



# The Herald

Winter 2022

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NMHM's ambitious education programs extend to all ages  
by Raye M. Cohen, board president

We don't stop; we don't slow down. NMHM is ever broadening its reach so that students and educators statewide will benefit from our ambitious and well-planned programs.

We now include a process for training educators on how to teach the Holocaust. This is an about face from our in-school Holocaust upstander education programs. We will train using *Echoes and Reflections*, a collaborative package by Yad Vashem, USC Shoah, and ADL along with a team of New Mexico teachers who run The Olga Lengyel Institute (TOLI) summer satellite for educators. Additionally, we will put in place the necessary infrastructure and processes to offer professional development across the state. This will include building a section on our website to contain curricula, lesson plans, resources, and materials teachers will need. The teacher training will also be available in this manner. Many thanks to the TOLI team--Susan Quintana, Leslie Lawner, Michele Thompson-Loyd, and Barbara Lazar--who have provided us with great support in building our education programs.

A pilot program for elementary will focus on empathy and understanding of



others or creating upstanders (we do not teach the Holocaust directly to elementary students). This art integrative literature and picture book program will be used by seven teachers in multiple classrooms in Bloomfield, Las Cruces, and Albuquerque. It will

enable teachers to choose from a number of literacy-based arts projects to support what students are learning.

At the end of March, using *Echoes and Reflections*, middle and high school teachers will learn how to teach the Holocaust for social justice and human rights. Issues reflected by the Holocaust and other genocides and past intolerances will lead to a better understanding of current issues. Designated participating teachers will be part of a research study that we hope will lead to a statewide mandate. We're pleased to have this new collaboration.

By implementing programs like these through teachers, we can build an effective and sustainable model. While museum staff always will be there to provide resources, oversight, and hands-on engagement, our (see *NMHM reaches all ages*, page 8)

## Experience proves crucial in the archives

by Molly Twite, volunteer coordinator

For collections volunteer Molly French, no two days in the archives are the same. The Wisconsin native has worked at the museum on and off for three years, assisting director of collections Camelia Caton-Garcia. Molly's previous career as a librarian and assistant archivist for the Charleston County (SC) Public Library has given her the necessary skills and experience to work in the archives at the museum.

Several of her more interesting projects have included scanning photographs found in donated collections. "Some of which," she says, "are unique to these collections." Recently, she has worked with an anonymous donation of photos taken at Ohrdruf, a subcamp of Buchenwald, which was the first concentration camp to be liberated by U.S. forces.

For Molly, the best parts of volunteering at the museum are the interesting work, the friendly, supportive environment, and the feeling that she's giving back and making a difference. In addition to the New Mexico Holocaust Museum, Molly occasionally assists at the Haak'u Community Academy at Acoma Pueblo. When she's not volunteering, Molly enjoys gardening at her home where she grows fruit trees, vegetables, and flowers.

The most important lesson that she's learned through her work in the archives is about the dangers of propaganda. Coming face-to-face with items like '30s cigarette cards glorifying Hitler and the Nazis carries extra weight for her, knowing the tragic results of a successfully manipulative propaganda campaign,



Molly French

"Being able to think critically, to think for yourself, is probably the most important thing you can do," says Molly. It's a lesson she sees particularly prescient in today's troubled and divided times. Misinformation and propaganda are on the rise once again, proving that the work Molly and all of our volunteers do is more critical than ever.

## Museum artist-in-residence close to breaking world record

The world's longest textile handmade braid is close to completion at this writing (early February). Master braider and retired nurse Hiddekel Sara Burks began the challenge two years ago to earn a place in the Guinness World Records. The present record—almost a mile—was captured by members of the Somerset County (NJ) 4-H Club in a joint effort. While the club's youngsters learned about teamwork, Ms. Burks, working on her own, is shedding light on the CROWN Act which prohibits discrimination based on natural hairstyles. CROWN is an acronym for Create a Respectful and Open Workplace for Natural Hair.

Ms. Burks's goal is to exceed a mile, 5,280 feet, by 720 feet to reach 6,000. She's close!

*The Herald*

~finding its way to  
you four times a  
year from staff,  
board, and  
volunteers~

# Archives Alive!

Rare photo

## New Synagogue among the many destroyed at Kristallnacht

by Camelia Caton-Garcia, director of collections

This is a rare photograph of the New Synagogue in Breslau, Germany (now Wrocław, Poland). It was built during the period of 1865 to 1872 and was one of the largest in the German Empire. The New Synagogue was designed by Jewish architect Edwin Oppler, a well-known and prolific creator of synagogues and cemeteries, as well as residential and commercial buildings. He was a major representative of the Neo-Gothic style. The New Synagogue, a center of Reform Judaism in Breslau, was an example of this. In the horrific mass violence and devastation of Kristallnacht in 1938, hundreds of synagogues, including all those designed by Oppler, were destroyed.

This uncommon image from within the New Synagogue is part of our Werner Gellert collection. The Gellert family lived in Breslau until being forced to flee in 1939. As stateless refugees they were denied residence throughout Europe but were eventually accepted into the burgeoning European community of Shanghai, China. Werner would eventually immigrate to the United States where, several decades later, he, wife Frankie, and survivor Julianna K. Lerner would found the New Mexico Holocaust & Intolerance Museum.

Among Werner's many gifts to the museum are photographs such as this one of the New Synagogue that speaks to the rich cultural and religious life that flourished in Europe before the onset of Nazism and the immense loss and suffering of the Holocaust. Although the New Synagogue is no longer standing, its past and community remain alive in the histories and narratives that help NMHM fulfill its mission to end hate and prevent genocide.



Werner Gellert with his family in 1935



## Thinking “inside” the box(es)

NMHM staff and volunteers have been working tirelessly to improve our collections storage.

Volunteer Molly (see previous page), with a background in libraries and special collections, has led the charge in constructing these custom, acid-free boxes for long term preservation of our most fragile artifacts and books.

The boxes are created using a method and design created by Liz Newcombe, former preservationist at Charleston County (SC) Public Library. They are cut to order and crucial to extending the life and endurance of the materials that tell the stories essential to fulfilling our mission.

Additional staff and volunteers are learning this archival box-making technique so that more of the collection can be stored safely and securely.



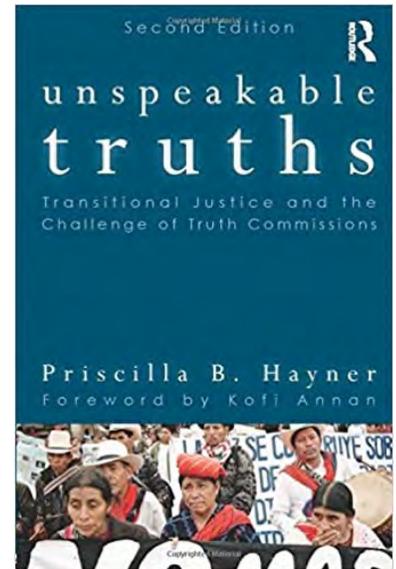
Custom archival storage for an album

## Book review by Molly Twite, volunteer coordinator

The question of how to heal after massive human rights abuses have occurred is a fundamental one in countries transitioning out of war or an oppressive dictatorship. In the wake of World War II, for example, the Allied Powers established a series of criminal proceedings against high-level Nazi military and political leaders. These 13 cases, known as the Nuremberg Trials, made up the first international war crimes tribunal in history, and led to the convictions of 161 individuals and the execution of 37. But in many places, particularly where departing leaders are able to issue pardons for themselves, a trial is not the most appropriate or realistic way.

In these cases, countries can turn to a different mechanism of transitional justice: truth commissions. In her 2001 book *Unspeakable Truths: Confronting State Terror and Atrocity*, journalist Priscilla Hayner provides a comprehensive description and analysis of how truth commissions have functioned around the world.

Hayner defines truth commissions as “official bodies set up to investigate and report on a pattern of past human rights abuses” (5). By the time she published this book there had been a number of high profile truth commissions, notably in the



(see *unspeakable truths*, page 8)

## Cataloguing system conversion consumes many months

by Sheri Karmiol, librarian and NMHM vice president



When I took over as volunteer librarian in February 2020, the library was just beginning a transformation from the Dewey cataloging system to Library of Congress. It took nearly eight months to change the labels on more than 4000 books in the Silvian Library. For many of the months that I spent working with books, I was alone, isolating in the museum library during the pandemic.

When the conversion was completed, I began sorting through the hundreds of books that had been donated since 2016. The shelves in my small work area were stacked with five years' worth. It has taken a year to evaluate each and decide which to add to our library. When I found multiple copies, I set those extra books aside for educators who are teaching

about the Holocaust. I now have only about 50 books remaining to be catalogued, labeled, and placed on library shelves. I still have journals, pamphlets, and media to catalogue and add to the collection. When I find time, I have research to complete regarding reference books, many self-published memoirs, which often are not included in the Library of Congress database. I also have a box of German-language books that were donated. Since my knowledge of German is non-existent, processing those books will take time.

In the meantime, the Silvian Library continues to receive donated books. I expect that my position as a volunteer librarian will keep me occupied for many months to come.

As you can see from the photo, we still have some books to donate to educators. If you are an educator and want to look at these available books, please email me ([library@nmholocaustmuseum.org](mailto:library@nmholocaustmuseum.org)) or call (505) 247-0606 to arrange a time to stop by the museum. I am typically there from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. If you would like more information about donating books, check our website ([www.nmholocaustmuseum.org](http://www.nmholocaustmuseum.org)) or contact me.

New in our gift shop (online and in the museum)

## Beautiful note card sets with envelopes now in gift shop



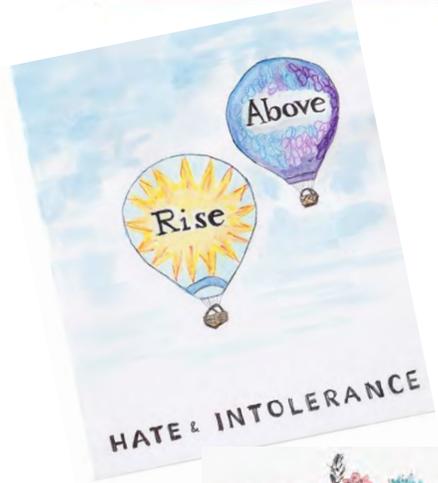
Artist Alex Hannah, a recent visitor to New Mexico *and* to our museum, was inspired to create 11 unique designs exclusively for the museum note cards. Two sets of six cards each have been created for you to choose. We are calling them Museum Set and Pride Set.

The 4.25" by 5.5" cards are blank inside for your personal message. Envelopes are included.

Alex, a self-taught artist, is a native of St. Louis, Missouri, but has lived in Tamaqua, Pennsylvania for the past 22 years. Her love of art came at an early age when she would create pieces with her aunt, an art teacher. Alex uses mixed mediums to enhance her vibrant and unique pieces.

In the museum, the sets are priced at \$15. Online, they are \$17 so the costs of handling and shipping are covered. In addition, we are offering each card separately through our online gift shop, so you can order six cards of any one design.

See other gift shop items on page 8



This card is in both sets.

Be remembered forever at NMHM

## Help develop future generations of upstanders

There are many ways to leave a legacy. Be remembered forever as an upstander with an endowment gift to the New Mexico Holocaust Museum in your will, trust, retirement account, or life insurance policy.

The museum is committed to developing communities of upstanders, people who will speak out against injustice and intolerance, and work to create a better society. We pursue our mission with passion and conviction not only for today, but *for generations to come*.

You can keep your values alive

and help us develop future generations of upstanders by making a perpetual endowment gift in support of the NMHM. These funds are permanent and can provide reliable, consistent distributions to finance the museum's annual operations.

There are different ways to make a legacy endowment gift: contribute to an existing endowment fund that benefits NMHM\* or create your own or family endowment fund with NMHM as a beneficiary. The Jewish Community Foundation of New Mexico can help you create a legacy

plan that includes NMHM and other organizations and causes that are most important to you. To learn more, contact Erika Rimson, Jewish Community Foundation Executive Director ([erika@jcfnm.org](mailto:erika@jcfnm.org), 505.348.4472)

\* The *Helen Grevey & Marianne Grevey Fischer Endowment for New Mexico Holocaust Museum* and the *Jeanette & Dr. Alexander Hammer Memorial Endowment Fund* are funds at the Jewish Community Foundation of NM that are designated for supporting NMHM operations.



*Having lost many members of my father's family in the Holocaust, I was seeking a suitable memorial for those who vanished with no known graves. Our family has been very pleased to have a local Museum that would provide not only a memorial but be a source of educational outreach so that all people could learn historical truths; truths that deniers would like to minimize and suppress.*

*The inclusion of the histories of other groups that have suffered intolerance make NMHM an even greater community resource.*

*I hope that you will join in support of NMHM through the Jeanette and Dr. Alexander Hammer Endowment Fund or other endowment funds to help further the Museum's mission.*  
*Rick Hammer and Family*



Rick Hammer and family provided funding for an upgraded UV protected case for Sefer Torah MST#666 on loan from Congregation B'nai Israel, Albuquerque, and The Memorial Scrolls Trust, Westminster Synagogue, London. UK.

# Seasoned educator joins museum staff to direct programs

We are pleased to welcome Carson Morris, PhD, as our first director of programs. In one short yet incredibly demanding month, she assumed duties previously handled by busy board members and overworked staff. Now helping with programs in progress and under development, she has proven her mettle by assuming responsibility for most of the communications involving a collaboration with the Jewish Community Center for Black History Month (please see bottom of page to register for free programs during February).

In addition, Carson has begun reviewing grants in progress as managing grants will become her responsibility. She is working with educators from across the state and in collaboration with the Anti-Defamation League to jump start our Stand Up! Count on Me! elementary teacher training program this month.

She is expanding the teacher database and meeting with our pop-up exhibit designer to ensure these exhibits will again be available for display in libraries and schools throughout the state.

Fluent in English and Spanish, Carson has almost completed the translations of our exhibit captions into Spanish as part of a larger process of making the museum bilingual.

Born and raised in Atlanta, Georgia, Carson is a long-time resident of Albuquerque. She has extensive experience in education, including program coordination and curriculum development in addition to more than 16 years teaching history and languages at the elementary, middle, high school, and university levels. She holds a BA in Spanish, an MA in Latin American Studies, specializing in Human Rights, and a PhD in



Comparative Gender History with a specialization in Race and Ethnicity.

Her doctoral research included significant work with a number of museums, libraries, and archives in Santiago, Chile, as well as the collection of oral histories. She is thrilled to join the museum staff and excited about continuing and extending the educational programming the museum offers.

New Mexico Holocaust Museum and JCC of Greater Albuquerque Present:

## Blacks, Jews and Jazz

An exploration of the unique ways African-Americans and American Jews have interrelated through jazz

In commemoration of Black History Month, join this interactive, on-line series from the safety of your home.

**Sunday, 2/6 - 2pm**  
Body And Soul: An American Bridge (USA, 2016; 58 mins)  
Screening period 2/3 – 2/6; Post-screening discussion on 2/6

**Sunday, 2/13 - 2pm**  
Peter Gerler: "Satchmo's Second Family: The Karnofskys"

**Sunday, 2/27 - 2pm**  
Peter Gerler: "Prohibition, Harlem Renaissance, and the Rise of Jazz"

<https://jccabq.org/meeting/blacks-jews-and-jazz/>

## Museum gift shop offering masks and more

Our cotton masks, which sell in the museum for \$13.50 (online for \$15), have pockets so you can insert a filter for an added layer of protection.

In addition, we have exclusive note cards (see page 5) and—in the museum—several books including *Auschwitz, 1940-1945*, *Blue Tattoo*, and *Where We Once Gathered: Lost Synagogues of Europe*.

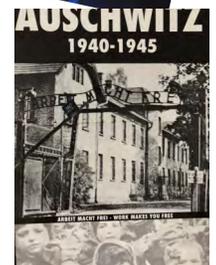
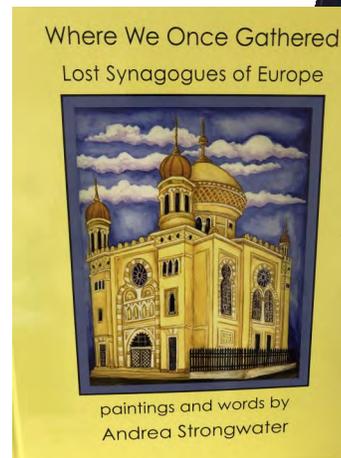
The exquisite synagogue book contains paintings and text by New York artist Andrea Strongwater. The illustrations depict places of worship that no longer exist because of the Nazis.

Auschwitz takes the reader through that camp, documenting horrors of daily existence. It's a never-to-be-forgotten time in history.

Lyn Lifshin takes a poetic approach to the Holocaust in *Blue Tattoo*, which contains more than 60 pages of her powerful and provocative writing.



Volunteer John Cornish models cotton mask.



## unspeakable truths reviewed

(continued from page 4)

countries of Chile, El Salvador, South Africa, and Guatemala. Hayner looks at these examples as well as 15 smaller, lesser-known commissions in countries such as Chad, Bolivia, and Nepal.

Unlike in the case of the

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## NMHM reaches all ages

(continued from page 1)

goal is to build cohorts of teachers who will then train teachers in their own schools and districts. The middle and high school programs for students will begin in the next academic year.

NMHM's programs are ambitious AND important. Students will learn critical thinking and creative problem solving, something missing far too often in today's society. We believe that we can make a difference and appreciate your help and support.

Nuremberg Trials, truth commissions are non-judicial. They may have the power to subpoena documents or even individuals, but they can't prosecute or imprison suspected perpetrators.

This is both a weakness and a strength. Hayner illustrates this point with the well-known example of the South African Truth and Reconciliation Committee, which offered amnesty for political crimes with the stipulation that accused individuals tell the truth about what they did. While this removed the possibility of achieving justice in a courtroom, it did have the effect of producing extremely detailed and valuable information for victims desperate for answers about their loved ones.

As Hayner shows in her detailed analysis, every step of establishing a commission is fraught with uncertainty, complications, and unexpected obstacles. Should

testimonials be given privately or publicly? What can be done to ensure the safety of those testifying? Should accused individuals be mentioned by name? What about reparations for the victims and those who lost loved ones? Everything from the location of the commissioners' office to the method of data storage can have major impacts on the outcome of a commission and must be carefully selected.

Despite these inherent challenges, countries around the world have continued to establish truth commissions in places as diverse as South Korea, Mauritius, Gambia, Canada, and the United States. As Hayner writes, there remains an "apparently fundamental and widely felt need... to know and acknowledge the truth, to 'unsilence' a long-denied past" (253). We all have a responsibility to reckon with the past; when historical abuses are silenced they will be carried into the present.