



Founders of Kurt's Camera Corral featured at first fundraiser

The journeys from Vienna to Albuquerque of Kurt and Edith Kubié were explored April 26 by Camelia Caton-Garcia, collections manager, during the first of seven fundraisers in the museum (see Archives Alive on page 2 for more of the fascinating Kubié story).

The board of directors, led by president Regina Turner, adopted the fundraiser idea in order to create smaller, more intimate gatherings as opposed to the usual giant fundraising gala. It works! Attended by about two dozen folks, the event that day raised much needed funds for the museum.

Longtime museum supporter Brian Colón, former New Mexico state auditor and managing partner of Singleton Schreiber law firm, spoke about the importance of the museum in these chaotic times.

“History is fragile; our country is fragile. The work done here,” he added, “is more important than ever. This museum does more with less than any other organization in New Mexico!”

Thank you, Brian!

Are you interested in future fundraisers? Sign up early to attend. All are at 2 p.m. in the museum, 616 Central Avenue SW. Appetizers are provided by generous local restaurants. Dates and topics follow.

- ◆ May 31, Personal Stories of Liberators
- ◆ June 28, Czech Torah Survives plus Dr. Richard Hammer to be honored as Upstander of the Year

In case you missed this



This digital billboard on I-25 northbound just past Lomas in central Albuquerque served as a reminder to all that genocides, sadly, continue to occur in the world today. A very visible message, it ran for 10 to 15 seconds every minute, 24/7, for three months ending April 28.

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- ◆ July 26, The African American Experience
 - ◆ September 27, Echoes from Nuremberg
 - ◆ October 18, High School Students Create Museum Exhibits
 - ◆ November 22, Archives Alive! Stories from the Past

Seating is limited and you must register online at nmhim.org/fundraiser-rsvp/

Archives *Alive!*

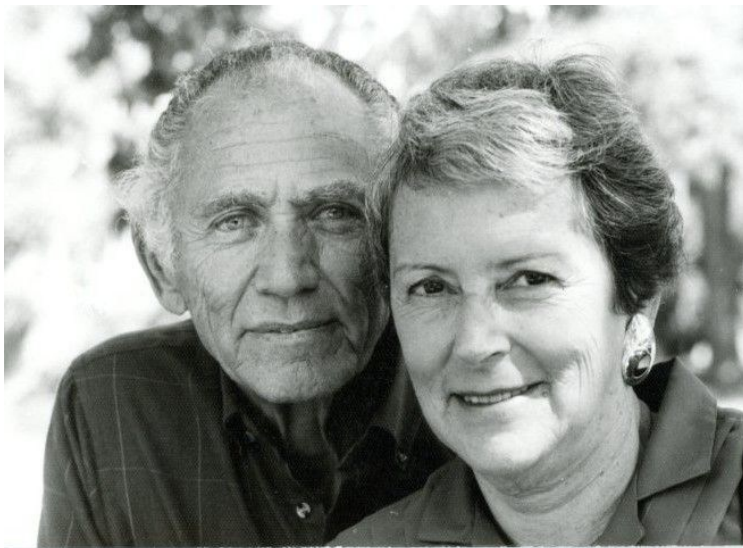
Reflecting on iconic Route 66 family business

by Camelia Caton-Garcia

Albuquerque reflects on 100 years of the “mother road,” Route 66, this year and our museum is part of that history in several ways. Not only is NMHIM located on the historic highway in downtown Albuquerque, but we are also the caretakers of a collection related to one of the corridor’s most iconic sites: Kurt’s Camera Corral.

Although many in the community will recognize the Kubié name and associate it with years of camera and film expertise, community support, and philanthropy, the founders of the business, Kurt and Edith, were also Holocaust survivors.

Their story began in Vienna, Austria. Kurt and Edith (née Mayer) both were raised by their Jewish families in the cosmopolitan city and both had family members in the camera and film business. The materials that form the Kubié Family Collection include artifacts, documents, photographs, and ephemera created and



Kurt and Edith Kubié in the 1990s.



Erna, Kurt’s sister, and her children. Erna saved her Hugo & Rudi through the Kindertransport program. She was murdered in 1942.

accumulated by both their families. A highlight of the collection is the Kubié Family Album. This album contains hundreds of photographs from the 19th century through the 1990s. The album paints a many-layered picture of Austrian Jewish

life before Nazi occupation, as well as including ephemera—such as passports and immigration papers—that chronicle the escape of many family members. Sadly, not all relatives survived and the album also speaks powerfully of those, like Kurt’s sister Erna, who were murdered by ruthless Nazi antisemitic and racist policies.

Importantly, the album continues the family’s story beyond the horrors of the Holocaust as well. Kurt had an American sponsor he met through the Boy Scouts and Edith was issued a domestic worker’s visa to England. They reunited in Chicago and were married in 1939. Kurt had continued to hone his skills at Bass Photo in Illinois and was chosen to help

scout out a Western location for a new store. This trip brought him to the Southwest for the first time. In 1950, the couple and their two children took a “gamble” and opened Kurt’s Camera Corral on Nob Hill. The shop would remain a fixture of

(see Kubié family collection reviewed, next page)

Volunteers form backbone of the museum

On any given day, Peggy Shurban can be in the Silvian Library putting covers on new books or upstairs greeting visitors at the front door.

When John Cornish leaves the front desk, it's because he's heading around the corner to retrieve museum mail at its post office box.

Linda Hill welcomes everyone with a warm smile and genuine interest. Melissa Loudat is a familiar helping hand at many museum events.

High school students Rayna Greenberg and John Carney spend their Sunday afternoons with us each week.

Whether sweeping the entryway, folding *Genocide in History* brochures, rearranging the gift shop merchandise, lugging delivered packages back to the office, building preservation boxes for precious collections, or entering data, our volunteers keep us up, running and moving forward.

If you know anyone on these lists, please salute them for being the upstanders that they are.

Mim Burhans
John Carney
John Cornish
Gabriel Denman
Molly French



Museum staffers Lewis Twite, left, and Alexander King recruit volunteers on April 30 at a city-sponsored event in the Albuquerque Museum.

Rayna Greenberg
Basil Herrera-Jennings
Linda Hill
Andy Holten
Melissa Loudat
Olly Millar
Mike Osborn
Lisa Parlato
Carol Peters
Brenda Rabinowitz
Jennifer Schouman
Peggy Shurban
Jackie Wald

“From the first step I took in the museum to my last board meeting, I experienced 11 years of my best volunteer time ever.”

Jennie L. Negin
Museum board, 2014-2025
Budget consultant, 2026

Board keeps NMHIM afloat

President: Regina Turner
Vice President: Margaret Hirsch
Secretary: Gloria Taradash
Treasurer: Sheri Karmioli
Lori Addison
Martina Gutierrez
Leslie Lawner
Julie Ornelas

Kubié family collection reviewed

the Route 66 landscape for the next six decades.

There is much more to learn about the Kubié family story and the rich history represented in the collections. We encourage you to [explore more through our digital collection here](#).

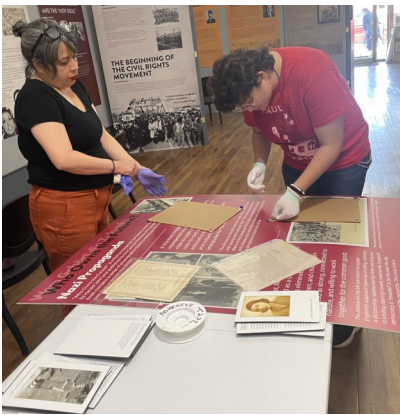
We extend an enormous thank you to their son, Jim, and the entire Kubié family for gifting us this extraordinary collection.

Have something to share? Email us at nmhim-collections@nmhim.org.

Archival revival

UNM Honors College students collaborate on exhibit

During UNM's spring semester, Camelia Caton-Garcia and Lewis Twite worked with Naomi Yavneh Kloss, dean of the Honors College, to teach a class on exhibit design. Students curated, researched, and designed an exhibit based on items in both the museum's collections and Naomi's personal collection.



Collections manager Camelia Caton-Garcia and honors student Kathia Olivas prepare acrylic wall mount for exhibit installation.

Evidence of Life: Revived Through the Archives examines personal stories and experiences of people who lived through the Holocaust. The students were interested in exploring the ways that personal identity and the choices people made were influenced by the forced control of the Nazi regime. Some of the unique documents and objects chosen for the exhibit include a menu from the Jewish refugee ship the *St. Louis*, a letter written by Albert Einstein, a cigarette case dropped over occupied Amsterdam, and a Nazi propaganda pamphlet comparing Germany and Britain.

The museum was pleased to first display the exhibit

at Congregation Albert's annual Yom HaShoah commemoration on April 13. Then, on May 9, *Evidence of Life* was officially installed in the museum. A small reception was held for friends, family, board members, and volunteers. *Evidence of Life* is scheduled to remain up through the summer, so please visit soon.



From left, Adam Shelburn, Corbin Vansoyoc, Dean Naomi Yavneh Kloss, Emelia Howe, and Kathia Olivas—all UNM Honors College participants—stand in front of their exhibit with Holocaust survivor and museum speaker Andy Holten.

Sad stories of removal

High schoolers explore trauma endured by indigenous peoples

A class at the Technology Leadership High School, a charter school in Albuquerque, is in training. Led by NMHIM education coordinator Alexander King, they have worked their way through the creation of a museum-worthy exhibit to be installed May 26.

The students have chosen to highlight two stories of removal: the displacement of Cherokee, Seminole, Muscogee, Chickasaw, and Choctaw

peoples from their ancestral territories to what would become Oklahoma (the Trail of Tears) and the removal and internment of Diné (Navajo) and Ndé (Mescalero Apache) peoples at Bosque Redondo (the Long Walk) here in New Mexico. Both are considered examples of the ethnic cleansing of indigenous people.

The process for this exhibit design course is comprehensive.

First students explore the history

of the Holocaust and local histories to recognize historical patterns and develop skills in inquiry.

Educators guide students through the entire process from researching and analyzing texts to editing, design, interpretation, and installation all while building literacy skills, museum skills, and inquiry skills.

Bringing relevancy to the past, we then work with students to create and install high quality exhibits on their combined research.