



University of New Mexico students showed slides and talked to J505 convention attendees about their recent trip to Israel. Photo courtesy of the Jewish Community Center

N.M. Teens Takeover the JCC

By **Stephanie Spinks**
The New Mexico Jewish Link

The JCC was bustling on Sunday, Feb. 19, and Monday, Feb. 20, when it was taken over by 42 teens attending the second annual J505 Teen Convention. Los Alamos, Las Cruces, Santa Fe, and Albuquerque youth participated.

The youths enjoyed a scavenger hunt in Old Town Albuquerque, spent time with seniors at Shalom House, shared meals together, had sports time in the gym, watched late night movies, collaborated on a New Mexico Jewish-themed art project and slept overnight at the JCC.

“I would recommend this convention for any Jewish teen who wants to have some fun. There is a real sense of community and friendship,” said Hannah Kesner of Albuquerque.

“The convention was really cool and fun. It was really great to meet other Jewish kids. I had no idea that there was any kind of Jewish community in Albuquerque,” exclaimed Mariam Hale of Santa Fe.

“It was fun to hang out with the Jewish teens from around the state because I always just hang out with kids from my own temple and I have never met a lot of these teens before,” said Albuquerquean Sarah Mindlin.

The idea of having a teen convention was spawned in December 2003 at a conference in Santa Fe for Jewish religious and lay leaders from all over New Mexico. The conference was convened by Jewish Family Service. The attendees at the conference were so energized and motivated that they determined to create a “grass-roots” organization to shorten the miles between Jewish communities. They named it J505.

At the conference, attendees agreed that the most important thing to accomplish was the creation of statewide youth programming and a committee was formed to promote this goal.

The mission statement of Jewish 505 is “to enrich Jewish life for all Jews in New Mexico by creating a statewide unified network that links resources, conducts programs, and establishes and maintains effective communication throughout NM.” It receives support from the Jewish Federation of Greater Albuquerque and Jewish Family Service of New Mexico.

To contact J505, call the JFGA office, 821-3214 or go to <http://j505.net/>.

The Ronald Gardenswartz Jewish Community Center has assumed the responsibility of sponsoring an annual convention for teens carrying out the original goal of the first meeting of J505. In two years, the convention has become a very popular event with New Mexico’s youth.

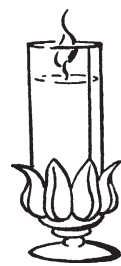
Synagogues and other Jewish groups from around the State helped with the programming for this year’s convention.

The Jewish Community Endowment Fund of New Mexico contributed two partial scholarships for teens to attend this year.

“This year’s teen convention exceeded our expectations with such a large number participating from around the state. One indicator of the event’s success is the development of a group of teens who will be a part of the planning committee for the 2007 convention,” said Judith Stauber, J505 Teen Convention Coordinator.

“It was a great weekend to be with other Jewish people. Now when I go to other cities I can call up some new found friends and be with Jewish people,” said Gabriel Zambello of Albuquerque.

For information about next year’s J505 convention or other activities for teens at the JCC, contact Judith Stauber, 348-4451.



Yom HaShoah

Day of Remembrance

Memorial Service

Sunday, April 23, 1:30 p.m.

Congregation Albert

3800 Louisiana Blvd. NE

- Honoring
the late Nazi Hunter
Simon Wiesenthal
- Traditional memorial service
 - Dramatic readings from Wiesenthal’s memoirs
 - Musical performance by members of the New Mexico Symphony Orchestra



Simon Wiesenthal

Open to the community, free of charge
Presented by The New Mexico Holocaust and
Intolerance Museum & Study Center
For further information, call 883-1818

*Suddenly our friend died
We saw their struggle
Our need became clear
The decision was easy
We did it for us
We did it for our family
But most importantly
We did it
-Joe, Albuquerque*

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Bromberg of Congregation B’nai Israel.

Garcia’s visit is part of a larger outreach to the New Mexico Crypto-Jewish population being developed by Congregation B’nai Israel.

Bromberg was the co-creator of the style of service using Hebrew, Spanish, English and Ladino with Rabbi Stephen Leon at her former congregation, B’nai Zion of El Paso, Texas.

“The service is designed to provide an opportunity for people within the Hispano community of Albuquerque to learn more about Judaism in a welcoming environment,” explained Bromberg. “Bilingual Torah study and Jewish ritual observance classes and workshops are envisioned so that

descendants of New Mexico’s Crypto-Jews might explore how they could integrate their Jewish heritage into their lives.”

Shabbat Services will be at 8 p.m. Friday, April 28 and 9 a.m. Saturday, April 29.

For information, call 266-0155.



Save the Date!

Sunday, May 7, 2006

5:30-9:00 PM

Jewish Family Service

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“Making Magic at the Kasbah”

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The deadline for the May Link is April 10.