

Our Mission: To provide visibility and support for the gathering and dissemination of history about the roles and contributions of all Nevada women.



2023 NWHP

Woman of Achievement Joyce Cox

By Mona Reno

A long-time member of the Nevada Women's History Project, Joyce Cox has lived in Washoe County on and off since 1974. Joyce has worked as a research librarian in California, Nevada, and Washington. Joyce retired as the Head of Reference at the Nevada State Library and Archives (NSLA). She served as treasurer of the Nevada Library Association from 1987 - 1988 and again in 1990.

While at the NSLA, Joyce was active in the collection of information about Nevada's First Ladies. She and Patti Bernard worked on this project together for several years. Their dedication can be seen on the [nevadawomen.org](https://nevadawomen.org/research-center/first-ladies/) website at <https://nevadawomen.org/research-center/first-ladies/>.

She remained active in the research field, authoring three Nevada history books.

Washoe County (Images of America) 2011

Sparks (Images of America) 2017

The History of the Reno Chamber of Commerce: Behind the Arch: The Story of Reno Nevada's Unique Chamber of Commerce and the Making of the Biggest Little City in the World. coming in 2023

After retirement Joyce volunteered as a Docent at the Nevada Historical Society.

Please join us in celebrating Joyce as a Woman of Achievement. If you would like to attend the Nevada Women's Fund luncheon on May 25, 2023 honoring Joyce, NWHP has one seat left at their table. The cost is \$125. Contact Sue Davis at shdavis4364@att.net.

You can obtain general tickets for the Nevada Women's Fund, Woman of Achievement event at <https://www.nevadawomensfund.org/nwf-events/>

Membership, Renewals, and Donations *January through March 2023*

Honorary Members:

Dawn Gibbons
Betty Glass
Dema Guinn
Kathy List
Donna Lombardo
Sandy Miller
Kathy Noneman
Kathleen Teipner Sandoval
Lauralyn McCarthy Sandoval
Kathy Sisolak
Robert Stoldal
Holly Van Valkenburgh
Linda Wyckoff

Carolyn Gardner
Julie Gutierrez - **new**
Shirley Hammon
Shannon Hataway
Janice Hoke
Beverly Hubbard
Abigail Johnson
Gilda Johnstone
Renee Kolvet
Marian LaVoy
Nancy Oakley
Doris Phelps
Kelsey Piechocki - **new**

Friend - \$100
Faye Andersen
Lynette Astors
Alicia Barber
Dana Bennett
Sue Davis
Helen De Marco
Carla Ford
Mary Lee Fulkerson
Michelle Gardner
Terry Horgan
Nancy Hudson
Betty and Jim Hulse
Lisa Jayne
Ginnie (Virginia) Kersey
Donna Knapp
Barbara McLaury
Karen Morris
Arlene Oakes
Joy Orlich
Jane Tors
Carole Tripp

Best Friend Forever - \$1,000:

Marybel Batjer - **new**
Lynn Bremer
Grace Davis
Dr. Jacqueline C. Jones - **new**
Vida Keller
Catherine Magee
Sandy Raffealli
Mona Reno
Janet Spelman

Ron Reno
Judith Reuter
Silvana Ricci
Yvonne Rickman
Betty Rose - **new**
Katherine L. Ross
Carolyn Sherve
Charlene Sprague
Florence Suenaga
Maggie Thomsen
Patricia (Patty) Wallace
Linda Walsh
Holly Walton-Buchanan
Holly Warren
Dorismae Weber
Chelsea White
Carolyn Wilson

Good Friend - \$250
Janet Loverin
Patricia (Patty) Cafferata
Jane Sweetland

Membership:

Best Friend - \$500
Patti Bernard
Marcia Cuccaro

Individual - \$30
Cheryle (Cheri) Abbott
Byllie D'Amato Andrews
Terri Avansino
Cindy Bansen - **new**
Vicki Carlson
Janet Carnes
Madeline H. Carpenter
Rosie Cevasco
Dr. Linda Clements
Patty Clock
Eileen Cohen - **new**
Kathy M. Drake
Gail Duwe
Frances Edison
Carleen Ernest
Isabel Espinoza
Jacqueline (Jacki) Falkenroth
Candice (Candy) Fife
Barbara Fleischer

Family - \$50
Gwendolyn Clancy and
Tess Opferman
Catherine Cuccaro and
Jeff Milligan
Katie and Bonnie Drinkwater
Barbara and Dave Finley
Christianne and Jon Hamel
Dana and Larry Hastings
Nancyann Leeder-**new**
Lisa-Marie and Bruce Lightfoot
Kathleen and Charlie Noneman
Alicia and Richard Wright

Donations:
General Fund
Christina Batjer - \$500
Florence Edison - \$20
Mary Lee Fulkerson - \$100
Shirley Hammon - \$30
Terry Horgan - \$25
Karen Morris - \$100
Sandy Raffealli - \$500
Tonya Stefun - \$200
Maggie Thomsen - \$20
Alicia Wright - \$50

Thank You All!

In Memory of
Cecilia Losada
Marcia Cuccaro

Mark Your Calendars

Please join the NWHP for programs this year. **Members receive a \$5 discount, unless indicated otherwise.**

For information on these programs contact
Sue 775-722-2699 shdavis4364@att.net
Lynette 530-448-6448 lynetteastors@gmail.com
 or Patti 775-826-3612 awtuv1@gmail.com

Jean Ford Flower Walk at Wilbur D. May Arboretum & Botanical Garden

Join us for a guided tour and walk through the beautiful gardens at Rancho San Rafael's Arboretum and Botanical Gardens.

Date: Friday, May 19, 2023

Time: 9:45a.m - 11:45a.m. (check-in at Museum entrance and tour begins at 10:00a.m.)

Where: Rancho San Rafael- 1595 N. Sierra St., Reno (Meet at the Museum entrance)

Cost: Members: \$20, Non-members: \$25

Registration must be received by May 17, 2023.

Register on-line at: Eventbrite.com (search Jean Ford Flower Walk)

Or

Mail check and registration form from blast emails or EVENTS tab on website to NWHP, 770 Smithridge Dr, Suite 300, Reno, NV 89502

Resurrecting (Cancelled in Oct. 2022)

Who is Buried in our Backyard Cemetery? Tour

The Cemetery tour of notable women buried at Mountain View Cemetery has been rescheduled. Join us for an easy walking tour to hear some interesting stories about the contributions of some of our state's most remarkable women, as we visit their eternal "resting sites." A no-host lunch will follow at the Gold and Silver Café to also learn about the oldest café in Reno that is set to close in 2024.

Date: Saturday, June 17, 2023

Time: 10:00a.m. - 12:00p.m.

Where: Mountain View Cemetery

Cost: Members: \$15.00, Non-members \$20.00

Registration must be received by June 12, 2023.

Register on-line at: Eventbrite.com (search Resurrecting Who is Buried in Our Backyard?)

Or

Mail check and registration form from blast emails or EVENTS tab on website to NWHP, 770 Smithridge Dr, Suite 300, Reno, NV 89502

Also...Mark your calendars for the Annual Summer Meeting.

Date: Saturday, July 15, 2023

Time: 11:30a.m. to 1:30p.m.

Where: Toiyabe Golf Club
 19 Lightning W Ranch Rd
 New Washoe City, NV 89704

More information to follow.

Your attendance at these programs supports the mission of the NWHP.

NWHP - Membership Report

As of March 31, 2023 the membership of NWHP is 107 members in good standing. We have 13 Honorary Members, nine Best Friends Forever and the following organizations:

AAUW – Reno Branch
 DKG, Lambda Chapter
 Nevada Women's Fund

Joy Orlich, Membership

NWHP - Treasurer's Report

The Year-To-Date (YTD), as of March 31, 2023, NWHP financial report shows a bank and PayPal balance of \$63,991.82, \$0.00 liability and a net YTD income of \$-292.29. Total equity plus liability is \$63,991.82.

Michelle Gardner, Treasurer

Message from the Chair

By Sue Davis

Greetings!!

As the NWHP new Chair, I am very honored to accept this position but also quite overwhelmed! The good news is that the NWHP Board is well seasoned, very capable, and always close by to assist with this amazing organization. And even better news, former NWHP Chair, Patti Bernard, is a phone call away and always ready to answer questions or hold my hand as I try to navigate through these next two years!



Before retirement, I taught U.S. History at Wooster High School and in 2003 left the classroom to become the director of five federally funded grants: *Teaching American History*. As the grant director, I collaborated with many northern Nevada museums and colleges with the purpose of supporting teachers with an in-depth study of U.S. History. History has always been my passion and I am delighted to be part of the Nevada Women's History Project. It is my desire to preserve history and especially women's history in Nevada.

One of our goals this year is to create a page on our website for Nevada educators. Patti and I have been working on a document that connects Nevada State History Standards to our biographies. We plan to add teacher-created lessons on the website with the hope that teachers access our website to understand and teach the impact Nevada women had on our history and their contributions they made to our state.

As you have noticed, we are transitioning to an "on-line" membership platform. Although we have had some hiccups with the computer program, gradually we are fixing the problems. Joy Orlich, our membership chair, has spent many hours working with our Webmaster, Shannon. A huge thank-you to Joy and Shannon.

As always, we appreciate your membership, attendance, and volunteer efforts with our monthly activities. We strive to give value to you through monthly events and in return the monthly events support the organization's goals and expenses. Your continued support is so very important to us and allows us to carry on Jean Ford's dream of documenting Nevada women's contributions to our state and history. This is an all-volunteer organization, and we are always looking for help. Please feel free to contact us if you would like to share your time and talents!!

Looking for Volunteers, We need your help!

If interested, please contact Sue Davis at shdavis4364@att.net

Raffle Goddess

At each NWHP monthly event we like to hold a raffle to make extra money. The Raffle Goddess acquires donations for a raffle prize. We are a non-profit organization, so we have a letter that can be presented to vendors for donated items for tax deduction purposes.

Job Description:

- Bring a raffle prize to each event.
- Obtain the cashbox and tickets from the Treasurer.
- Sell raffle tickets at each event (usually monthly).
- Select the winning ticket at the event and award the prize.
- Count and account for the money received from raffle and give to the Treasurer to deposit.

Event Food Coordinator

We are looking for someone to coordinate food for our events. Light refreshments or lunches are provided at most events. The Food Event Coordinator would purchase the food, bring it to the event or arrange for delivery and set up the food at the site. Expenses are reimbursed or a NWHP bank card can be utilized.

Job Description

- Coordinate with Program Director for a count of people attending the NWHP Event.
- Determine food choices and amounts.
- Purchase food and serving supplies.
- Set up food and serving supplies at the event.
- Clean up the food social after each event. There is always help!!!

Nevada Women's History Project Donates Books to Sparks Heritage Museum

By Sue Davis



While visiting the Sparks Heritage Museum, Patti Bernard and I met the director of the Sparks Heritage Museum, Christine Johnson. ***One of the new additions to the museum is a research library.*** Before computers and the internet, NWHP had a collection of books focused on women's history in Nevada. It has been years since our collection has been used. The Board recognized an opportunity to contribute our collection of about 75 books and the Sparks Museum was thrilled to receive our collection for their library.

Please visit the Sparks Heritage Museum and enjoy the museum's research library displays, and gift shop. On April 22, 2023, NWHP will hold our monthly program at the Sparks Museum from 10:00a.m.-12:00p.m. You can register on Eventbrite by searching for the Nevada Women's History Project or obtain a registration form from our blast emails. Hope to see you there!

*Featured Historic Nevada Woman:***Ida Louise (Brewington) Pittman**

Becoming the First Lady was a surprise, but she surprised all by handling it with efficiency, kindness and thoughtfulness.



Photo Credit:

Nevada Historical Society

At a glance:

Born: May 10, 1893 (Bevier, MO)

Died: October 11, 1984 (Chula Vista, CA)

Burial: Reno, NV

Maiden Name: Ida Louise "Liz" Brewington

Race/Nationality/Ethnic Background: Caucasian

Married: May 20, 1919 (Reno, NV)

Children: None

Primary City and County of Residence and Work: Ely, Carson City, Las Vegas, NV

Major Fields of Work: First Lady

Other Role Identities: Wife, Teacher, Newspaper Publisher, World Traveler

Biography

Ida Louise (Liz) Pittman was born on May 10, 1893, to Dr. George and Rose Brewington in Macon Missouri. Her early years were dedicated to music. She became a very accomplished pianist and was employed as a music teacher in Centralia, Missouri. Surprising her family, she applied for a teaching position in Tonopah, Nevada and was accepted. It must have been quite a change for a reserved young southern lady, but she adapted very well to her new surroundings, except the night when a burro thrust his head in her window and brayed. She almost left Tonopah the next day but was persuaded to stay.

During this time there was a very successful businessman in Tonopah by the name of Vail Pittman. He was a typical southern gentleman. Liz and Vail met at a Saturday night dance in Tonopah. Even though Liz told her friends that she had never been allowed to attend a dance at home, they insisted that she go with them. Following their first meeting, Vail walked her home, and the romance began. Liz was to say later, "I was just lucky. I have been lucky all my life." After the school year ended on May 20, 1919, the couple traveled to Reno where they were married and began a long and happy life together.

Featured Historic Nevada Woman: Cont'd

At the time of their marriage Vail was attempting to buy a paper in Nevada. He had been involved in managing the Tonopah Times and was interested in buying it, but the owner refused to sell. So, after several attempts to find a paper, Vail succeeded in purchasing the Ely Daily Times in Ely, Nevada. However, there was a copper mine strike in Ely at that time, so he delayed publishing until the strike was settled. In April of 1920, the young couple arrived in Ely to find that the equipment needed a great deal of improvement before they could begin work. However, with Liz at his side helping him in every way, they began what was to be a very successful business.

Liz immediately began to assist Vail in organizing and publishing the paper, despite the fact that her career had been in teaching. Alongside her husband she learned the hard work and deadlines of the newspaper business. At the same time, this lovely, beautifully dressed lady was welcomed into the cosmopolitan social circle of Ely which consisted mostly of families of mining company officials. At that time there was some conversation about her name, and she remarked that she had never liked her name. Her friends suggested the name "Liz" and that stayed with her for the rest of her life.

In 1942 Vail became involved in politics. When he ran for Lt. Governor he was elected. During those years he had to spend a considerable amount of time in Carson City. Liz was left alone in Ely to run their paper. At the time Vail was elected, Ted Carville of Elko was elected Governor. Following the death of US Senator James Scrugham on June 23, 1945, Governor Carville appointed himself to the Senate post, leaving Vail as Governor of Nevada.

At this time things became very hectic for Liz as she was running the paper and at the same time was First Lady of Nevada. For several years the state had neglected to provide funds for the Governor's Mansion. As a result, it presented quite a problem for Liz. The furniture was in deplorable condition and the building itself in desperate need of repair.

While she was still tending the paper in Ely, her husband called and told her they were going to have to have a party in the Mansion on Admission Day. After arranging for help with the paper, she moved her furniture to Carson City and installed it in the Mansion, which certainly improved the interior. She had only five days to prepare for the party, but in her usual efficient manner, she accomplished all that was necessary.

For six months Liz traveled between Carson City and Ely, successfully fulfilling her two careers. Eventually she found a manager for their paper and was able to move into the Mansion. Liz proved to be very talented in restoring and refurbishing the mansion in order to make it an attractive place. Since she believed that it belonged to all Nevadans, she opened it to the public. Many local organizations took advantage of her generosity and held fundraisers and parties there. Liz also began a tradition of decorating the Mansion both inside and outdoors during the holiday seasons.

Featured Historic Nevada Woman: Cont'd

In 1946 Vail ran for Governor and was elected. But in 1950 when he ran for reelection, he was defeated, due mostly to the widely held belief in Nevada that a Governor should not serve more than two terms. When his term in office expired, they returned to Ely and continued operating their newspaper. However, during this time they traveled extensively. In 1951 they sold their paper and moved to Las Vegas where Liz rejoined her parents and her sisters. For the first time in many years, she was able to enjoy some leisure time. She became very active in the social life of Las Vegas where she was very popular.

In the early 1960's when Vail was serving as Democratic National Committeeman for Nevada, he was stricken with cancer and died at the age of 80 in San Francisco. At his request he was buried at the Mt. View Cemetery in Reno. This was a sad time for Liz and she spent the next year, with the help of her sister Ann, going through Vail's personal papers, manuscripts, and pictures. She then donated this completed project to the Special Collections at the Library of the University of Nevada. Liz also donated her Inaugural Ball gowns, slippers, and accessories, together with several other gowns she had worn on state occasions, to the Nevada State Museum where they were added to the collection of First Ladies' gowns.

Liz then began a life of travel in which she made two trips around the world and several ones to exotic places. Her friends often received cards from her from such places as Bora Bora, Tahiti, and the South Pole. In her elaborate clothes, and as the wife of a former Governor, she often found herself actively participating in the social life offered aboard ships. In the early 1980's her eyes began to bother her. Liz had eye surgery which was unsuccessful. She began to lose her eyesight which caused her great anxiety. She spent some time at a hospital in Chula Vista, California, going back occasionally to visit friends and family in Las Vegas.

Liz passed away on October 11, 1984, in Chula Vista and is now reunited with Vail at the Mt. View Cemetery in Reno. Nevada residents were indeed fortunate to have had this lovely, charming woman as one of their First Ladies. The author had known Liz Pittman since she was a small child and remembers in her teen years, "thinking that she was the epitome of the perfect lady. She was really an exceptional woman. Besides being most attractive, and always beautifully dressed, she was very kind and thoughtful with everyone."

Researched and written by Gertrude Gottschalk.

Posted to NWHP Web site December 2009.

Sources of information can be found at:

<https://nevadawomen.org/research-center/first-ladies/ida-louise-brewington-pittman/>

From our Research Desk

An Interesting Observation

By Patti Bernard

On International Women's Day, March 8, 2023, I made a presentation to a wonderful group of senior citizens at Revel Rancharra. The topic was, "When Ordinary Women Do Extra-Ordinary Feats," a program about Nevada women's contributions to the state in the 19th and 20th centuries. This audience was a perfect testing ground for one of my observations.



In my years of research, I have noticed that many children of early Nevada pioneers left the state to follow their careers in the Oakland/San Francisco area. Their parents remained in Nevada where they were established, and their lifestyle continued until a spouse, usually a husband, died. If there were extended family members in the area, the remaining spouse would continue to live in Nevada until they needed more assistance in daily living than their friends/family could provide. That parent, then also, left Nevada to be near one of their children.

In taking a quick survey of the residents that attended my program, the results helped confirm my observations on a sea change. As Nevada's economy has diversified during the past two decades, the tide has turned, and more California seniors are coming to Nevada to be closer to their children who moved here to further their careers. Most of my audience had moved *from* the Bay area or other California areas. Several southern California seniors and a couple 'old timer' Nevadans have been in the state for over 40 years. In total, my observation was reinforced.

2023-2024
NWHP Board of Directors

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Lisa-Marie Lightfoot

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Marcia Cuccaro

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Janice Hoke

Website First Ladies'

Biographies:

Patti Bernard

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Marching Through History Nevada Women at Work

By Sue Davis

The NWHP March event was held on March 18, 2023 at the Nevada Historical Society (NHS). NHS's Director, Catherine Magee, welcomed our guests and introduced Sherelyn Hayes-Zorn, NHS Curator of History and the facilitator of the presentation.

Ms. Hayes-Zorn highlighted the amazing contributions of nine Nevada women during the late Victorian and early Twentieth Century. Our guests learned about Lizzie Baymer, Frances A. Slaven Williamson, Hannah Clapp, Elizabeth Babcock, Nellie V. Mighels Davis, Idah Mecham Strobridge, Jeanne Elizabeth Weir, Anne Martin and Felice Cohn. In addition to the lecture, Ms. Hayes-Zorn presented various artifacts, photographs, and manuscripts from these women that belong to the Nevada Historical Society's collections. Before the presentation began, our guests were served a light brunch with a fruit salad, assorted muffins, and sparkling cider. After the presentation, our guests visited the Historical Society's museum displays and gift shop.



Sherelyn Hayes-Zorn, NHS Presenter

Attracting National Attention

By Mona Reno

Passionate volunteers have made the National Votes for Women Trail (NVWT) digital map and network of roadside markers a success, despite a worldwide pandemic that impacted everyone, everywhere. As the final markers are dedicated and the project wraps, our NVWT committee continues its work to lift up these stories.



(Image: <https://www.facebook.com/PembinaStateMuseum/>)



The picture on the right is of the Tonopah, Nevada marker dedication. NWHP members Marcia Cuccaro, Patti Bernard and Mona Reno are in the back row, to the left of Molly Walt. Dr. Joanne Goodwin, the Nevada state coordinator for the NVWT, is on the left in the front row.

A team has developed videos and curriculum as teaching tools for educators to introduce the Trail and the rich history of women's suffrage. Their work will continue with other outreach projects and improvements to the database and digital map—expanding the story of women's voting rights into the 21st century.

The National Votes for Women Trail is a resource for everyone. Your support will expand this work to reach people across the country with the history they don't learn in textbooks. Thank you for your donations!

Explore the National Votes for Women Trail at <https://ncwhs.org/votes-for-women-trail/>.

Find the NVWT videos:

<https://ncwhs.org/resources/suffrage-lesson-plans/> and <https://www.youtube.com/@ncwhs>.



NEVADA WOMEN'S HISTORY PROJECT

Membership Form

Thank you for supporting the Nevada Women's History Project. Your membership is vital to maintaining our website of women's biographies and interviews and to offset the operational costs of the NWHP.

Membership runs January thru December and includes an event discount and a quarterly newsletter. New members joining after August 15 will be members for that year and the next full year.)

☐ New Membership ☐ Renewal

Individual	\$30	_____
Organization	\$50	_____
Family of Two	\$55	_____
Friend	\$100	_____
Good Friend	\$250	_____
Corporate Sponsor	\$250	_____
Best Friend	\$500	_____
Best Friend Forever (Lifetime)	\$1,000	_____

I also enclose a donation for the NWHP: \$_____ General Fund \$_____ Endowment Fund

☐ I prefer the **digital copy** of the newsletter ☐ I prefer the **paper copy** of the newsletter

☐ I prefer both the **digital copy** and the **paper copy** of the newsletter.

May we post photos of you taken at NWHP events? (Photos taken at events may appear in our newsletter, on our website and Facebook page). ☐ Yes, you may use my photo ☐ No, you may not use my photo

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(775) 786-2335 FAX (775) 826-6865

www.nevadawomen.org www.suffrage100NV.org NevWHP@gmail.com

Our Mission: To provide visibility and support for the gathering and dissemination of history about the roles and contributions of all Nevada women.

Nevada Women's History Project is an educational Nevada Nonprofit Corporation and a 501(c)(3) Tax ID 46-1969895

NWHP News

NEVADA WOMEN'S HISTORY PROJECT

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NWHP Name Badge



Cost: \$15.00

Contact Mona at renomrl65@gmail.com

Send instructions on exactly how you wish your name to appear on the badge.

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