

## Remembering an upstander: The legacy of Harold Folley

by Lyn Berner

The late Harold L. Folley wore many hats as a museum volunteer. In addition to covering the front desk, welcoming visitors and answering questions, he was a treasured docent, speaking to many school children who arrived by the busload on field trips. He sat on the board for a number of years and took over as president when asked to be the leader. Harold was so dedicated to the museum that I wanted to call our newsletter *The Harold*.

He delighted in telling school children that, as a boy, he shook hands with a man who, as a boy, shook hands with Abraham Lincoln. He often would follow up with, "That's my only claim to fame."

Hardly!

After 35 years as a lawyer, Harold began a new career in education, telling all he could that the subjects of intolerance and the Holocaust were issues for the entire community and every culture and ethnicity.

He wrote about his deep personal need to teach others.

"I was 10-years-old when the Allies began to liberate the camps and I still vividly recall the pictures and

*"I do not consider the subjects of intolerance or the Holocaust as exclusively Jewish concerns. They are instead issues for the whole community and every culture and ethnicity." -Harold L. Folley*



Harold L. Folley January 11, 1935 – January 11, 2024  
—volunteer, docent, board member, board chair,  
pretzel provider—

accounts I saw and read in *Colliers*, *Saturday Evening Post*, *Life*, and other weekly magazines. A trip to the movies meant newsreels of the war and the horrors that were unfolding."

He continued, "These impressions never left me, so when I learned that volunteers were needed for the special Schindler exhibit, I saw that as an opportunity to do something worthwhile."

This was in 2004, the year I met Harold, a thoughtful open-minded fella with a sense of humor and a generous nature. While he volunteered, we never were without pretzels for snacking. When my late dog Potz Berner tore her cruciate ligament and needed a *second* tibial plateau leveling osteotomy (this cost several thousand dollars at the time), Harold and his wife, Jennie Negin, paid for

half! And I am quite sure that their financial support of the museum over the years is what allowed me a weekly paycheck. And there was Jennie when Potz died. She was the second person to call with condolences.

"He really was a philanthropist," said Jennie recently. Jennie herself showed equal dedication to the museum when she recruited an all-new board and held it together in a time of dire crisis 10 years ago.

She continued reminiscing. "The museum touched in him something he didn't know he had." She reminded me of how moved he was when a little lad from Acoma Pueblo, after

## Seeds:

## The Human Cost



### New updated interactive exhibit

Photo courtesy of Ideum

## Original seed exhibit created by extraordinary volunteer

Back in the early days of the museum, the late Harold L. Folley had a vision for an impactful display using 11 million seeds to represent the lives lost at the hands of the Nazi regime. It came to fruition because of considerable time spent researching, involving experts, and his personal financial investment. Interested parties were invited to the grand opening on Sunday, November 18, 2007.

The exhibit graphically illustrated – and still does – the immensity of the Holocaust by displaying 11 million seeds representing the 11 million persons murdered in the Holocaust. The cylinder contains one seed for each human life taken, Jew and non-Jew alike.

“We focused not only on the Jewish victims, but equally on the at least 5 million others, including gypsies (the Romani), Jehovah’s Witnesses, those judged physically or mentally impaired, homosexuals, Poles, Russian prisoners of war, the intelligentsia, and others,” Harold wrote.

The grand opening was held in the museum’s original space at 415 Central Avenue NW.



Harold L. Folley unveils Seeds, November 18, 2007

## Impact of Harold L. Folley will not be forgotten

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listening to a museum “lecture,” hugged Harold or rather the legs of Harold’s six-foot frame. The boy said that the stories Harold told made him feel proud of who he was.

Former board member Barbara Resnikoff worked with Harold on a museum committee. “His input and feedback were always welcomed and appreciated,” she remembers. “He brought wisdom and experience to the table, and I never left the meetings without having acquired some new tidbits of knowledge. He will be missed.”

Harold felt that the focus of exhibits should represent all the victims of the Holocaust and so he envisioned and created the seed exhibit which, to this day, has a great impact on visitors (see related story above). Not only

Jewish persons were murdered by Hitler. Eleven million seeds encased in a tube remind us visually of lives lost in various cultures and communities including Sinti and Roma, Jehovah’s Witnesses, homosexuals, Poles and Western Russians (Ukrainians), communists and labor leaders, Russian soldiers, and those perceived as having mental or physical impediments. Harold believed our exhibits and educational efforts should reflect other examples of intolerance and genocide to include Rwanda, African Americans, Greeks and Armenians, Native Americans, and Hispanic Americans. He envisioned the statewide educational institution we are becoming.

The impact of Harold L. Folley will not be forgotten.

# History portrayed through the arts by Nathan Johnson

Learn how history is portrayed through the arts at our second speaker series starting this fall. We will include song, dance, and fine arts.

In addition to a speaker series, several independent entertaining events are in the works. Aimee Ginsburg Bikel, American-Israeli journalist and founder of the Theodore Bikel Legacy Project is on the schedule. Also we will feature Bob Garfield, writer, commentator, and host of the Bully Pulpit from Booksmart Studios, and Julie Kohner, founder and CEO of Voices of the Generations.



More than 100 people attended the *Angels of Amsterdam* program, the final event of the *Resistance and Resilience* speaker series

Our previous series, *Resistance and Resilience*, saw significant growth over the course of the four events, hosting upwards of 110 attendees by the final presentation. Topics included Japanese incarceration, the Holocaust, and New Mexico's Native American and Black histories. We showcased how local New Mexicans faced adversity and demonstrated resistance and resilience. This series served as a foundation for our upcoming events for 2024-2025.

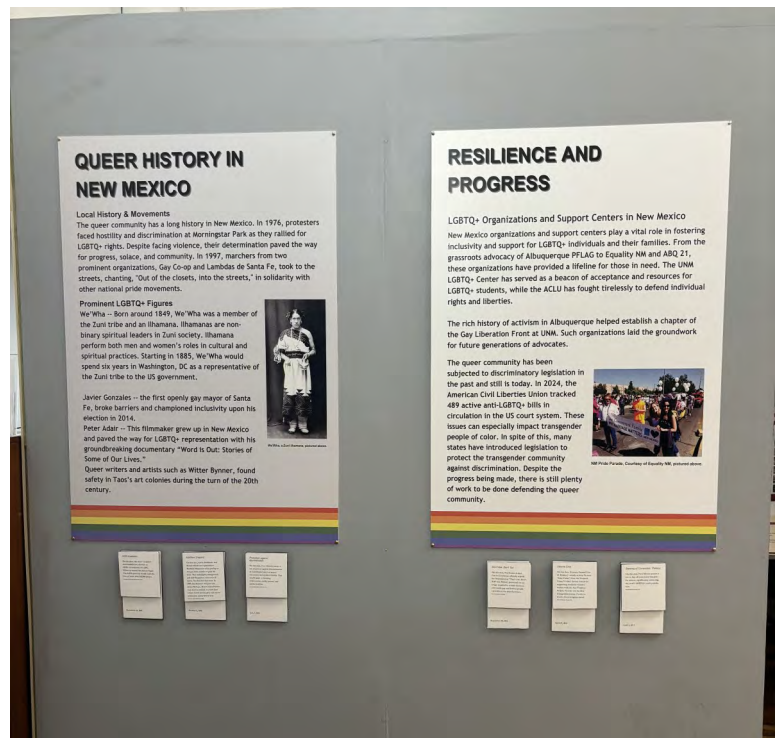
## New exhibits bring change to museum gallery

by April Parli

Visitors to our gallery have seen considerable constructive changes in the last five months. In February, *Witnessing Justice at Nuremberg: Nazi War Crimes Trials Through the Eyes of New Mexicans Dorothy Adams Greene and Lawrence Rhee* was installed as a long-term temporary display in the museum. The exhibit tells the stories of two New Mexicans, Lawrence Rhee and Dorothy Adams Greene, who worked for the prosecution during the Nuremberg Tribunals (more info on page 7).

Also, two interactive pieces were installed. One replaces the original seeds exhibit and the other enables us to showcase artifacts of *Witnessing Justice*. These allow visitors to engage with digital archival materials.

Our newest exhibit, *Burque Pride*, was created by students from La Cueva High School, and tells the stories of queer history in the US and New Mexico.



*Burque Pride* exhibit

## Current Staff

- ◆ **Executive Director**  
Raye Cohen
- ◆ **Director of Administration**  
Lyn Berner
- ◆ **Director of Collections**  
Camelia Caton-Garcia
- ◆ **Director of Programs**  
Nathan Johnson
- ◆ **Communications Manager**  
April Parli
- ◆ **Volunteer Coordinator**  
Mel Sanchez
- ◆ **Librarian**  
Sheri Karmioli
- ◆ **Bookkeeper**  
Sheldon Liebman

## Current Board

- ◆ **President**  
Regina Turner
- ◆ **Vice President**  
Joanne Walker
- ◆ **Secretary**  
Jennie L. Negin
- ◆ **Treasurer**  
Lindsay Jones
- ◆ Rodney Bowe
- ◆ Raye M. Cohen
- ◆ Margaret Hirsch
- ◆ Lane Leckman
- ◆ Gloria Taradash

## Alexander, the Great intern, completes practicum project

by April Parli

The museum enjoyed the talents of Alexander King, a recent graduate of the University of New Mexico, during his semester-long practicum on museum education. Alexander played an instrumental role in creating an LGBTQ+ exhibit with La Cueva High School students ([find more information on page 3](#)).

“We gave the students complete control over the topic of the exhibit, queer history in the US and New Mexico,” King said. “I developed workshops to be used directly in the classroom and \*Nathan and I spent time in the classroom educating students about museum practices and helping them develop ideas for the exhibit.” King also helped create lesson plans about Japanese incarceration centers during WWII.

Although his time at the museum was short, his impact was immeasurable. Thank you, Alexander!

\*Nathan Johnson, director of programs, served as Alexander’s mentor/supervisor for the practicum.



Alexander King

## How would we do it without them?

Volunteers are critical to our mission and work at the museum. We are thankful to have so many generous and dedicated volunteers. They help us work at the front desk, run the library, assist in collections, and keep the place tidy. Overall, they make an incredible impact.

Thank you for your time and work Monique Sosa, Reggie Sena, Linda Szyjko, Roberto Mancha-Garcia, Peggy Shurban, John Cornish, Basil Herrera-Jennings, Mim Burhans, Rachael Anthony, Molly French, Sheri Karmioli, and Olly Millar. May we be forgiven if we’ve missed anyone here.

# Archives *Alive!*

## NMHIM pleased about two new exceptional collections

by Camelia Caton-Garcia

We are pleased to announce the acceptance of the Peter Grotte-Higley collection, the first of two exceptional sets of personal materials now in our possession.

Peter was born in 1936 in the spa city of Teplitz (Teplice) in what is now the Czech Republic. His father, Robert, was Jewish and his mother, Adele, a Roman Catholic. His father was arrested in 1938 and sent to Terezín. He managed to escape that same year and eventually made his way to England. Adele was hounded by the Gestapo who threatened to send Peter to a concentration camp if she did not divorce the (now missing) Robert. Under duress, she petitioned for a divorce. Peter and his mother remained in Teplitz until 1944-45 when they were deported to a “collection camp.”

After the war, Peter was sent to England where he was reunited with his father. He joined the RAF and in 1959 went to Germany to work for the engineering and technology company Bosch, followed by time as a NATO interpreter. He spent 32 years working for an insurance company and traveled extensively in Europe before retiring in the US where he met and married Nancy Higley.

Peter's materials include vital documents such as birth and marriage certificates, identification cards, correspondence, family documents, documents that relate to his attempts to recover his family's stolen assets, and legal documents. They give an extraordinary glimpse into how one particular family was torn apart by Nazi antisemitic marriage laws.

A special thank you goes to Jen Dennis of Jewish Care Projects who facilitated this donation.

We were also thrilled to accept materials from the Irving & Hedy Auerbach estate. Hedy was a Holocaust survivor.

Born on February 22, 1927, in Frankfurt, Germany, Hedy and her family, including her twin brother, were forced to flee during the rise of Nazism. They went first to

Belgium and then, after occupation, to southern France. The family was betrayed in France and Hedy's father was sent to his death in Auschwitz. Hedy's mother managed to save herself and her children by using false papers and hidden identities.

The materials include many documents related to Hedy's life as well as her memoirs, documents related to the Claims Conference, photographs (including images of her family in Germany), and photograph albums.

We owe a special thanks to Larry Golden, who has been administrator of the Auerbach estate and trust since their decease. He facilitated the donation to the museum.

We look forward to sharing more about both the collections and the history of these survivors as staff and volunteers process the materials.

Do you have something to share? Please email me at [ccaton-garcia@nmhim.org](mailto:ccaton-garcia@nmhim.org) or phone (505) 247-0606.



German identification for Adele Pullem (Grotte). After being forced to divorce her husband, she also was told he had died traveling from England to America. She remarried and only later learned that he had survived and was living in England.

*The Herald*

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

# NMHIM always welcomes new faces to ever-expanding team



Roberto Mancha-Garcia

## Roberto Mancha-Garcia joins forces with volunteer brigade

Roberto Mancha-Garcia became our newest volunteer in June. He holds a bachelor's in history from the University of New Mexico. An amateur, yet talented magician, he enjoys reading and painting miniatures. A former intelligence analyst in the National Guard, Roberto speaks conversational Spanish and Portuguese.

Already an incredible asset to us, Roberto expressed his reason for volunteering. "I feel that empathy is the antidote to bigotry, and that your museum does an admirable job in its noble fight against hatred via education."

## Local upstander becomes member of the board

Rodney Bowe is the newest member of our board of directors.

His impressive background includes working as a senior student programs specialist for equity and inclusion on the university level.

He also is deeply involved in many community organizations including the American Civil Liberties Union New Mexico, Diversity Council Committee at the University of New Mexico, and the New Mexico Hall of Fame Awards Selection Committee. He is a true upstander and will be an asset to furthering our mission and vision.

We anticipate his positive impact.



Rodney Bowe



April Parli

## Fun-loving communicator enhances museum's community presence

While the museum's mission is a serious matter, it doesn't hurt to have one more staff person with a sense of humor. Two days after being named communications manager, April Parli was asked what would her dream job actually be.

"Oh, I think maybe I'd like to be a traveling cat blogger."

Whatever that might be, right now she is here taking care of marketing, communications, and social media, playing a critical role in increasing the public awareness and relevancy of this museum.

April moved to Albuquerque in February armed with a bachelor's degree in strategic communications from Oklahoma State University.

"I like Albuquerque," she claimed recently, "although please remember that I left from a town of 40,000 to one with well over 500,000. There's a bit of a

(see Community presence enhanced, page 7)

# Visitors offered hands-on learning experience

by Camelia Caton-Garcia

*Witnessing Justice at Nuremberg: Nazi War Crimes Trials Through the Eyes of New Mexicans Dorothy Adams Greene and Lawrence Rhee* examines the quest for justice at Nuremberg through the Dorothy Adams Greene Collection and the Lawrence L. Rhee Collection, both part of NMHIM's permanent holdings.

Adams Greene and Rhee worked as part of the American teams prosecuting crimes against humanity following the end of WWII. Rhee worked as Head of Photographic Evidence for the Allied Prosecution at the first International Military Tribunal trial of Nazi leadership and Adams Greene as a clerk stenographer and confidential secretary at the Subsequent Nuremberg Trials, specifically the trial of chemical giant I.G. Farben, also known as the "industrialists trial."

Through original documents, photographs, and artifacts, *Witnessing Justice* examines the challenges and importance of the Nuremberg trials and the international community's response to Nazi crimes against humanity. NMHIM has also engaged Corrales-based digital exhibit developer [IDEUM](#) to bring a dynamic new dimension to our exhibit. Now, visitors can dive into the stories of Nuremberg through the interactive digital scrapbooks and photo albums of those who took part.

Guided by personal narratives, visitors can explore themes of global justice, corporate responsibility, and the consequences of atrocities. It will also give insight into the experience of prosecuting war crimes from the perspective of members of the legal team.



*Witnessing Justice* exhibit  
Photo courtesy of Ideum

## Community presence enhanced by new staff member

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difference between the two states. New Mexico has Earthships and aliens," she said with a smile and a twinkle.

In addition to her academics, April trained for this job when she was a communications assistant for the city of Stillwater for almost two years. In

that position, she managed social media accounts, designed digital and printed graphics, and organized and recorded the city council's meetings.

Like many other college students, April gained valuable experience in the food industry at Mexico Joe's and McAlister's Deli

which she uses to make declarations about local restaurants. So far, she's given a thumbs up to Sadie's, Sal's, and The Range Café.

When she is not on the job making us look good, she might be found hiking in the Sandias or working out at the gym.

# Mark your calendar!

Tickets for the 2024 gala are \$135 per person and will be available in late July. If you are interested in advertising in our event program or sponsoring the gala, go to: [nmholocaustmuseum.org/2024-gala/](https://nmholocaustmuseum.org/2024-gala/).

A vertical poster with a yellow background and a border of autumn leaves. The text is centered and reads: "SAVE THE DATE!" in large, serif font. Below it, "Saturday, September 21, 2024" and "at the Embassy Suites by Hilton" are in a smaller serif font. The logo "NIMHIM" is in large, bold, black letters with a gold ampersand, and "New Mexico Holocaust & Intolerance Museum" is in a smaller, black, sans-serif font below it. The main event title "EIGHTH ANNUAL FALL FUNDRAISING GALA" is in large, serif font. At the bottom, "TO SUPPORT THE MUSEUM AND ITS EDUCATION PROGRAMS" is in a smaller, serif font. There are several small, colorful autumn leaves scattered around the text.

SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday, September 21, 2024  
at the Embassy Suites by Hilton

**NIMHIM**  
New Mexico Holocaust & Intolerance Museum

EIGHTH ANNUAL FALL  
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TO SUPPORT THE MUSEUM  
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