

**“NEW MEXICO JEWISH PHYSICIANS IN THE INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE:
1960 – 1980
WHAT WE KNOW SO FAR”**

Dr. Noel Pugach and Harvey Buchalter

NMJHS received a CARES Act grant from the New Mexico Humanities Council to undertake six oral interviews of Jewish physicians and health care professionals who ventured to New Mexico to serve either on Indian Reservations or Indian Health Service Health Clinics located in locations such as Gallup or Albuquerque.

During this twenty- year period and beyond, talented professionals found their way to New Mexico. For many, New Mexico was an exotic place on the map, to assist underserved and fulfill the Jewish commitment, tikkun olam. Among many experiences to be explored between interviewer and interviewee include the meeting and adjustments between different cultures to serve a greater common goal. Their experiences and stories will illuminate a part of contemporary New Mexico Jewish history heretofore not documented.

Bios:

Noel H. Pugach is currently Professor Emeritus of History at the University of New Mexico, where he has taught since 1968. He was raised in New York City and did his undergraduate work at Brooklyn College. He later received his M. A. and Ph. D. in history from the University of Wisconsin. Professor Pugach specializes in United States Foreign Relations, with a special interest in United States relations with China. He has published Paul S. Reinsch: Open Door Diplomat in Action, a study of the American minister to China during the Wilson era and "Same Bed, Different Dreams": A History of the Chinese American Bank of Commerce. Dr. Pugach is also the author of numerous articles and book reviews dealing with American diplomatic and business activity in East Asia.

Harvey Buchalter- As a long-time member of the New Mexico Jewish Historical Society Harvey has actively researched the family commercial history of prominent Jewish families, including the life stories of Simon Goldman (Simon’s Western Wear), Lionel Specter (Zeon Signs), Charley Kahn (Kahn Cattle Company), and Leba Freed (The Freed Company). After conducting extensive interviews, he published his work in “Legacy” the quarterly of the NMJHS. He has also given talks to the Western Trails Association and the New Mexico Historical Society on topics relating to Jew immigration and settlement in rural NM.

As the designated historian of Congregation B’nai Israel, he has published the congregation’s history from its founding to 1990 in “The Jewish Legacy in New Mexico History” and is currently editing a compilation of family histories to be published as part of the congregation’s Centennial in 2020.