**A LONG JOURNEY: THE HIDDEN JEWS OF THE SOUTHWEST**

**Production & Participants (With Locations)**

**A Long Journey: The Hidden Jews of the Southwest**

A Cinewest - KNME/NMPBS Co-Production

Directed by Isaac Artenstein

Produced by Paula Amar Schwartz

Executive Producers: Melvin J. Schwartz and Franz Joaquim

Co-Produced by Judith Artenstein

Cinematography Sergio Ulloa

Edited and Written by Keith Shapiro

Music by Mark Adler

**Isaac Artenstein - Director**

Directed *Ballad of an Unsung Hero* which aired nationally on PBS and served as the basis for his feature film *Break of Dawn*. He also directed *Tijuana Jews*, *Border Brujo* and *Growing Up Weston*. He produced the comedies *A Day Without a Mexican* and *Love Always*. He also directed *Challah Rising in the Desert: The Jews of New Mexico*, and *To the Ends of the Earth: A Portrait of Jewish San Diego*, as part of the Frontier Jews series focusing on communities along the Southwest border region. He’s currently working on *The Journeys of Harry Crosby* about the pioneering photographer and historian of the Baja California peninsula.

**Paula Amar Schwartz - Producer**

A Pittsburgh, PA native, Paula initially came to New Mexico in the 1960s to attend the University of New Mexico. She’s the past president the New Mexico Jewish Historical Society and helped create a landmark video history of the state’s Jewish Pioneers. Paula produced the feature-length documentary *Challah Rising in the Desert: The Jews of New Mexico* which premiered on KNME-NMPBS (2017). She taught at Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia, published many scientific articles and books and served as president of the Society of Clinical Psychologists. Paula has published two books of poetry “Beyond Time and Space” (2008) and “Unfolding Universe” (2013)

**Featured in the Documentary**

* **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 historian Sara Koplik, Director of the Sephardic Certification Program in Albuquerque, NM that helps descendants of *Converso*families authenticate their research enabling them to claim Spanish citizenship offered by the government of that country.
* **Rabbi Stephen** Leon of Congregation B’Nai Zion of **El Paso, TX** 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* and based in **Santa Fe, NM**.  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.