



Holocaust & Intolerance  
Museum of New Mexico

# The Herald

SUMMER 2017

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*Eliminating  
hate and  
intolerance,  
one mind  
at a time.*

President's message

## Good news-good news: it's ALL good news!

by Jennie L. Negin

We're all familiar with the "good news-bad news" idiom, but I'd like to add to the vernacular a new idiom: "good news-good news."

I recently spent three weeks in Spain and Portugal with my daughter. We had a charmed time. That's the "Good News!" Although the museum was often in my thoughts--especially with the events in Charlottesville and Barcelona--I left the meetings, decisions, and actions to the board, staff, and volunteers.

Imagine my delight and great pride when I checked in on my return and found that all was running smoothly. The invitations for our fundraiser *To Life!* were printed and ready for mailing. Also the plans for the opening of our newest exhibit, the African American Experience, were in high gear. More "Good News!"

Last year's *To Life!* was so much fun--not formal like so many fundraisers. The 45's Classic Oldies Band is returning to keep the tempo upbeat, as usual. Our goal this year is to have the same amount of fun while raising dollars as well as awareness of the HIMNM and its programs. Instead of a silent auction, we are having a big-ticket raffle. All prizes are worth at least \$400 with a grand prize of \$500 cash!

### Take a look at the raffle prizes:

\$500 Cash

Buffalo Thunder Resort & Casino – One Night Stay & Two Rounds of Golf and Remedy Day Spa "The Fix" Package (total value \$530)

Mark Diamond's Jewelers – Jorge Revilla Pendant "Casaca" (value \$550)

Total Wine & More – Private Wine Class (value \$400)

Betty's Bath & Day Spa – "Suite Escape" Package and Canvas Salon – color, cut, products (total value \$430)

Due to the generosity of sponsors, we have a head start on reaching our goal. Please be sure to thank them at the event:

TAS – the Security Store

Helen Grevey & Jay Hertz

Aquasense, Home and Office Water Solutions

Mary V. Pratt, M.D.

Jennie L. Negin & Harold L. Folley

Linney Wix

Lois & Tom Ruby

Juanita Garcia & Jordan Kosberg

Hope to see you all on October 22nd. Check out the party flyer on page 3 and the African American Experience on page 5.



Jennie L. Negin

In the Silvan Library & Study Center

## **Africa:**

### ***The Holocausts of Rwanda and Sudan***

In 1994, internationally known author and photographer Lucian Niemeyer began a series of journeys to Africa to document and expose atrocities being committed there. Niemeyer traveled to the Rwandan refugee camps in Zaire a few months after the terrible Hutu-on-Tutsi genocide. Subsequent trips to the Sudan were made to document slavery, the oil field genocide, and the Nuba Mountain epoch.

Four main types of holocausts are presented in these stories: tribe-on-tribe genocide ("Rwandan Refugees"), slavery ("The Sudan Slave Story"), religious Jihad genocide ("Sudan Oil Field Genocide"), and ethnic cleansing ("Nuba Mountains, Sudan"). Over 180 color photographs document these atrocities.

*A survivor speaks out*

### **Embroidery depicts memories**

*Through the Eye of the Needle* is a moving 30-minute documentary about Esther Nisenthal Krintz, a Holocaust survivor who, as a teenager in Poland, hid in plain sight with her younger sister after seeing her family marched away never to be seen again. Esther tells her story of childhood memories through a series of 36 beautifully crafted colorful embroidered fabric panels.

<https://www.facebook.com/artandremembrance/videos/1528585777159658/>

## ***The Herald***

Is created four times a year by staff and volunteers.

### **Editors**

Lyn Berner  
Marcia Rosenstein

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## Our apologies

An editor's typo in our last newsletter made the late Aron Straser 10 years younger than he was. The Holocaust survivor was born in 1925, not 1935.

And so we repeat our tribute with apologies to his loved ones.

—LB

## My Lost Youth

*by Aron Straser*

*October 2, 1925 – May 3, 2017*

Between my childhood and maturity  
There a void still exists.

Something haunts me and questions  
And disturbs my peace.

And I miss you, my youth,

Due to circumstances denied.

Please return, to quiet my longing

Every day - Every night

Fancy free, like a bird

Like a beautiful dream

You promise happiness to everyone.

Somehow me, you overlooked.

I miss you mostly now

Not in adversity, but in peace

Cause age has diminished

The remaining flame

And I know, it's lost forever

But it hurts regretfully.

I feel I have been shortchanged

Happiness denied

My yesterdays cut short

Sunshine obscured

I will always yearn for you

My jewel, my youth.

*Originally written in Yiddish and translated by the poet who was born near Vilna and was in the Vilna ghetto.*



Holocaust & Intolerance  
Museum of New Mexico

**Invites You**



**2nd Annual Fundraiser**

**Sunday · October 22 · 2017 · 6 to 9 p.m.**

**Social Hall in Congregation B'nai Israel**

**4401 Indian School Road NE · Albuquerque NM 87110**

**Live music by**  
**The 45's Classic**  
**Oldies Band**

**R/S.V.P by October 14**

**247-0606**

Tickets \$30

Raffle Tickets \$5 for one/\$20 for five

Donations welcome

- **Casual dress** ·
- **Fun · Food · Libations** ·
- **Dance** ·
- **Big ticket Raffle** ·



Contact or visit the museum by October 14 with payment information to reserve your seat (tickets, \$30) or to purchase raffle tickets (\$5 each or five for \$20)..

Holocaust & Intolerance Museum of New Mexico  
616 Central Avenue SW, Albuquerque 87102  
505.247.0606 [www.nmholocaustmuseum.org](http://www.nmholocaustmuseum.org)

## Historian researches new exhibit: *The African American Experience*

The first phase of our amazing new exhibit, *The African American Experience*, officially opened in September. Researched and written by Daniel Taradash and designed by Meredith Chapman, it describes a shameful period in America's history from the capture and enslavement of Africans to the Civil War and its aftermath.

Aware of the museum – having driven by on a number of occasions – Daniel one day stopped in and began a serious dialogue with Harold Folley, longtime museum volunteer and civil rights advocate.

It was not difficult for Harold to entice Daniel into the fold.

"I had finished my Ph.D. in 2015 and was having serious trouble finding a job. I wasn't doing much with my time that was worthwhile (to put it mildly, I was severely burned out from 11plus years of grad school), so I started volunteering.

"When Harold and I talked more about the need for a new

timeline for the first part of the exhibit and we went to work."

Born in Gallup, New Mexico, Daniel's parents moved with him and his brothers and sister, Samuel, Michael, and Kim to Albuquerque when he was three. A graduate of La Cueva High School (1998), he earned a bachelor's in history (2003) and a master's in history (2006) with an emphasis on the U.S. West. Both degrees are from the University of New Mexico.

He added, "Then I received my doctorate from the University of Iowa in 2015 in American Studies with an emphasis on Sport and Cultural Studies."

When asked if he learned anything new from his research for the museum, he responded in depth: "I would say the biggest thing that I came away with was an appreciation for the mindset of Americans in the 18th and 19th centuries. To be clear, there were a number of things I understood or already knew about before I started doing this. I knew

blacks in Africa worked with white slavers to profit from the sale of other Africans; I knew that slaves who rebelled could expect to be mutilated or murdered; I knew that slave owners and supporters of the institution engaged in a level of rationalization and mental

gymnastics re: why it was ok to own other people and profit from it that can only be described as horribly awe inspiring, and I knew that there were black slave owners in America.



Daniel Taradash, Ph.D.

"After reading a fair amount of primary sources," said Daniel, whose favorite book is *A People's History of the United States* by Howard Zinn, "what I was most affected by was their acceptance of this institution as something that was natural, just, and central to our shared American character.

"The two most horrifying sentiments were from Supreme Court Justice Roger Taney, who said in his ruling on the Dred Scott case that black people had no rights that a white man was bound to respect. The other was from a

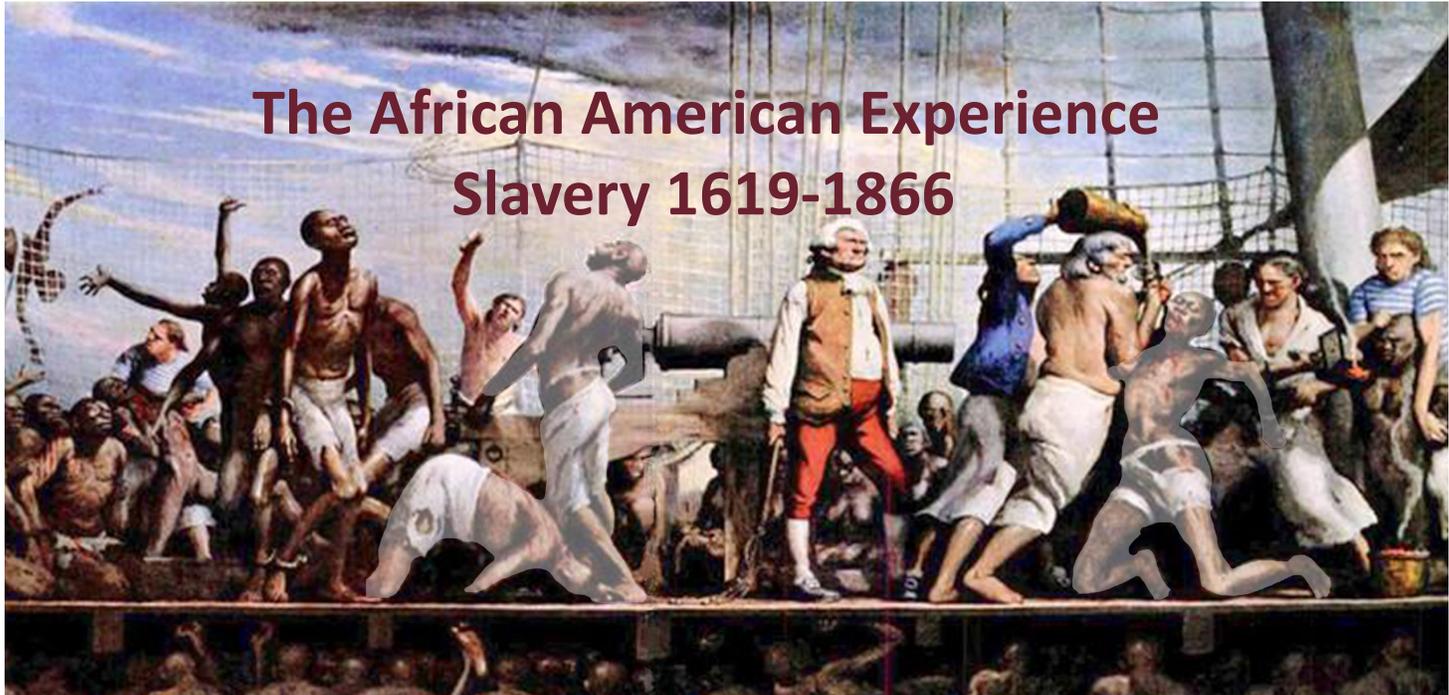
"My two favorite 20th century thinkers and cultural critics are Richard Pryor and George Carlin."

—Daniel Taradash

African American exhibit, I accepted the challenge," Daniel recalls. "So Harold, the board members and I all agreed on a

level of rationalization and mental

(see Daniel Taradash, page 8)



# The African American Experience Slavery 1619-1866

**OPENING RECEPTION**

**SUNDAY**

**September 17, 2017**

**2 to 4 p.m.**

**616 Central Avenue SW  
Albuquerque NM 87102  
Phone : 505.247.0606**

**[www.nmholocaustmuseum.org](http://www.nmholocaustmuseum.org)**

**Tuesday - Sunday  
11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.**

**Admission Free**

The Holocaust & Intolerance Museum of New Mexico proudly launches Phase I of the permanent exhibit, *The African American Experience: Slavery 1619-1866*. This newly created and compelling installation will include three phases, each representing different aspects of the African American experience. The exhibit in its entirety is expected to be completed by 2019.

Phase I chronicles the journey of Africans brought to North America and sold as slaves beginning in 1619. The exhibit depicts the barbaric and torturous treatment suffered during transport. The daily life of slaves is portrayed with a focus on enslaved women and the imposition of slave codes that instilled a constant fear in all slaves. Included is a brief preview of the Civil War and the impact of the Emancipation Proclamation.

*Funding was provided by:*

*The Slomo and Cindy Silvan Foundation, Inc.  
Mary V. Pratt, M.D.  
Nexus Brewery*



# The fragility of freedom and democracy illuminated

by Marcia Rosenstein

Milton Mayer's book *They Thought They Were Free - the Germans 1933-1945*, 1966 edition, University of Chicago Press was written about 10 German citizens who lived in Kronenberg, Germany before, during and after World War II. Mayer spent a year living in Kronenberg in the early 1950s. The book is the result of the friendships he made with the 10 men he was interviewing. By befriending them, he was able to have serious and honest conversations about the war, the Nazis and their community.

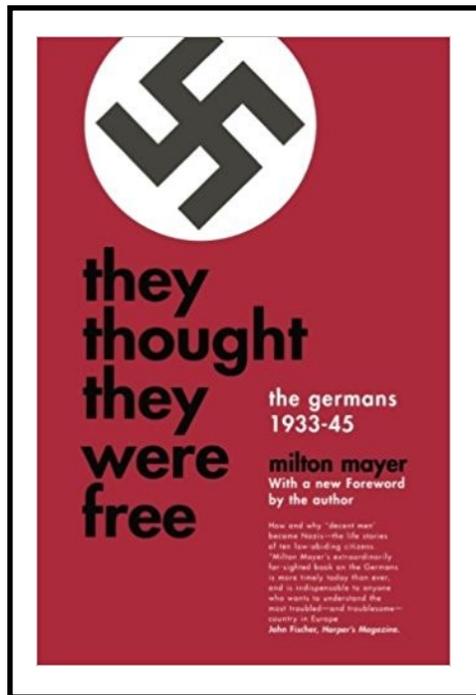
Thom Hartmann, a radio commentator, introduced this book to me. During his show, he read passages from the book. I was so impressed that I purchased the book and read it. It enlightened me about post-war Germany, the attitudes and circumstances of the German peoples' lives. It also made me realize how fragile freedom and democracy can be.

The following quotes are some that Thom Hartmann read from the book on his show on January 26, 2017. They are from Milton Mayer's book written after World War II.

"I came home a little bit afraid for my country, afraid of what it might want, and get, and like, under combined pressure of reality and illusion. I felt - and feel - that it was not German man that I met, but Man. He happened to be in

Germany under certain conditions. He might be here under certain conditions. He might under certain conditions, be I."

"This separation of government from people, this widening



of the gap, took place so gradually and so insensibly, each step disguised (perhaps not even intentionally) as a temporary emergency measure or associated with true patriotic allegiance or with real social purposes. And all the crises and reforms (real reforms, too) so occupied the people that they did not see the slow motion underneath, of the whole process of government growing remoter and remoter..."

"Paster Niemoller spoke for the thousands of men like me when he spoke ..... and said that, when the Nazis attacked the

Communists, he was a little uneasy, but, after all, he was not a Communist, and so he did nothing: and then they attacked the Socialists, and he was a little uneasier, but, still, he was not a Socialist, and he did nothing and then the schools, the press, the Jews, and so on, and he was always uneasier, but still he did nothing. A then they attacked the Church, and he was a Churchman, and he did something - but then it was too late."

"And one day, too late, your principles, if you are ever sensible of them, all rush in upon you. The burden of self-deception has grown too heavy, and some minor incident, in my case my little boy, hardly more than a baby, saying 'Jew swine,' collapses it all at once, and you see that everything, everything, has changed and changed completely under your nose. The world you live in - your nation, your people - is not the world you were in at all. The forms are all there, untouched, all reassuring, the houses, the shops, the jobs, the mealtimes, the visits, the concerts, the cinema, the holidays. But the spirit, which you never noticed because you made the lifelong mistake of identifying it with the forms, is changed. Now you live in a world of hate and fear, and the people who hate and fear do not even know it themselves; when everyone is transformed, no

(see *Fragile democracy*, page 7)

# Charlottesville Strong

August 17, 2017

We, the Board of Directors of the Holocaust & Intolerance Museum of New Mexico, find it sad and alarming that in this day and age we must send out a document condemning the recent horrific events in Charlottesville, VA and the lack of appropriate response from the President of the United States.

Our museum was founded by survivors of the Holocaust, and we vow never to forget their struggle for survival. Our mission promotes tolerance, and we condemn all activity that champions hate and superiority in our society. We stand against any act that advocates hate, violence, or bigotry.

We call on our elected officials to stand with us and to affirm to our city, state, and nation that New Mexicans will not condone such behavior.

We will continue to teach about the outcomes of hate-driven movements and to promote friendship among united cultures.

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## Fragile democracy

(continued from page 6)

one is transformed. Now you live in a system which rules without responsibility even to God..."

Hartmann also spoke in this broadcast about political scientist Lawrence Britt and an article he wrote about fascism (Fascism Anyone?, *Free Inquiry*, Spring 2003, page 20). In it, Dr. Britt compared five fascist regimes and concluded they had 14 elements in common. They are listed below.

- ◆ Powerful and continuing nationalism
- ◆ Distain for recognition of human rights
- ◆ Identification of enemies/ scapegoats as a unifying cause
- ◆ Supremacy of the military
- ◆ Rampant sexism
- ◆ Controlled mass media
- ◆ Obsession with national security
- ◆ Religion and government are intertwined
- ◆ Corporate power is protected
- ◆ Labor is suppressed
- ◆ Distain for intellectuals and the arts
- ◆ Obsession with crime and punishment
- ◆ Rampant cronyism and corruption
- ◆ Fraudulent elections

When someone in power promises that life will get better, please know that it doesn't get better for everyone and--for many--it just gets worse.

Paraphrased from  
*The Handmaid's Tale*  
by Margaret Atwood

