

NEW MEXICO JEWISH HISTORIC SOCIETY ANNUAL CONFERENCE

NOVEMBER 15-16 2014

THE JEWS OF ALBUQUERQUE: BUILDING BUSINESSES AND A COMMUNITY

The annual conference of the New Mexico Jewish Historic Society will take place on Saturday and Sunday, November 15 and 16, at the Jewish Community Center in Albuquerque. The conference, beginning after lunch on Saturday, November 16, will feature discussion of “The Jews of Albuquerque: Building Businesses and a Community”, and will emphasize those merchant families who came to Albuquerque and environs between 1930 and 1950, starting businesses and building a Jewish community.

The conference will begin with a speaker, Harvey Buchalter, who will discuss, “Why Albuquerque?”, questioning why Jews from the East or West Coast or Europe would even consider a city like Albuquerque, at that time considered to be in the “middle of nowhere.” It will continue with a panel of descendants of those original merchant families, who will talk about their family businesses and reminisce about growing up in Albuquerque. Considering that so many merchants dealt with Indian craftsmen and women, having started businesses dealing in Indian arts, there will then be a panel of descendants of those merchants who will discuss how their parents developed relationships with native Americans which continued for many years.

Following the second panel there will be a cocktail reception and silent auction followed by dinner and entertainment.

Sunday will open with a brunch and a film of Jewish merchant settlement in the West, followed by a “wrap-up” of the conference. Attendees will then move “downtown” for a walking tour, where original and still operating Jewish businesses got their start. The walking

tour and the will end at the Holocaust Museum on Central Avenue, where snacks will be served and there will be a discussion of Jews who came from Europe to Albuquerque during Hitler's advance in Europe because of family ties.

Reservations may be made at the Hilton Inn, on San Antonio NE, for out-of-towners who wish to attend for the weekend.