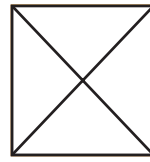


# The Roadrunner/El Correcaminos

Newsletter of the New Mexico Human Rights Coalition

P. O. Box 7927, Albuquerque, NM 87194-7927

Phone: (505) 292-4211



February 2005

## Coalition members support current legislation

*New Mexico Council of Churches supports:*

- Payday loan bill
- Repeal of death penalty
- Memorial on Hunger Task Force
- Medicaid
- TANF (temporary assistance to needy families)
- State Housing Trust Fund
- In-state fees for higher ed for immigrants

*National Lawyers Guild, New Mexico Chapter, supports:*

- Drug treatment for non-violent offenders—to divert all first and second time non-violent drug offenders into treatment programs rather than jail or prison.
- Legal access to medical marijuana to allow patients with certain approved illnesses to use marijuana and to protect patients, their caregivers, and medical professionals from prosecution.
- Felon voting rights to restore the right to vote to people on parole and probation, not only (as now) when the sentence is fully completed, and to remove the requirement to produce a copy of the discharge documentation.
- Greater access to higher education—right now federal law prevents access to federal student aid

*The regular legislative session for this year convened on January 18, and should adjourn, according to the constitution, on March 19. Governor Richardson can call lawmakers back for a special session if he deems necessary. Several coalition members have announced support for various bills.*

for persons with drug convictions for certain periods of time after conviction. This would allow persons convicted of drug offenses to access state financial aid for education (note: this may be pursued by administrative changes rather than legislative).

- Opiate replacement therapy (like methadone) in prisons.

On another issue coming before the legislature, the ACLU, with the support of the domestic violence organizations, will be submitting a bill, sponsored by Richard Martinez, to prohibit state and local law enforcement agencies from enforcing immigration law. For example, a woman should not be afraid to report a domestic violence assault for fear of being deported. Also these officers are not trained in this line of work and the ACLU is just now settling a case where a state policeman heard

an Española woman in her home speaking Spanish to her child, so assumed she was an alien (she is a US citizen), demanded proof of citizenship, and confiscated the papers she produced on the suspicion they were fake! This is another bill we should

support, and you may wish to discuss with legislators.

Lastly, there will be a bill to repeal the death penalty this session, to add more services for the families of homicide victims, and to impose life without parole for that sub-category of first degree murders which are now death-eligible. We need to contact our legislators, and most especially the Governor, on that bill.

*ENLACE Comunitario supports:*

- The ACLU bill that has to do with prohibiting local and state police from enforcing federal immigration law.

*Las Mujeres de LULAC supports:*

- The pre-kindergarten initiative to implement programs for 3- and 4-year-olds.
- Professional development programs for early childhood and families.

## MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

- ❖ Adelante Development, Inc.
- ❖ Albuquerque Project Change
- ❖ American Civil Liberties Union, New Mexico
- ❖ Americans for Indian Opportunity
- ❖ Anti-Defamation League, New Mexico State Chapter
- ❖ Coalition for Equality in New Mexico
- ❖ ENLACE Comunitario
- ❖ Human Rights Office, City of Albuquerque
- ❖ Jewish Federation of Greater Albuquerque, Inc.
- ❖ Las Mujeres de LULAC
- ❖ MANA de Albuquerque
- ❖ NAACP, Albuquerque Branch
- ❖ National Lawyers Guild, New Mexico Chapter
- ❖ National Organization for Women
- ❖ New Mexico Voices for Children
- ❖ New Mexico Conference of Churches
- ❖ New Mexico Japanese American Citizens League
- ❖ PFLAG Albuquerque
- ❖ The ARC of New Mexico
- ❖ United South Broadway Corporation

## OFFICERS

- Chair: Diana Montoya (Las Mujeres de LULAC)
- Vice chairs: Eric Sirotkin (National Lawyers Guild) & Jennifer White (National Organization for Women)
- Treasurer: Sei Tokuda (New Mexico Japanese-American Citizens League)
- Secretary: Peter Weinreb (Anti-Defamation League)

## DIRECTOR

Frank Miranda

## NEWSLETTER

Lyn Berner <berlyn@nmia.com>

## Free civil rights workshop offered for local employers this spring

The City of Albuquerque Human Rights Office and the New Mexico Human Rights Coalition are planning a one-day workshop for employers on civil rights laws and nondiscrimination in employment in spring 2005 in downtown Albuquerque.

"We are hoping to reach small employers across the state who many not have programs on civil rights laws in-house," says Virginia Candelaria-Martínez, director of the city human rights office. There will be no charge for the Albuquerque workshop.

Among the issues that may be addressed include roles and responsibilities of supervisors and managers concerning sexual harassment and retaliation against employees complaining of discrimination.

The workshop may have sessions on discrimination based on national origin to include discussion of English-only policies in the workplace, and employing individuals with disabilities with reasonable accommodations.

Rounding out the workshops may be sessions in cultural diversity, religion in the workplace, and age discrimination. Another session may concern nondiscrimination and Equal Employment Opportunity policy statements and procedures that employers should have in place.

Session leaders will include Eric Sirotkin, legal council for the coalition and author of *Labor and Employment in New Mexico*, other civil rights and employment lawyers, Albuquerque Human Rights Office staff, and representatives from the city's disability community.

The date, time and location for the nondiscrimination workshop have not been set. Candelaria-Martínez says the venue will depend on the response generated from small businesses in New Mexico.

Employers who would like to enroll in the one-day workshop in Albuquerque or desire further information on future coalition workshops should contact Bonnie Rucobo at the City of Albuquerque Human Rights Office, (505) 924-3380, tty 800-659-8331, or <brucobo@cabq.gov>.

## Annual meeting:

# Officers elected; goals determined

The annual meeting of the New Mexico Human Rights Coalition board and executive committee was held October 26 in the Los Griegos Multi Service Center to elect officers for a two-year term and set goals for 2005.

Diana Montoya, of Las Mujeres de LULAC, will serve as chair. Other officers are Eric Sirotkin and Jenny White, vice chairs; Sei Tokuda, treasurer, and Peter Weinreb, secretary.

Outgoing chair Andrew Lipman emphasized how important the coalition has been to him and that it has been a great privilege to have been one of its founding members and to have served as its chair. He stressed that NMHRC's work is at the core of and underpins a democratic society, and urged members to encourage other groups to join.

During the report of director Frank J. Miranda, the term "gender identity" was incorporated in the organization's mission and bylaws where appropriate.

The following goals were set for this year:

- Urge the Governor to develop legislation during 2005 to reestablish the New Mexico Human Rights Division and Commission as an independent Civil Rights enforcement agency.
- Support other legislative initiatives of NMHRC member organizations that are consistent with the coalition's mission statement.
- Propose a statewide bias-based policing study.
- Support a César Chávez state holiday (if legislation is introduced).
- Support a César Chávez national holiday (if legislation is introduced).

*Blame a computer glitch and forgive the editor that Eric Sirotkin's photo does not appear. Eric joins Jenny White as vice chair of the coalition board.*

- Support civil rights legislation that would prohibit police practices of stopping Blacks and Hispanics without just cause (DWB) through letters to the NM congressional delegation, especially those who responded favorably to the NMHRC.
- Establish quarterly meetings with the mayor, governor, and state-level department secretaries to address human rights concerns and issues.
- Continue to promote awareness of bias-based policing to provide support to the Albuquerque Racial Profiling Task Force.
- Establish communication with community organizations and encourage them to develop local human rights agencies within their communities.
- Eric Sirotkin expressed the need to incorporate an outreach aspect into human rights and dignity educational programs. The programs would include the broader concepts of the right to a job, to a clean environment. This would not be just a civil rights concept, but one with a broader reach such as educational outreach programs that could be presented in public school systems. Andrew Lipman, Doris Husted, Abraham Placencio, and Jennifer White volunteered to work on behalf of an education program. This was added unanimously to the goals.

In other business, Peter Weinreb mentioned an exhibit on the history of anti-Semitism jointly sponsored by Bridges for Peace and the Jewish Federation of Greater Albuquerque to run from mid-January mid-February (see page 4).

Harold Bailey explained the role of the state office of African-American affairs is to ensure that African-American citizens enjoy the full benefits of the state.

The coalition's web site, subsidized by Eric Sirotkin, should be up and running within the next few months.



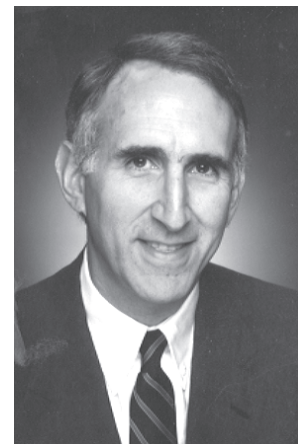
Diana Montoya, chair



Jenny White, vice chair



Sei Tokuda, treasurer



Peter Weinreb, secretary

**NEVER AGAIN!**

# Free exhibit on view 'til February 15th

The New Mexico Human Rights Coalition, along with others, is a co-supporter of this very important free photographic exhibit portraying a history of anti-Semitism throughout the ages. Sometimes very graphic in its content, the display highlights the roots of anti-Semitism and persecution from the Christian Crusades through the Nazi Holocaust concluding with examples of recent global anti-Semitic terrorists acts. This powerful and sometimes

disturbing display of hatred, violence and oppression depicts how various societies have attempted to ostracize, demonize, and marginalize the Jewish people and how racial and religious stereotyping still exists today. We urge all to take the opportunity to see the exhibit and to encourage others to attend at the Museum of Archeology and Biblical History, 10110 Constitution NE, Albuquerque, 87112 (Trinity Southwest University, one block west of Eubank) through February 15, daily 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Bruce Deboskey, Mountain States Director, Anti-Defamation League, will present an hour-long program, *Myths: Why do People Hate the Jews?*, in the Jewish Community Center, 5520 Wyoming NE (between Spain and Academy) on February 13 at 3 p.m.

For additional information, call the Jewish Federation of Greater Albuquerque: 505-821-3214.

Co-sponsors include Bridges for Peace International and the Jewish Federation of Greater Albuquerque. The exhibit is underwritten by the Santa Fe Trust, Inc., and endorsed by Albuquerque Mayor Martin J. Chávez in cooperation with the Albuquerque Human Rights Office, NM Anti-Defamation League, NM Holocaust Museum and Intolerance Center, NMHRC, Ronald Gardenswartz Jewish Community Center, Family Life Radio/KFLQ 91.5 FM, SBN-KCHF TV 11 and 730 KDAZ Radio.

## 2005 NEWSLETTER

*The Roadrunner/El Correcaminos* is issued four times a year: February, May, September, and December. Timely articles will be used as space allows.

May	Submit by April 15
September	Submit by August 12
December	Submit by November 11

Coalition members should submit information by email to [berlyn@nmia.com](mailto:berlyn@nmia.com) or land mail to Lyn Berner, 5401 Territorial Road NW, Albuquerque NM 87120. Please include phone number for verification purposes.

## The Roadrunner/El Correcaminos

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*The New Mexico Human Rights Coalition is a voluntary, nonpartisan association of autonomous organizations and agencies, united, with a commitment to human rights and equal opportunity.*

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