in working with us this school year. One is from Hobbs and another will be teaching in a Native American school in Farmington. Because we now have our programs online we are able to serve students across the state.

-COMMUNITY INTERACTION-

With the help of Graham Abney, a new volunteer and recent recipient of a master's in history, we will be able to reboot two programs: first the traveling exhibit library/community sites program with both *Four Hundred Years of African American Upstanders* and *Overtuned*. We continually strive to get our name out into the community and hope to start a buzz in Rio Rancho and Santa Fe. Second, we will reboot our adult programming, probably online to start.

-eTreasures AUCTION-

Finally, we would like to thank all who participated in our recent auction. You are truly appreciated.

The Herald

-created four times a year
by staff, interns, volunteers, and board members-

Barbara H. Weinbaum, Ph.D.
December 23, 1925 – May 26, 2021

Another dear friend gone

Before we became aware of the Cindy and Slomo Silvian Foundation, for which our library is named because of its ongoing support, Bobbie Weinbaum appeared on the scene.

She wrote library policies and job descriptions, garnered help from local writers and librarians, and researched and fully



subsidized the software, ResourceMate. All of this occurred before 2009 at our former location in the Freed building at 415 Central Avenue NW.

Bobbie, the perpetual activist, died in May at the age of 95. Her granddaughter Liota Weinbaum-Gongorra was with her for many of her last years.

There is no way to ignore the social and cultural issues Bobbie supported and why she was

drawn to our mission. A native of Baltimore, she spent countless years working for human rights as a member in the League of Women Voters, Planned Parenthood, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the National School Volunteer program, and the American Civil Liberties Union in New Mexico and Indiana. With a Ph.D. from Indiana State University, Bobbie spent much of her career in a private psychology practice in Terre Haute. She also was a faculty member at the university and on staff at two Terre Haute hospitals.

Locally, she was a docent at the Albuquerque Art and History Museum, a member of the Corrales Historical Society, and on the adult education committee of Congregation Albert.

Not enough can be said of our loss. We are so fortunate that she retired to New Mexico and continued her good works with us and so many others.

Your memory is a blessing to us all.



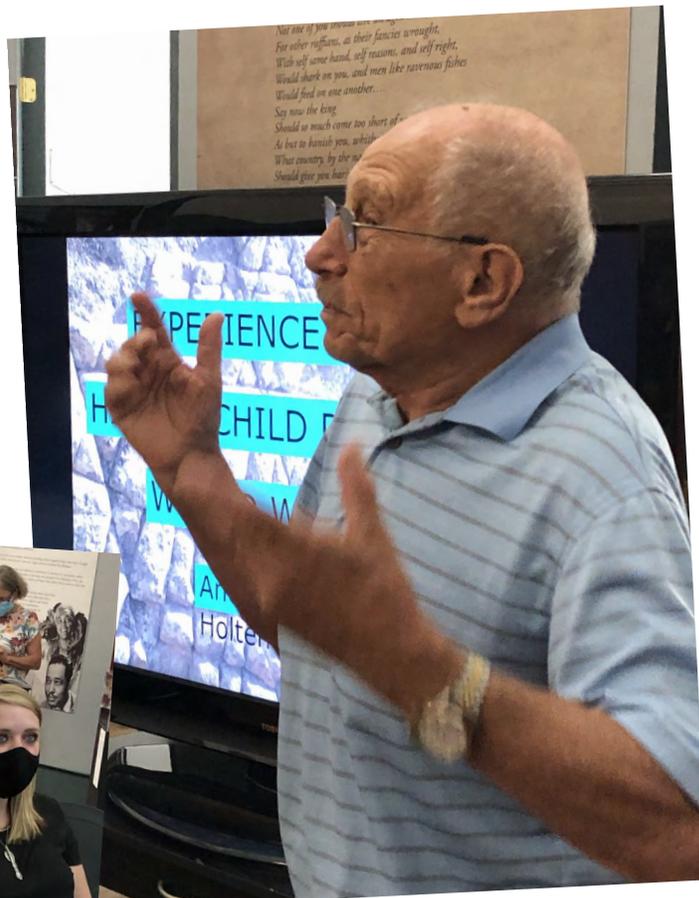
Bobbie and granddaughter Liota Weinbaum-Gongorra

What I would have said at My Mother's Funeral (or to her before she died) by Batya Weinbaum, June 8, 2021

Having just reviewed a book about
Women resisting Nazis
I really understand what you said once
About sleeping with your passport under your
bed
In case you had to leave the country.
Born in 1926, you were a young woman
Coming of age
When news about Europe
Started.
Your Coming of Age years
Were based on fear, probably
Rage. Creating insecurities
Hence the importance of keeping up
Appearances
At all costs
Though even assimilated Jews were
Shot
Gassed
Caught.
So underneath that perfectionist veneer
The Crack
The knowledge
It could all go
Everything you have
Everything you are
In a moment.
The teetering on table tops
In my dreams
Was probably yours
The inherited legacy burden:
The shaky stack could easily crash
In the churning black sea
Pillar of fire
In the distance.

Was that you then, not me?
Or you, and me?
Why did it take
69 years
To feel,
To see?

Museum docent Andy Holten shares hidden child story with summer TOLI teachers

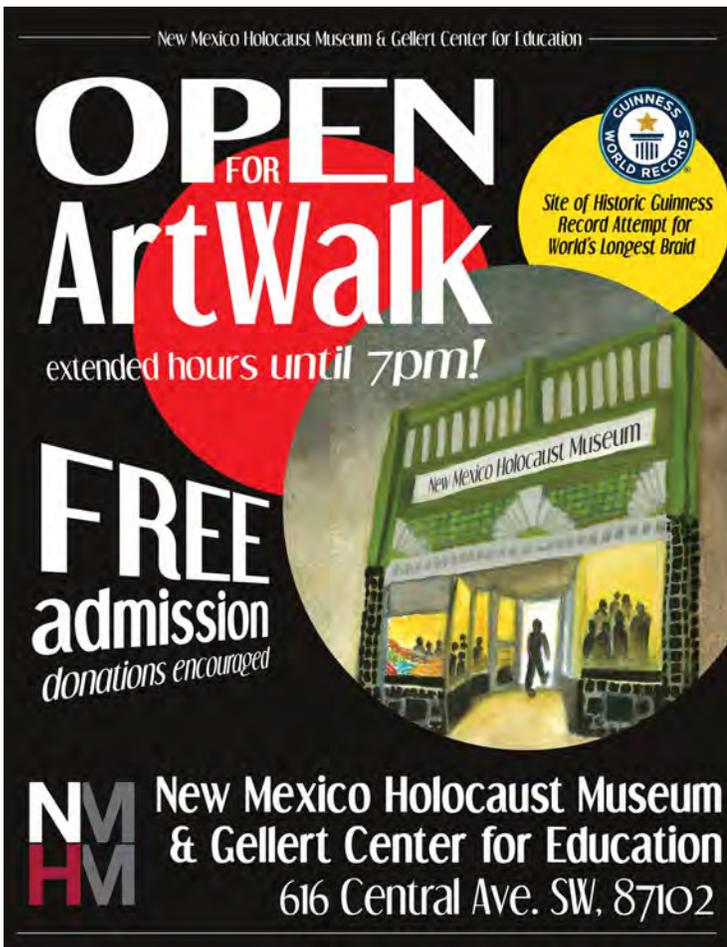


Our museum was host to a group of educators taking part in the local summer program of The Olga Lengyel Institute (TOLI) for Holocaust Studies and Human Rights. Museum docent Andy Holten, a hidden child of the Holocaust, spoke about his life experiences. He told the teachers what it meant to survive and how he now uses his story to prove to others that love and courage can endure in an atmosphere of hate and violence. There were few dry eyes in the audience.

The museum serves as fiscal agent for TOLI. The annual five-day workshop on teaching for social justice is led by educators Leslie Lawner and Susan Quintana, former museum board members, and Barb Lazar and Michelle Thompson-Loyd. These four, as volunteers, make up our education leadership team which is presently concentrating on professional and curriculum development, and crafting a strong proposal to the state legislature to mandate Holocaust education.

Johnny Macas poster design announces:

NMHM joins in monthly downtown ABQ Artwalk



Initially begun because of the braiding project in our front window (see page 3 for story) and further encouraged and supported by collections manager Camelia Caton-Garcia and curatorial assistant Johnny Macas, the museum has initiated extended hours for the ABQ Artwalk, usually held the first Friday of the month.

“The Albuquerque Artwalk is an independent arts organization and community of artists working to elevate New Mexico’s emerging creative economy,” according to the website. “Our platform aims to support local artists, micro-businesses and local brick and mortar establishments by organizing cultural enrichment events, art place-making and an online platform for emerging artists. Our purpose is to spark the vibrancy of the arts by organizing monthly events and experiences at the neighborhood-level.”

Please visit us on first Fridays for our extended open hours during the ABQ Artwalk.

Advertising poster by Johnny Macas

News you can use

10-digit dialing becomes mandatory in October

You can make calls now, if you want, by starting with the three digit area code. What the heck, you might as well practice because it will be mandatory beginning October 24 according to Mark Costlow, president of Southwest Cyberport. In a recent newsletter to customers, he said that 988 is a valid phone number prefix in New Mexico. However, those numerals recently were assigned to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline.

“With 10-digit dialing ...in the Albuquerque area, you’ll dial 505-988-xxxx to reach that friend or business and the phone system will know that’s what you want” rather than the country-wide suicide hotline.

Breaking story

Mask mandate returns

The most recent public health order is a mandate for masks to be worn in all public indoor places.

The order *might be* lifted in mid-September.

Addressing hate and intolerance by empowering upstanders

Many thanks to Jim Kubié

Incredible family history added to our collection

Jim Kubié, a longtime supporter and donor to the museum, whose parents owned and operated [Kurt's Camera Corral](#) on Nob Hill for more than 50 years, donated an amazing collection of archival materials to our museum.

Edith (née Mayer) and Kurt Kubié (Jim's parents) were Holocaust survivors who fled Vienna in 1938 and eventually immigrated to America. NMHM now holds a VHS copy of the Kubié's Shoah foundation interviews but you are also able to register a free account at <https://vha.usc.edu/login> where you can view videos of both Edith and Kurt and hear their story. In Vienna, both Edith and Kurt's parents ran photography studios/camera shops.

In the past, Jim has given us photos and testimony of Edith and Kurt as well as extended family members Rudi Meisl and Hugo Meisl Marom who survived the Holocaust through Kindertransport. Jim gave his

family photo album to the museum's collection. The album is a most extraordinary artifact. Not only does it include photographs of both the Kubié and Mayer families and extended family, but also includes ephemera and documents such as passports and immigration papers. In addition to the family album, Jim provided his grandfather's (Hugo Kubié) tefillin and tallis, also with documents. All together the museum now holds many artifacts, narratives, documents, and photos related to the Kubié family.

Collections manager Camelia Caton-Garcia said recently, "I really cannot overstate what a special and unique gift this is. It is so rare that we have not only a collection of photos and artifacts but also someone willing and able to share

the names, places, and histories that connect them. The possibility of developing an exhibit about the Kubiés and their remarkable story, grounded in New Mexico and the Albuquerque community, is so exciting.

"This really is one of the most incredible artifacts that I have had the privilege to handle since coming to NMHM and I hope that we have a chance to share the Kubié collection and the powerful story it tells to our community for many years."

Eventually, once the collection is professionally processed, it will be available for viewing by appointment. So stay tuned.



Robert Field sculpture evokes memories of Hiroshima

(continued from page 2)

As we marked the 76th anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima on August 6th, it is worth recognizing the strange connection Japan has with New Mexico. The blast that killed 80,000 to 100,000 instantly and seriously injured 100,000 others came from a bomb manufactured right here in the Land of Enchantment (Wright). The scientist J. Robert Oppenheimer and his team, in the years leading up to Hiroshima, had been working in Los Alamos, New Mexico, trying to use uranium-235 and plutonium (Pu-239) to create the first atomic bomb.

Although it is true that the incident that put New Mexico and Japan in conversation was the tragic use of the first atomic bomb,

the ties did not end in 1945. Japan's Ministry of Technology, Trade, and Industry has been forging connections with local organizations like Los Alamos Laboratory, Sandia National Laboratories, and the University of New Mexico, to collaborate on researching the lingering effects of radiation.

According to Eri Hoshi, a Japan native who is now employed as an economic development manager at the University of New Mexico's technology transfer program, "Los Alamos has been contributing a lot, and they're making a friendship based on the technology collaboration," he states. "It's really interesting to see how they are working

together to solve these kinds of problems." (Wright). While the history that initially linked New Mexico and Japan is troubled and hard to talk about for some, the new connections being created between the territories are ones of scientific advancement and respect. We hope that the trend continues, and that we may use nuclear technologies for the advancement of humankind, and not wanton destruction.

Sources

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