

October 22

Save the date for an evening of fun

Please join us as we honor Rita and Joe Powdrell with the New Mexico Holocaust & Intolerance Museum's 2023 Upstander Award during our seventh annual gala on October 22 at The Embassy Suites by Hilton. Tickets will go on sale mid-August.

If you like jazz, we've got Swing Magique to entertain you. If you like silent auctions, then bid on a stay at the Four Seasons Resort Rancho Encantado Santa Fe, or tickets to fly with Rainbow Ryders Hot Air Balloon Co., or a case of wine from Biddle Ranch Winery in San Luis Obispo, California. If you like to take chances, buy raffle tickets for a variety of lovely and exciting prizes.

In addition to the Powdrells, we will be joined by Stephanie Chavez, KRQE news anchor, who will emcee, and Rodney Bowe, director of UNM's Men of Color Initiative, Division for Equity and Inclusion, who will present the Upstander Award.

The Embassy Suites by Hilton is located at 1000 Woodward Place NE, Albuquerque 87102. Doors will open at 5 p.m. and the program and dinner will begin at 5:45 p.m.

The annual gala helps support the museum and its important education programs. Individual tickets are \$125. Tables for 10 are available for \$1,250.

Get your name out there

Become a sponsor; buy an ad

If you would like to sponsor the gala or place an ad in the program, check our website to learn more: <https://nmholocaustmuseum.org/2023-fundraiser/>

DID YOU KNOW?

The New Mexico Holocaust & Intolerance Museum is a destination for Road Scholars.



2023 Upstander Award recipients
Joe and Rita Powdrell

Addressing hate and intolerance

The museum uses lessons and personal stories of the Holocaust and other genocides to educate and inspire communities of upstanders. Our visitors are reminded of a powerful Elie Wiesel quote: "Always take sides. Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim. Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented."

We dream of a world in which individuals respect and stand up for the differences in others. We aspire to be agents of change by encouraging dialogue, building mutual understanding, and taking appropriate actions within our diverse communities to develop and encourage upstanders.

New Mexico Holocaust & Intolerance Museum

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Significant progress made in collections

by Camelia Caton-Garcia

This year was one in which NMHIM collections was able to make significant progress in our work to preserve and make available the unique artifacts, photographs, and documents in our care. Our stewardship ensures we can fulfill our mission to tell the personal stories of the Holocaust and other genocides. What follows is a summary of work accomplished by collections staff and volunteers from July 2022 through July 2023.

New acquisitions

- NMHIM accepted the *Dorothy Adams Greene* collection. It

includes photographs, documents, scrapbooks, and ephemera that were created and accumulated by Dorothy Adams Greene. She was a member of the Nuremberg Military Tribunal's American Army prosecution team at the IG Farben war crimes trial (case No.6, 1947-48). Dorothy Adams Greene collected and created a wide range of materials from her time with the tribunal and in post-war Europe, including personal photos of "Girls Town" where women working on the trials boarded.

- NMHIM accepted the *Peter J. Josselson* collection. The materials include correspondence between Holocaust survivors in Estonia and those hiding in France, vital documents, immigration records, and several photographs.
- Oral history of *Mia Nelson (Mindel Sauer)* was added to the NMHIM collections. Mia Nelson was a Holocaust survivor who lived as a refugee in the UK after fleeing Berlin in 1939.

Collections management

- Custom, archival box-making trainings for staff lead by volunteer Molly French.
- Nearly 30 custom made, archival boxes produced in-house to



contain our most fragile and vulnerable books.

- The Adams Greene collection, the Dr. Carl B. Bloch & Lita Heiber Blake collection, the Werner Gellert collection, the Peter J. Josselson collection, Kubié Family collection, and the Lawrence Rhee collection, as well as numerous individual artifacts, photographs, and documents were rehoused.

- 182 new catalog records created this year.
- The Hipolito "Paul" Valerio Collection digitized and cataloged.
- Collaborated with New Mexico Highlands University Special Collections to digitize large format negatives from our Concentration Camp Liberation collection.
- Established new board member collections orientation.

Accessibility

- For the first time, NMHIM was awarded a grant from the New Mexico Historical Records Advisory Board for the *New Mexico Holocaust Survivor's Preservation Digitization, and Access Project*.
- Upgraded our collections

(see Significant progress, page 4)



Molly French

Recent OSU grad joins museum staff as programs manager

by Lyn Berner

Nathan J. Johnson was drawn to this museum because of our goals relating to his interest in Holocaust education and community outreach. In addition to an advanced degree in history from Oklahoma State University, he was the Barnes Education Intern at the Dallas Holocaust and Human Rights Museum where he became a certified docent in *Ten Stages of Genocide*. It was that internship, he claims, that led him to pursue a career in museums.

“Through this internship, I was able to work directly with the education team in developing lesson plans, traveling and presenting at conferences, and hosting events for educators across Texas and Oklahoma.”

What a perfect fit for the New Mexico Holocaust & Intolerance Museum!

The job here requires managing the education, traveling exhibits, and volunteer programs, among other assignments, of course.

And so far, he has proven his mettle in an alternate area by helping to construct a stand-up desk and new metal shelving for the utility room. We haven’t discovered all of Nathan’s hidden talents, but he sure fits in fine so far.

“I have spent the last four years studying, researching, and writing on the Holocaust, specifically



Nathan J. Johnson

within the context of France and French Jewish experience.” He added that he has taken courses on the Holocaust, the Nazi era, totalitarian regimes, and the modern state. “In conjunction with my research, I also visited Dachau Concentration Camp in 2018.”

Nathan hit the ground running, even before he was officially on payroll, by attending TOLI summer institute in June. It is conducted annually by four veteran teachers who have become our education team, all volunteers (Leslie Lawner, Barb Lazar, Susan Quintana, Michelle Thompson-Loyd). The seminar, sponsored by

The Olga Lengyel Institute for Holocaust Studies and Human Rights, provides teachers with strategies, materials, and ideas they can use in their classrooms thus giving students abilities to make positive changes in their communities.

Nathan’s scholastic achievements and awards are many although one wouldn’t know it by chatting with him. He is quiet, unassuming, and thoughtful. Yet, he wrapped up a bachelor’s at Texas Tech, magna cum laude, where he had no less than five scholarships. He earned his master’s at Oklahoma State University where he successfully defended his thesis, *A Thousand Francs and a Card: The French Media Response to Jewish Repatriation from 1944 to 1948*. Fluent in French, Nathan was a graduate teaching assistant as well as an undergraduate research assistant.

We are pleased to be working with Nathan. His daily teammates in the museum are Kayla Abeyta-Lopez, volunteer coordinator; Camelia Caton-Garcia, director of collections, and Lyn Berner, director of administration. He also works closely with Sheldon Liebman, webmaster, bookkeeper and IT manager; Raye Cohen, executive director, and Regina Turner, board member.

“I am truly so pleased that Nathan has joined the museum staff. He’s action oriented, a delight to work with, and brings new ideas and solutions to our discussions.”

—Regina Turner, vice president, NMHIM board

Significant progress reviewed

(continued from page 2)

management software and launched our first online, searchable collection catalog.

- Published our first finding aids for archival collections.
- Created virtual flipbooks and interactive websites featuring collection artifacts, photographs, and documents not currently on exhibit.

Community engagement and events

- Successful UNM museum studies practicum program.
- Successful Amy Biehl High School service learning program.
- Successful partnership with Siembra Leadership High School's community service program.
- *Lita: A Survivor's Life in Images*, an event focused on the family behind the Dr. Carl B. Blake & Lita Heiber Blake collection and featuring newly digitized items from the collection.
- Road Scholars New Mexico's Conversos and Crypto-Jews education program. Over 80 visitors toured the museum and attended a "deep dive" into collections.
- Staff Camelia Caton-Garcia and Lewis Twite co-presented at Society of Southwest Archivists annual conference. This panel discussion was collaboration with Center for Creative Photography in Arizona and addressed meeting hybrid user expectations by integrating new technologies into archival practice and how dynamic digital interactives and virtual reference services can expand access to fragile or underused collections.

Speakers lining up for new series

Resistance and Resilience, the New Mexico Holocaust & Intolerance Museum's first presentation series will begin in November and run through May of 2024. The six-part series will cover such topics as the Holocaust, Native/Indigenous Genocide, Japanese American Exclusion and Incarceration, Black Enslavement, and Hispanic Institutional Discrimination. These themes address individual as well as group resistance and resilience.

Resistance can take many forms. This includes speaking out, taking a stand for what is morally right, refusing to obey, and working to protect and preserve a community. Humanitarian efforts to counter oppression is another form of resistance. Resistance can be found both within the actions of the individual and those of a larger community.

Resilience can refer to physical survival as well as the emotional and mental strength and perseverance needed to survive the destruction of family and community.

The speakers highlighting these events exemplify the concepts of resistance and resilience and will offer a variety of experiences and stories that we hope you will find insightful and inspiring.

Dates and planned topics are November 12, *Angels of Amsterdam: The Holocaust*; December 10, *Native American Resilience*; January 14, *Black History in America*; February 11, *Japanese Exclusion and Incarceration*, March 10, *Hispanic Experience in the United States*. The April-May event date is still tentative. Speakers will be announced in the coming weeks.

ADL

Center on extremism reports on "swatting"

The ADL has warned of several "swatting" incidents at synagogues across the country. Swatting is a deliberate or malicious act of reporting a false crime or emergency to evoke an aggressive response from law enforcement, sending officers to a target's home or work to harass or intimidate them. ADL continues to monitor social media platforms and is working with law enforcement to address any matters relating to extremism, hate, or bias.

- Regarding these swatting incidents, Jewish institutions should be familiar with local police 911 protocols and have a planned response.
- If law enforcement arrives at your institution, it is imperative that you follow all instructions, including opening the door and complying with directives. Remember that law enforcement does not know if there is an immediate danger at the time of response.
- ADL is here to support the community during this time and for any other matters relating to extremism, hate or bias in this region. Please report it at <https://mountainstates.adl.org/>

The Herald

Finding its way to you four times a year from staff, volunteers, and board members