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The Ronald Gardenswartz Jewish Community Center  
of Greater Albuquerque



# The Chile Paper

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## Arches of Honor Acknowledging our Benefactors



As you enter the Ronald Gardenswartz Jewish Community Center of Greater Albuquerque (JCC), the Arches of Honor shine like a beacon in recognition to members and community leaders who have helped make the JCC the thriving community center it is today – YOUR community center, open to everyone, and providing the highest quality programs and services in a warm friendly environment.

Dedicated in June 2006, the Arches of Honor formally acknowledges all donations received or pledged to the JCC of \$1,800 and more. Each year at the

JCC Annual Meeting, the JCC will update the Arches of Honor - adding the names of new supporters and moving the names of supporters whose cumulative donations have advanced them up to a higher giving level.\*

How to get your name (company name) on the Arches of Honor...

It's very easy to support an organization that you believe in – like the JCC. All donations are tax deductible and amounts of \$1,800 will allow you to secure your name (or company's name) on the Arches of Honor.

Pledges are also accepted. This allows you to pay off your donation over a specified period of time (depending on the amount, up to 3 years). For as little as \$50/month, you can support the JCC!

With your support, the JCC will continue to shine like a beacon - going from strength to strength for generations to come - for our members and our community.

To learn more about how you can support the JCC, please stop by Member Services or contact Morris Albert at (505) 348-4472.

\* In order to be included in this year's Arches of Honor dedication, donations and/or pledges must be received by May 1, 2008. This year's Annual Meeting is June 24, 2008.

## Ready to Dance?



That's right!  
JCC Dance with Miss Sarah is back and better than ever! Are you looking for a fun, high energy,

encouraging, dance and movement class? This Spring, Miss Sarah is back to teach two wonderful classes, Pre-Dance for ages 3-5 and Dance I for ages 6-10. Pre-Dance is a half and half class where children will learn tap and rhythm for half the class and ballet and movement for the other half. Dance I is a 1 hour class where classic jazz, musical theatre style jazz, ballet, music and movement are brought together to create a unique, fun filled class. Miss Sarah is ready to dance, and is ready for anyone and everyone to join her! Classes are coming soon, and enrollment is limited! See you in dance class!

## Hollywood Henk

Lovingly nicknamed, Hollywood Henk, by his spinning companions, after the morning he wore his shades in spin class, Henk Van Schaik is admired by everyone who meets him. Few would guess that those chiseled legs of his belong to a 76-year-old man. Yet, there is no denying his age; Henk was born in Amsterdam, Holland in 1931. He has lived an interesting life that sounds a bit James Bondish when written about. As a brew master for Heineken, Henk had the opportunity to live all over the world meeting people he would normally not have met.

Many would also be surprised to discover that 24 years ago, in 1984, Henk had triple by-pass surgery, which was followed in 2003 by stent surgery. After his heart surgery, Henk made changes in his lifestyle. He gave up smoking and adapted his diet, mimicking the diets of the Mediterranean. In regards to his diet, Henk remarks, "Even when you diet you can have a good life. You can sin once a week; have a big steak or burger. Your body tells you. A healthy lifestyle doesn't have to be a sad one."

After joining the JCC of Albuquerque three years ago, exercise has become part of a new lifestyle for Henk. It comprises activities that "charge and energize" him, improving his quality of life. Henk attends Spinning class three times per week and lifts weights and stretches 3 times per week. When Henk first joined, he began by working out upstairs with trainer Josh Wichner. Then one day, sitting in the steam room, member Steve Gongora encouraged Henk to give Spinning class a try. He attended several spin 101 classes taught by Cathleen Driscoll, Chief Operating Officer of the JCC, before jumping into the longer 60-minute classes. Henk encourages others to "experience it, or at least give it a try. Come to class. Start in Spin101." Henk enjoys many aspects of membership at the JCC: "It is one big family with motivating trainers and instructors."

# How do I know that my child is ready for Kindergarten?

The recently published (*December 2007*) Final Report of the National Governor's Association Task Force on School Readiness could not be clearer:

From the Task Force Report: "School readiness is a term used to describe expectations of how children will fare upon entry to kindergarten. If oversimplified, school readiness can be interpreted to mean whether a child can demonstrate a narrow set of skills, such as naming letters of the alphabet and counting to 10. Yet years of research into child development and early learning show that school readiness is defined by several interrelated developmental domains. These domains- physical well-being and motor development, approaches to learning, language development, and cognition and general knowledge- are all-important, build on one another, and form the foundation of learning and social interaction."

At the JCC Cooper Family Enrichment Center we recognize the interconnected nature of social, emotional and intellectual learning; research in fact shows the primacy of a solid social and emotional foundation in order for intellectual learning to occur. Babies and young children learn these lessons about emotions and social give-and-take in the context of loving relationships, which is why the FEC practices continuity of care for our youngest children. Jack P. Shonkoff, M.D. says "There is no development without relationships".

When children move on to kindergarten, we hope they are full of wonder, curiosity, confidence, and love, as well as a body of general knowledge that help them continue to thrive. For more information on school readiness and the importance of early childhood education, the following websites may be informative: [www.familiesandwork.org](http://www.familiesandwork.org), [mindinthemaking.org](http://mindinthemaking.org), [www.bornlearning.org](http://www.bornlearning.org), [www.zerotothree.org](http://www.zerotothree.org).

*Happy learning, Janet*

## We Want to Know!



We want to thank you for taking the time to fill out our 'We Want to Know' suggestion cards. All your suggestions continue to be read and taken into consideration.

## Members in the News

Congratulations to Ted A. Garcia who was recently named Senior Vice President for television content by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB). In this capacity, he will oversee and manage CPB's national public television programming initiatives.

Ted is currently the General Manager and Chief Executive Officer of KNME-TV, licensed to the University of New Mexico and Albuquerque Public Schools, serving northern and central New Mexico. His career spans more than 37 years in non-commercial and commercial broadcasting. Way to go Ted! (Ted, and his wife, Kathy have been JCC members since 2004).

## Contributions to the JCC

In honor of John Sandager's birthday

*Jennie Negin  
& Harold Folley*

In memory of Adrienne Goldstein  
*Betty & Marvin Rubin*

In honor of Frank Rayor's 84th Birthday

*Shirley & Harold  
Gardenswartz  
Marilynn & Donald  
Koskoff*

*Thank you for choosing to make a donation to the JCC. We sincerely appreciate your support and welcome the opportunity to send a personalized card whenever you wish to let family and friends know you are thinking of them. Please call Sarah Katz at 348-4463 for assistance.*

# The Abe and Sophia Cohen Gymnasium THEN and NOW!

Do you remember when... & Now...



*Cohen Family gathers in gymnasium*

Sayde Epstein, a former Albuquerque resident since 1940 and now living in the San Francisco Bay Area, stopped by the JCC last month to look around, visit the gymnasium in her sister's name, and get an update on the state of the JCC. At 92 years old, Sayde is sharp as a tack and asked "what's going on these days... and how's membership." She spoke briefly with Jay Jacobs, CEO, and Morris Albert, Director of Member Services, who explained how well the JCC was doing.



*Sayde Epstein, sister of Sophia Cohen, and son Bob*

## A Taste of Honey 2008 Draws Historic Crowd



*Judith Fein delivers keynote address*

The 5th "A Taste of Honey" event took place on February 10th at the Jewish Community Center with about 300 participants and 28 presenters, including keynoter Judith Fein whose topic: "Is There a Lost Tribe of Israel Here?" which detailed her travels to South Africa, Brazil, Tunisia, Israel (ancient Samaritans). Participants came from around the state including Las Cruces, Los Alamos, Santa Fe, Las Vegas, Rio Rancho and Greater Albuquerque.

## New Mexico Teens Have A Blast at the Teen Convention

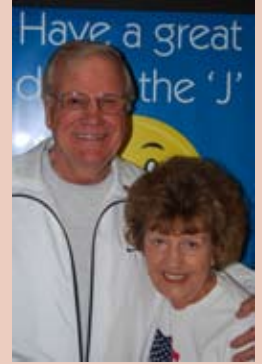
The 3rd Annual Jewish Teen Convention assembled at the Jewish Community Center over President's Day Weekend. About 20 teens from Santa Fe, Albuquerque, East Mountains, Los Alamos and Los Lunas dialogued and learned about Anti-Semitism with guest speaker Susan Seligman, Regional Director of the ADL. They also saw a film about the Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington DC and wrote letters about what they learned. The teens are pictured upon return from their field trip to Old Town.



*Jewish Teen Convention attendees*

## 7 YEARS FOR THE GREENES

For some, March is basketball month... the sweet sixteen, right? Well for Mary and Bill Greene it's "sweet seven." That's right, seven years ago this month, Mary and Bill Greene joined the JCC! Almost without fail, five days a week – Monday through Friday – you'll see them here working out, talking with friends and staff, or enjoying a meal in the deli.



*Mary & Bill Greene*

"Wonnndddderful Debbie," is what Bill calls out to JCC Staffer, Debbie Blackerby, as he and Mary walk passed the Member Services office on their way upstairs to work out. After their workout, they typically stop by Debbie's desk to update her on all their children and grandchildren - especially Ryan's basketball playing (which he does regularly at the JCC).

When I asked them why they are members of the JCC, Mary and Bill chimed in with "we just love the JCC." "We try to get here every day during the week," said Mary, "Bill may miss a day or two, here and there, but otherwise, we're here." She went on to say, "we come because we want to live longer, healthier lives... and the JCC helps us do that." "It's a great place, with friendly staff, all the fitness equipment we need and lots of friends...When you walk in, first impressions are important and the front-desk staff are so warm and friendly – it just gets better and better as you move through the building meeting more staff and members," Bill said. "Everyone's very friendly and the price is really reasonable for all you get here," said Mary. "In fact, we've been going to health clubs for years, but the Jewish Community Center really offers us so much more, we love it here – it's the best place in the whole state," said Bill.

The Greenes have lived in Albuquerque three separate times since 1964 when Bill, who worked for the Air Force, was first transferred to Kirtland Air Force Base. Bill served 25 years with the Air Force handling logistics. Mary has also kept very busy while in Albuquerque, raising a family and working for 24 years with APS in the accounting department.

Mary and Bill are blessed with 3 children, 7 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren. And we are blessed to have them here too! Thanks for being JCC members and a part of our JCC family!

If you think March is an important month for Mary and Bill, just ask them about October – specifically, October 31st - Halloween. This Halloween, Mary and Bill will be celebrating their 55th wedding anniversary... now that's sweet!- by *Morris Albert*

# A Letter from Jay Jacobs, CEO

We wanted to know and you have certainly let us. Your response to our “We Want To Know” campaign has been fantastic. Please keep the comments coming. We will post responses weekly. Also, in next month's Chile Paper we will include some of the most common suggestions/thoughts with responses.

It is that time of year. Camp registration for the summer and Early Childhood registration for the fall is now open. Do not delay; register today as both of these programs do reach capacity.

Big news in fitness – keep your eyes open up in the Fitness Center as we will soon begin posting information on the NEW equipment we will be ordering. We are currently in the process of ordering cardio equipment (w/ individual T.V.'s) and some of the latest and greatest in new weight equipment is in the process of being ordered. Watch for ongoing updates.....

When you feel the energy in the building, you know that it is a great time to be a member of the 'J'. Thank you for being part of our family.

- Jay Jacobs, CEO

## Congratulations Morris!



Congratulations to Morris Albert who has recently been promoted to Director of Development and Special Projects for the JCC. In his new role, Morris will be responsible for fundraising, as well as working with the

Executive Director on several major initiatives being launched by the JCC.

Morris previously held the Director of Member Services position where he brought membership up to an all-time high of 1,800 member units, helped develop key initiatives including 90 Day for \$90 and Membership Appreciation Day. He participated in helping launch the JCC's new website, and developed policies and procedures instrumental to operations. Morris received his Master of Social Work and Certificate in Jewish Communal Studies degrees from Wurzweiler School of Social Work at Yeshiva University, and a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from UNM. Prior to joining the JCC, Morris worked as a consultant and fundraising specialist in Jewish Federations in Toronto, Canada, Stamford, Connecticut and New York City. He is the proud father of two children.

Please look for Morris in his new office – located with the Jewish Federation Office... just steps from his old perch in the window.

## Upcoming JCC Programs

**Mar. 10, 2008 6:15pm:** 92nd St. Y Live, Dennis Prager

**Mar. 16, 2008 3pm:** Music-4-Kidz, Frank Leto

**Mar. 17, 2008 7pm:** The Vestibule

The JCC is a beneficiary agency of the Jewish Federation of New Mexico



**JCC of Greater Albuquerque**  
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