

**The Making of:  
A Long Journey: The Hidden Jews of the Southwest  
Panel Discussion Sunday October 25, 2:00PM  
Presenters: Paula Amar Schwartz, Producer  
Isaac Artenstein, Director**

*A Long Journey: The Hidden Jews of the Southwest*, is a one-hour documentary that brings to life the fascinating stories of contemporary individuals whose secret was their hidden Jewish roots while living an outwardly Catholic life. Their four hundred-year journey started with expulsion from Spain, continuing through Mexico with persecution by the Inquisition, finally settling in the American Southwest. The physical journeys of these secret Jews – Conversos – ended in colonial times, but their internal journeys continue to this day.

**Registrants for the New Mexico Jewish Historical Society's Fall Conference will be given vimeo access to a Preview showing of the completed film, *A Long Journey : The Hidden Jews of the Southwest* (Premiering on KNME-NMPBS November 19th, 7PM)**

**To see the trailer, go to [www.challahrising.com](http://www.challahrising.com).**

**Moderator:**

**Ron Duncan Hart** is the author of the documentary's companion book, *Crypto-Jews: The Long Journey*. He provides valuable context when he takes us on his field research to historical sites along the Rio Grande, following Juan de Oñate's expedition. Dr. Hart also talks about his collaborative work with historia Sara Koplik, Director of the Sephardic Certification Program in Albuquerque that helps descendants of *Converso* families authenticate their research so they can claim Spanish citizenship offered by the government of that country.

**Panelists**

- **Rabbi Stephen** Leon of Congregation B'Nai Zion of El Paso is the author of *The Third Commandment and the Return of the Anusim*, in which he chronicles his work for over 30 years helping borderland residents identify their Jewish Sephardic roots. We journey with Rabbi Leon across the border to Ciudad Juarez, where he meets with and instructs residents of that border city seeking a return to Judaism.
- **Blanca Carrasco**, from El Paso, TX, conducted her family research resulting in a genealogical book that demonstrated that her biological father, Israel Garza Salinas, was a direct descendant of pioneering *Converso* families that helped settle the city of Monterrey, Mexico. She's moved by deep emotion when she reflects on the suffering and torture endured by her family at the hands of the Spanish Inquisition.
- **Bill Carvajal**, the President of the Anusim Center in El Paso, Texas. (*Anusim* refers to those who were forced to abandon Judaism against their will.) Carvajal recalls how his grandfather told him as a child that "it wasn't very popular or very safe to reveal a Jewish heritage.

- **Tim Herrera** is shown herding cattle at his ranch in northern New Mexico, where he shares family research that led to his discovery of a hidden *Sephardic* (Spanish-Jewish) ancestry. We accompany Tim to the La Jara, NM Catholic cemetery on a visit with a cousin who discusses the meaning of the small rocks placed on top of the gravesites of relatives (an ancient Jewish custom).
- **Charlie Carrillo** is a nationally recognized devotional artist (*Santero*) specializing in carved Catholic Saints and painted wooden *retablos*. While working on his PhD in Anthropology he discovered his Jewish roots and embarked on a journey of self-discovery that led to the incorporation of Jewish themes and iconography in his creative work, which he demonstrates in his studio at the family home in Abiquiu, New Mexico. His spirituality is expressed as a practicing Catholic, while incorporating ancient Jewish themes in his art work.
- **Marcia Fine**, has written eight novels, including *HIDDEN ONES--A Veil of Memories* that examines *conversos* in Mexico and the Southwest Territories during the Inquisition. As an avid researcher and story teller, Fine's novel focuses on a family's journey into the unknown. A winner of four First Prizes in Historical Fiction.