



NEWSLETTER

of the
EAST MOUNTAIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O. Box 106, Tijeras, NM 87059

Summer 2006

“History of the Crypto-Jews in New Mexico” **EMHS Sponsors Free Public Talk Saturday By** **Former State Historian Stanley M. Hordes**

The 500-year-old survival of Jewish traditions, practiced in secret by those who fled the Inquisitions of Mexico and Spain into New Mexico, will be explored at **2:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 12** by former State Historian Stanley M. Hordes.

The event, free and open to the public, will be held in the Tijeras Public Library, and is sponsored by the East Mountain Historical Society.

Hordes began to research early crypto-Jewish settlers of Mexico and New Mexico in 1981, while he was state historian, after hearing stories of Hispanic New Mexicans who lit candles on Friday night and abstained from eating pork. The result was his book, “To the End of the Earth: A History of the Crypto-Jews of New Mexico.”

Hordes reviewed biographies of colonial officials accused of secretly practicing Judaism, family histories, Inquisition records, letters, and other primary sources to create his book. An adjunct research professor at the Latin American and Iberian Institute at the University of New Mexico, Hordes has a Ph.D. in Colonial Mexican History and is author of numerous articles on the history of crypto-Judaism in Mexico and the U.S. Southwest. He has also written “Historical Markers in New Mexico” and the “New Mexico Directory of Historians and Historical Organizations.”

Upcoming Events –

- Aug. 12:** **Saturday, 2:30 p.m.** *Professor Stanley M. Hordes talks about the Crypto Jews of New Mexico. Free and open to the public. Bring prospective members!*
- Aug. 19:** **Saturday. Noon.** *Walking tour of native plants and herbs at Tres Pistolas in Tijeras Canyon. (Behind Louise Waldron’s house. Arrive at 11 for our monthly meeting, followed by a potluck.)*
- Sept. 12:** **Saturday. 9 a.m.** *Tour of historical sites in Piñon Ridge. Meet at Cedar Pointe Grill. Come early (at 8) and join us for breakfast before we go.*
- October:** **Annual meeting, elections.** *Time and place to be announced.*
- Nov. 18:** **Saturday, 2 p.m.** *State Historian Robert Torrez talks about the History of Land Grants in New Mexico. (Place to be announced.)*

-- Details Inside This Issue

Native Plant Tour for Members Combined with Annual Meeting Aug. 19

Recent rains have brought dormant seeds to life in the East Mountains, and here's your chance to become acquainted with herbs, flowers and if we're lucky, a few vegetables that have historically been gathered for the tables of local families. Marie Herrera Dresser will introduce us to native plants and their uses, like the lovely *flor de novio* (flower of the sweetheart), which has graced many a groom's jacket buttonhole as a wedding boutonniere.

The tour will be held at Tres Pistolas, behind Louise Waldron's house. We'll also hold a lunch potluck. **Come for the tour and potluck at noon.**

Better yet, **come for the August monthly meeting, which will start at 11.** We'll plan the annual meeting for October, at which we'll elect new officers and steering committee members. Co-founder Louise Waldron is stepping down as co-chairman, and we will be coming up with a slate of officers that will include President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer.

Tour of Historic Sites in Piñon Ridge Set for September

Didn't know there were historic sites in Piñon Ridge? Chuck Van Gelder and Andre Larroque will show us where they are on this members-only trek that will include a driving tour and short hike. We'll look at an old coal mine and check out some really old trails.

Meet up at 9 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 12, at the Cedar Pointe Grille in Cedar Crest for the tour. Come at 8 and have breakfast at the restaurant beforehand.

One of EMHS' biggest supporters, Tomás "Tom" Herrera, was honored as an Outstanding Citizen May 7 at the East Mountain Celebration. EMHS board member Marie Herrera Dresser accepted the award on behalf of her late brother, who grew up in Tijeras Canyon and Juan Tomas. Tom served four decades as a sheriff's deputy, responsible for an area that stretched from San Mateo Boulevard in Albuquerque to Edgewood.

News and Notes ... of the East Mountain Historical Society

Thanks to Anabel Sanchez, EMHS is very close to gaining federal tax exempt status. This will enable supporters to deduct from their taxes any donation they make to EMHS. This will be critical as we search for storage space for our archives and eventually, a headquarters for the society. One of our greatest challenges is to find a permanent building to house our extensive collections and give us a place to interview and photograph East Mountain families.

As reported in the last newsletter, the East Mountain Historical Society is incorporated as a non-profit organization with the state of New Mexico, thanks also to Anabel's efforts. Originally a subcommittee of the East Mountain Area Association, EMHS is now an independent, nonprofit, educational group.



Dates of East Mountain Fiestas

San Antonito – Sept. 15, 16

Cañoncito – Aug. 11, 12

Fiestas start with *vespers* Friday nights at 7 at each of the villages, where the patron saint is carried in a procession and returned to the church. Saturday fiestas generally commence with mass at 10 a.m. Experience living history at the fiestas.

The newsletter of the East Mountain Historical Society, published quarterly, aims to inform members and prospective members of EMHS events and endeavors, including committee work, and to serve as a record of society activities. It is also a forum for stories about the area. Please send your ideas for future newsletter items to Denise Tessier at P.O. Box 379, Cedar Crest, NM 87008, or contact her by email at newsletter@eastmountainhistory.org.



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