

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

## *New Best Friends Forever!*

*Welcome to Marybel Batjer*

By Patti Benard



We are honored that Marybel Batjer has chosen to be a member of NWHP at the highest level. Third generation Nevadan, and Carson City native, Marybel has represented our state in a variety of positions. Beginning in private enterprise in Nevada's gaming industry, she later served in key administrative positions for both California and Nevada governors, as well as serving in the Reagan and Bush administrations.

We interviewed Marybel in August of 2016 . (<https://nevadawomen.org/research-center/media-center/gold-in-the-silver-state>). After that interview she was appointed by Governor Jerry Brown of California as the first secretary of the Government Operations Agency in 2013.

In July 2019 Governor Newsom appointed Marybel President of the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC). Almost immediately upon assuming office, the terrible wildfires of 2019 occurred, determined to be largely ignited by utility equipment. During this period, the three Investors Owned Utilities (IOUs) initiated widespread Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS) to avoid further ignitions due to very high winds sparking and causing wildfires, and by doing so shut off power to millions of Californians. Ms. Batjer sought to improve wildfire mitigation and PSPS events and accelerated and improved critical customer protections such as banning utility disconnections during the COVID-19 pandemic. She oversaw changes to Pacific Gas and Electric Company's governance structure as a requirement for approving their reorganization plan to exit bankruptcy.

After retiring from the CPUC in December of 2021, and taking some much-needed time off, in May of 2022, she joined California Strategies & Advocacy, a public affairs consulting firm, headquartered in Sacramento.

Marybel has a home in Sacramento but also shares a home in Reno with her sister Christina. Nevada blood runs strong in the Batjer family. Photo from Batjer's Personal Collection

*Welcome to Carole Tripp*

By Marcia Cuccaro

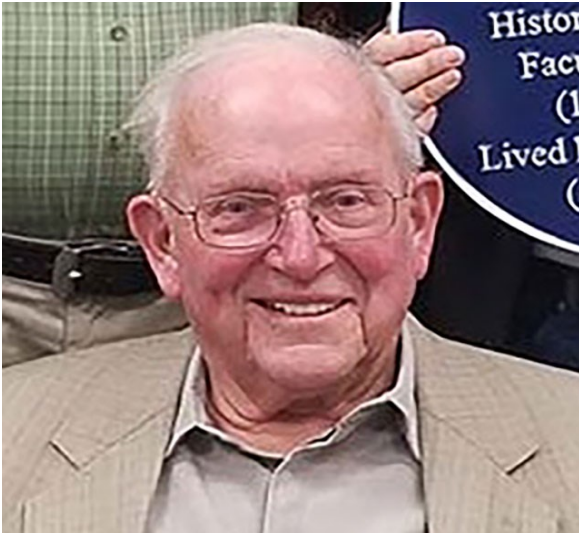
Carole Tripp, born and raised in Glendale, CA, moved to Nevada in 1971. She received her AA degree from Western Nevada Community College and was a member of the honor society, Phi Theta Kappa.

She also graduated from the Insurance Institute of America earning an Associate in Claims. She is a 30-year retiree from the State of Nevada where she worked for the Welfare Division and the State Industrial Insurance System.

In addition to reading and knitting, she and her husband Bob are world travelers.

Carole states she joined NWHP because "I have so much admiration for the work this organization does. I like reading about the accomplishments of these Nevada women. It's about time they get the credit they deserve!"

## Remembering A Dear Friend



UNR Department of History Faculty and Staff  
Emeritus Faculty

<https://www.unr.edu/history/faculty-staff>

By Mary Lee Fulkerson

Sometimes when people exit this world, they leave pieces of their story behind, pieces of brilliance and fairness, compassion, and wit. Such a person was Dr. James W. Hulse, who died May 9, 2023.

Born in Pioche in 1930, Jim received innumerable distinctions and awards and supported countless organizations, including original membership in NWHP. A Harold's Club Scholarship allowed him to attend UNR. (Note: *Harold's Club gave these scholarships to a boy and girl honor student in every high school in the state*)

When my son Bob asked him to name the most influential woman in Nevada history, Jim said, "Maude Frazier. She was the first woman superintendent of public instruction and the first woman lieutenant governor in the state. She convinced my mother to get a teaching degree, which propelled her into a career that got me started on the road to a great education, from a one-room school in Lincoln County to Stanford University to teaching at UNR."

In addition to many scholarly contributions, he wrote two textbooks for Nevada history classes- *The Nevada Adventure* (1965) and *The Silver State* (1991), the first and most widely used text on Nevada history. For a later edition of that book, NWHP founder Jean Ford convinced him to include notable women. He did, grudgingly, but later was so taken with the idea that near the end of his life he hoped to write a Nevada history book featuring women. Alas, that didn't happen.

The little pieces of story that Jim Hulse left behind makes me wonder what would happen if we whose lives he touched began putting those puzzle pieces together. Rest In Peace, dear friend.

<https://www.rgj.com/obituaries/rqj050735>

Obituary posted online on May 18, 2023  
Published in Reno Gazette-Journal

### Membership, Renewals, and Donations April through June

#### NWHP - Membership Report

As of June 12, 2023 the membership of NWHP is 116 members in good standing. We have 13 Honorary Members, 10 Best Friends Forever, 3 Good Friends, 2 Best Friends, 10 Family, 53 Individual, 21 Friends and 4 organizations with the addition of DKG Xi Chapter.

Joy Orlich, Membership

#### Membership:

##### Individual-\$30.00

Sarah Britt  
Claire White - **new**  
Rosalyne Reynolds -**new**

#### Donations:

##### General Fund

Florence Suenaga - \$70.00

**Thank You All!**

## 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](mailto:shdavis4364@att.net)  
Lynette 530-448-6448 [lynetteastors@gmail.com](mailto:lynetteastors@gmail.com)  
 or Patti 775-826-3612 [awtuv1@gmail.com](mailto:awtuv1@gmail.com)

### NWHP ANNUAL MEETING IN JULY

**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



Personal Collection

**Cost:** Members: \$45 Non-Members: \$50

Join us to hear Former Lt. Governor Kate Marshall, who has had a great impact on the citizens of Nevada in all her state positions.

Before being elected lieutenant governor in 2018, she served two terms as our State Treasurer. Kate left to join President Biden's administration in 2021 as senior adviser to governors in the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs. She has now returned to Nevada to tell us about her experiences in our state and Washington D.C.

Watch for more information on the NWHP website or in your email blast.

### COME ONE, COME ALL TO OUR NWHP AUGUST GARDEN PARTY

**Date:** Saturday, August 19, 2023

**Time:** 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

**Where:** Info on registration form.

**Cost:** Absolutely None!

Join us for a relaxing Garden luncheon at the home of Patti Bernard. This is our way of thanking our loyal members who support us as well as welcoming folks that are interested in learning about and joining our organization. We will talk about the importance of NWHP in

research and recording women's roles in our state's history, as well as future activities and programs for 2023-2024. There are many opportunities for you to contribute your time, hang out with friends, and make new friends. ***We invite you to bring a friend for salads and sandwiches.***

Watch for more information on the NWHP website or in your email blast.

### WOMEN IN THE MILITARY : MAJOR GENERAL CYNTHIA KIRKLAND



National Guard Bureau  
[nationalguard.mil](http://nationalguard.mil)

**Date:** Saturday, September 16, 2023

**Time:** 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**Where:**

Nevada Women's Fund/NWHP Office  
 770 Smithridge Dr., Suite 300,  
 Reno 89502

**Cost:** Members: \$20 Non-Members: \$25

Join us for a wine and cheese event and meet the **first female** Adjutant General of Nevada. Major General Kirkland was appointed by Governor Kenny Guinn in 2005. She was responsible for both the federal and state missions of the Nevada National Guard commanding more than 4,500 members of the Nevada Air and Army National Guard. Major General Kirkland enlisted in the Navy in 1973 and retired in June 2009. We are excited for her to share her experiences as a female in the military. Watch for more information on the NWHP website or in your email blast.

### *NWHP - Treasurer's Report*

The Year-to-Date, as of May 31, 2023, financial report shows a bank and Pay-Pal balance of \$70,482.70, \$0.00 liability and net YTD income of \$6,198.70. The total equity plus liability of the NWHP is \$70,482.70.

Michelle Gardner – Treasurer



## *Message from the Chair*

By Sue Davis



Greetings,

I am so thankful that spring has arrived and there is no more snow to shovel! It is great to see other organizations ready to get out and “smell the roses” too.

This spring former Chair, Patti Bernard, and I were invited to the Carson City Soroptimist Club and The Monday Club to share information about the Nevada Women’s History Project. Our presentations consisted of the “who, what when, and where” of the Nevada Women’s History Project and then tailored our presentations to each group. The Carson City Soroptimist Club heard stories of one of Carson City’s most beloved teachers, Grace Bordewich, which some of the audience remembered as their teacher. Patti’s presentation to the Monday Club was on the Reno Elderberry Club. The Elderberry Club was formed to provide entertainment for women over 70 years of age with a limited membership of 16. After twenty years of existence, as their husbands died, they noticed a need for senior independent housing for women with limited financial means. This led to actively pursuing a project that would ultimately bring the first residential housing for active seniors of limited means to the Reno community.

We received positive feedback from both organizations and even added some new members to our organization.

As always, your support is greatly appreciated. Please check out our monthly activities and plan on attending a few of these events! We hope to see you at our annual meeting on July 15, 2023 at the beautiful Toiyabe Gold Club in Washoe Valley.

Thank you for your continued support,

Sue Davis, NWHP Chair

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### *\$5,000 Donation from the Zonta Club of Greater Reno*

By Joy Orlich



**ZONTA**  
CLUB OF  
GREATER RENO

The Zonta Club of Greater Reno has decided to disband their local club and has made a generous donation to NWHP of \$5,000. The funds may be used for any purpose, and the board is discussing using a portion to expand our website curriculum offerings.

The name Zonta derives from a Sioux Indian word meaning honest and trustworthy. The parent organization, Zonta International, was established in 1919 and has over 25,000 members in 60+ countries worldwide. Their mission is to advocate for gender equality and the elimination of violence against women. The first Zonta Club in Reno existed from 1959 to 1970. The current Reno club was chartered in 1992 and disbanded in 2023.

Through the efforts of Jean Ford, Zonta was a part of NWHP’s formation in the mid-1990s, sending representatives to attend early organizational meetings, and becoming one of the initial organization members. Zonta President, Joy Orlich, along with members Patti Bernard, Debby Carlson, Mona Reno, and Roz Reynolds are also members of NWHP.

We are grateful to the members of Zonta for this generous gift and pledge to use the funds to continue researching, documenting, and educating the public about the contributions of women in Nevada.

## *NWHP April Program Review: Saving Memories and History of Sparks, Nevada*

Article and Photos By Sue Davis



Christine Johnson-Director



Patti Bernard-Sparks Museum

Members and guests met on April 22, 2023 at the Sparks Museum and Cultural Center. Christine Johnson, Director, explained that the museum building served as many community agencies: Sparks Justice of the Peace Center, a holding center, and Sparks library. The Sparks Heritage Foundation and Museum was established on April 1, 1985, with the goal of preserving the cultural heritage of Sparks.

Sparks was officially founded in 1904 when the Southern Pacific Railroad moved their Roundhouse and locomotive erecting shop from Wadsworth, Nevada to shorten travel routes. The city of Sparks sprung up overnight as the railroad promised a deed for land for only \$1.00 if the employees moved their homes from Wadsworth to Sparks.

After Ms. Johnson's presentation, three long-time residents of Sparks; Marcia Adams Frugoli, Carolyn Dondero, and Lynn Weatherford shared their memories of growing up in the 1950's and 1960's in the then small town of Sparks.

Ms. Johnson gave us a tour of the current exhibits, which included items from the history of the Sparks Police Department, Lincoln Highway, and a special display prepared by the Reno/Sparks Indian Colony.

We also visited The Sparks Heritage Museum Research Center, to which NWHP donated many books about Nevada women. We encourage you to visit this small but rich museum, especially their gift shop, which showcases items made by local citizens.

## *NWHP May Program Review: Annual Jean Ford Wildflower Hike*

Article and Photos By Sue Davis



Luke Sorenson-Horticulturist



Jean Ford Hike

On May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023, our annual wildflower hike was held at the Wilbur D. May Arboretum and Botanical Garden. Our guide was Luke Sorenson, the horticulturist for the Washoe county Regional Parks. Our 50-minute tour was enjoyed by 15 ladies, both NWHP members and non-members.

The Wilbur D. May Arboretum and Botanical Garden is a living plant museum with over 4,600 native and adaptive plant species on display on 13 of its 23 total acres. Since the first planting in 1984-1985, native and introduced plants have flourished at the May Arboretum. The garden houses 85 genera, both native and non-native, and encompasses nearly 23 acres.

Funded by a generous grant from the Wilbur May Foundation, the Arboretum is a lasting tribute to the memory of philanthropist Wilbur D. May. The Arboretum is owned and operated by Washoe County and continues to receive funding from the May Foundation, as well as other supporters such as the May Arboretum Society and private donations from the community.



## *Nevada Women's Fund Luncheon*

By Marcia Cuccaro



Several members of the Nevada Women's History Project attended the annual Nevada Women's Fund (NWF) "Salute to Women of Achievement Luncheon" on Thursday, May 25, 2023. NWHP member, Joyce Cox, was honored for her work as a research librarian, her authorship of three Nevada History books and for her service as a Nevada Historical Society Docent.

The luncheon marked the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of that organization and the celebration centered around LEGACY. During the past 4 decades, Nevada Women's Fund has raised millions of dollars and funded scholarships to hundreds of Nevada women. This year's speaker, Sandra Douglass Morgan, received a NWF scholarship to attend the William S. Boyd School of Law at the University of Nevada Las Vegas.

During the first year of existence, the Nevada Women's Fund awarded two \$500 dollar scholarships and \$10,000 in grants. In 2023, the Fund awarded a total of \$290,025 in scholarships to 75 women. During the past 40 years, 2,032 Nevada women have been the beneficiaries of NWF scholarships. NWF founders believed that by educating and empowering women, northern Nevada families and the community would be strengthened. Today, this vision is a powerful reality.

At the luncheon, Ms. Morgan, shared her journey from her undergraduate days at the University of Nevada, Reno, where she "fell in love" with constitutional law", to law school at the William S. Boyd School of Law at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, to being named Chair of the Nevada Gaming Control Board, Commissioner on the Nevada State Athletic Commission and chief legal officer for the city of North Las Vegas, among her many honors. Her journey has been remarkable, especially for an interracial woman of Korean-Black descent. As a young girl/woman, she was made to understand if she wasn't happy or felt as though she wasn't being seen, she could be part of the change. She accepted that challenge and has made equity and respect part of her being.

Ms. Morgan is currently President of the Las Vegas Raiders. She is the first Black female team president in the National Football League and is currently the vice-chair of the 2024 Super Bowl LVIII Host Committee. This will be the first time Las Vegas, and the state of Nevada, will host a national event of this kind.



(Matt Aguirre/Las Vegas Raiders)

<https://www.unlv.edu/news/article/rebel-becomes-raider-sandra-douglass-morgan>

## *Grace Jeanette Bordewich*



***Carson City English teacher recognized  
nationally and locally***

Grace Bordewich  
Photo Courtesy of  
Carson City High School

### **At A Glance**

**Born:** June 19, 1910, Carson City, Nevada

**Died:** March 01, 1999, Carson City, Nevada

**Maiden Name:** Bordewich

**Race/Nationality/Ethnic Background:** Norwegian

**Primary City and County of Residence and Work:** Carson City (Ormsby)

**Major Fields of Work:** Education, Mentor

**Other Role Identities:** Daughter, Teacher, Educator

Grace Bordewich or “Miss Bordewich,” as she was known to legions of high school students throughout her 33 years of teaching, was born June 19, 1910, in Carson City, Nevada to early Nevadans. Her father, Arthur Bordewick, (later changed to Bordewich), a native of Cook County, Illinois had made his way to Carson City, Nevada in 1906. Arthur’s parents had immigrated to the United States from Norway sometime prior to the turn of the century. In Carson City, he met and married Agnes B. Cutts, a native of the city, whose father’s parents had made their way to Carson City from Kennebec, Maine and had settled in Carson City in 1863. Arthur was employed at the Nevada State Printing Office when Grace was born, where he worked until his retirement in 1949. As was customary in the 1900s, Agnes remained at home with Grace. Six years later Grace’s sister Carolyn, “Nance,” was born and Agnes spent the remainder of her life caring for her husband and their two children.

In the early 1900s, mining booms had died out and Nevada’s population decreased. By the year 1925 when Grace was fifteen years of age, the population of Carson City was just under 2,500 inhabitants.

Grace attended both elementary and high school in the old sandstone block three-story school building which was located on West King Street just three blocks west of the State Capitol. Her high school year book showed Grace participated in Spanish Club, Science Club, Glee Club, drama, band and was on the yearbook staff. She also participated in sports and received the prestigious



## *Grace Bordewich : Cont'd*

"Block C" athletic award. Grace graduated from Carson High School in 1928 and went on to the University of Nevada to further her education. She was a member of the Pi Beta Phi fraternal organization, played varsity basketball, worked on the Artemisia college yearbook and during her senior year she served on the Upper-class Committee. She graduated in June of 1932 with a teaching degree and signed her first teacher's contract with the Ormsby County School District on September 5, 1933. She wasn't much older than her first students and some wondered whether she would be able to control her classroom. After the first few weeks, Grace had left no doubt in anyone's mind that she was there to teach English, and it was English she taught.

During summer months between school years, Grace attended continuing education classes at Stanford, the University of Pacific, the University of California at Berkeley, and the University of California at Los Angeles. Local newspaper articles from the 1930s and 1940s show she was an avid bridge player and that she was a frequent traveler to the Bay Area, often accompanied by her mother or sister.

Grace was active in the American Association of University Women and was awarded an honorary membership in The National League of American Pen Women. She enjoyed hiking and picnicking with friends.

By 1940, Carson City's population was now on an upswing. When I asked Nevada State Demographer, Jeff Hardcastle, what the population was in 1940, he advised me the population count was 3,209. As the school system grew, so did Grace's English classes. Grace had informed her last Principal, Kirk Kinne, that she had as many as 55 students in a class and 42 was not unusual until a second English teacher was employed. Grace taught it all – spelling, grammar, composition, and literature, never teaching one without the other.

Grace was becoming a highly regarded teacher of English at Carson City High School. She was dedicated to her job. Her students were required to turn in themes on a daily basis. Duane Glanzman, former student, Class of 1952, who later taught with Grace at the high school recalled Grace believed "writing was so very important for each one of us and of course she was correct. But when she decided to require five themes a week we protested. Miss Bordewich was a fair person who was always willing to listen to our points of view. In respect of the students' feelings, she decided not to require a fifth theme a week."

In 1960 when Carson City had a population of just over 5,000 individuals, Grace Bordewich was nominated by McCall's Magazine as one of the outstanding English teachers nationwide. Ultimately, she was named one of seven State Teachers of the Year and a National Teacher of the Year finalist by the Council of Chief State School Officers. "The National Teacher of the Year (NTOY) Program began in 1952 and continues as the oldest, most prestigious honors program that focuses public attention on excellence in teaching." She and the other nominees attended a White House ceremony which honored the nation's Teachers of the Year.

Morse Burley, Principal of Carson High School (1954–1981), wrote "No student ever having Grace as a teacher failed to thank her for her part in helping him be successful in his chosen field of endeavor. However, there were some things that Grace was not overjoyed in being assigned to. One such activity was LUNCH DUTY! She managed to corner Mr. John Borda (another teacher) and promise to provide him with excellent lunches, provided he assumed her lunch duty. John Borda enthusiastically accepted her deal, fully aware of the delicious, gourmet lunches she would prepare and would have delivered to him during the week of duty."

## *Grace Bordewich : Cont'd*

Grace retired from teaching in 1965 but her interest in people and education was everpresent in her life. During the 1960s, she was an “active fund-raiser for UNICEF, the United Nations Children’s Fund which was created by the United Nations General Assembly in 1946 to provide emergency food and healthcare to children in countries that had been devastated by World War II. In 1953 that organization became a permanent part of the United Nations System with a mission of providing long term humanitarian and developmental assistance to children and mothers in developing countries. In a 1966 Nevada State Journal article, “Doll” Smith of the Elko Soroptimist Club, quoted Grace Bordewich’s reply to a woman at the U.S. Embassy who had impatiently asserted that “the Indian women (Mayan) don’t know any better and it’s useless to try and change them.” Miss Bordewich’s response was “her mother and grandmother once had rubbed clothes on a board and boiled them on the stove. They didn’t know about the washing machine then, but when they found out, they weren’t slow to change.”

On September 20, 1974, the old Carson City High School building, built in 1936 and later used as a middle school was renamed and dedicated to Grace Bordewich, Carson City’s beloved English teacher. At the dedication, many of Grace’s former students gathered to honor their former teacher.

In 1988 Grace Bordewich was inducted into the Carson School District’s Hall of Fame. Bordewich School Principal Kirk Kinne, a former Miss Bordewich student, was quoted as stating it was with much trepidation, he sat down to write a brief speech inducting her into the school district’s education hall of fame. Grace attended the event along with many of her former students and friends. That same year Governor Richard Bryan proclaimed March 4th as Grace Bordewich Day throughout the State of Nevada.

In the mid-seventies, Gertrude Gottschalk, long-time Carson City resident, recalled the Democratic Women’s Club honored Grace (as well as Gertrude and former Nevada State Superintendent of Instruction Mildred Bray) at a dinner held at the Carson City Nugget. Grace, a very non-political person, and her sister Nancy attended and listened as Monique Laxalt read a tribute from her father Robert who had been one of her protégés many years before. He included these lines in his tribute. “What you are doing here today in honoring Grace Bordewich is a fine thing. Teachers are so often passed over when it comes to public recognition. And yet, of all the people who influence our lives – teachers are the ones who touch us most deeply – and lastingly.”

In 1989, Laxalt, internationally acclaimed and twice nominated for a Pulitzer Prize in fiction, dedicated his eighth book “The Basque Hotel” to Grace Bordewich. In an interview he said “It was Miss Bordewich who first taught me teachers can be human....It did not come from the tedium of grammar, but from poetry and short stories, from the magic of writing. In those times, her eyes would brighten, and her voice soften, and a student would have to be dead not to be affected. The mark that a single teacher can make upon a student is a mark that lasts a lifetime. So, it has been with me. She gave me the love of language.” A book signing was held that same year at Bordewich School and Grace attended and shared the afternoon with her student of long ago.

## *Grace Bordewich : Cont'd*

During her teaching career and long after Grace Bordewich retired, she was the recipient of innumerable accolades from the students she once taught. Former student, Barbara Dofflemyre Longero, wrote "Miss Bordewich was an example for all who are interested in the teaching profession. She was dedicated to the subject she taught, as well as to the students assigned to her for instruction." Don Toral, a retired Carson High School English teacher stated, "to be taught by Miss Bordewich and to pass her class was a standard in excellence." Mary Kay Graves Fry wrote "I still so often use what Grace Bordewich taught us. Those apprehensively awaiting their red-marked return, had such a worthwhile purpose. (I wonder how she would correct this last sentence!)"

In 2010, the Carson High School class of 1960 held a 50-year reunion. Individuals were asked to provide a short note about a teacher who had made an impact on their lives for a reunion book. The following was written by Carol Bernardini Laxalt: "I will never forget how kind, encouraging, compassionate and caring Ms. Bordewich was to me when I gave birth in the spring of my senior year of high school. It was with her guidance and wise counsel that I finished my required credits, via a correspondence course, took the final exams and received my diploma that June. She reached out to me when I most needed reassurance, instilling in me the confidence that despite being a young mother, I could achieve whatever I wanted. Her inspiration has followed me since those days. That my own daughter is a first-grade schoolteacher, guiding, nurturing and influencing so many young lives, much like Grace Bordewich, is my great bonus!"

Some of Grace's most notable students during her teaching career in addition to Robert Laxalt, class of '41, were Governor and later U.S. Senator Paul Laxalt, class of 1940, Rhodes Scholarship recipient John Hall, class of 1951, Governor Robert List, class of 1954, and District Court Judges Mike Griffin, class of 1961 and William Maddox and James Todd Russell, class of 1965. However, there are many teachers, principals, administrators, attorneys, technical writers, foreign exchange students, social workers, etc. whose names are less well known but whose writing skills were honed by Grace Bordewich in her English III and English IV classes.



Grace Bordewich fishing at Virgin Valley, 1959  
Courtesy University of Nevada Reno,  
Special Collections. Photo by Gus Bundy

Perhaps John Blakie, long time Carson City resident and school administrator said it best when he stated "she was the best English teacher there ever was. All of the students learned. She was very concerned about the individual and spent time with students outside of class helping them with social as well as academic problems." In the hundreds of lives Grace Bordewich touched, she was an amazing teacher and mentor and for those of us who still remember being taught by Grace Bordewich, she remains a legend!

Researched and written by Marcia Bernard Cuccaro.  
Posted on Web site April 2012

<https://nevadawomen.org/research-center/biographies-alphabetical/grace-a-bordewich/>



## *From our Research Desk*

### *What's in a Name?*

By Patti Bernard

The obituary said, "Pioneer Resident of State Succumbs." It was six sentences long; two about the woman, one of which gave a married name with only the third mention of her name in the obituary title. One sentence was about her second husband, one about her survivors, and two on burial details. That's the official summation of the woman's 77 years of life in Nevada.

Thanks to Bertha Raffetto for penning a beautiful story poem (ballad) and the happenstance of my research, I discovered a true Nevada woman. I found her historical information last month in a Reno Evening Gazette, Nov. 11, 1948, newspaper article. Bertha (composer of Nevada's state song *Home Means Nevada*) tried to memorialize Katie, but her notes were not preserved, and her efforts never caught the public's attention, which makes it much harder to research this interesting woman. I hope to give her some type of immortality with a biography on our website. She is exactly the type of woman whose achievements NWHP wants to recognize and celebrate.

Katie, who died in 1943, shared a friendship with Bertha and recounted to Bertha a facet of her early life on a ranch near Lovelock just before she died. The newspaper said that "after Bertha had authenticated the story, she turned it into verse." It's a beautifully written and lyrical poem that should gain much further recognition.

... "And many a tale is told of a ride  
That lasted from sun to sun,  
When a posse out-rode a cattle thief  
And did what had to be done.

But a woman rode, where there was no road  
Since the day that time began,  
When Katie Hoskins raced the law  
To warn a wanted man.

The ballad goes on to recount how, in 1884, she came home from a trip to town to tell her husband, Niels, (referred to as "Nels") that she had heard that a posse was forming to hunt down a crippled rancher who the posse thought had been rustling cattle. Katie and Neils, believing him innocent, decided to warn the man, who lived 90 miles away on a ranch near Winnemucca. But the only horse that might be able to stand that trip was one that Katie had tamed and only she could ride.

The stallion quivered and pawed the ground  
And stomped his mighty hate,  
Then reared and struck at the empty air...  
Nels was opening the gate.

...They ripped through clumps of twisted sage  
That clung and clawed like a cat,  
Through alkali scabs fouling the air  
Above the sandy flat.

## *Cont'd*

...Ten miles, fifteen, another ten...  
Katie was clocking the flight  
By the moon that topped the fluted hills  
And flooded the desert with light.

Katie follows the Humboldt River, rests the stallion, and reaches the rancher's homestead just at daybreak.

And when the posse thundered up  
They found their bird had flown  
And left them a girl with auburn hair  
A-rubbing down a roan.

There is so much more to this wonderful poem. I'm sure that she took some "poetic license" to make a good story even better. Obviously, there is much more research that must be done before a biography can be written, but just researching this part of Katie's life has been fascinating. Here are the facts that I have thus far 're-discovered.'

As a girl, her family had a ranch at Rye Patch (near Lovelock). Katie J. Craig was married in Reno in January 1881 to Neils Nelson. She was 15 at the time. Their ranch was at Big Meadow. She lost at least one baby before her son Charlie, spoken of in the poem, was born in 1884. There was a cattle rustling incident in the area that year, and while several men were initially arrested, a rancher was exonerated. Bertha and Neils were divorced in 1898 and she remarried in 1899 to a well-known musician by the name of Gabriel Hoskins. Her Reno home was in an area that is now a part of Virginia Lake.

Hooray for digital records! All this information I found online in newspaper and county records, with but one phone call to the Pershing County Clerk. Not too many years before this, I would have had to have made in person visits to the Lovelock and Washoe County Courthouses, as well as visits to cemeteries and libraries.

I urge you to use our hotlink below to read "The Ballad of Katie Hoskins," because, the only other place you will find this poem is in a dusty journal in the Nevada State Library and one at the Nevada Historical Society. Sadly, it is virtually unknown. Our hotlink below will link to the poem's title in Bertha Raffetto's biography where the ballad is mentioned.

### [The Ballad of Katie Hoskins](https://nevadawomen.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Typed-THE-BALLAD-OF-KATIE-HOSKINS.pdf)

This is the url: <https://nevadawomen.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Typed-THE-BALLAD-OF-KATIE-HOSKINS.pdf>

## *Wild Apricot - NWHP's New Membership Management System*

By Joy Orlich  
Membership Chair



New technology often seems like the bane of our existence, until suddenly it makes life better!

After decades of paper forms and spreadsheets, NWHP installed a new Membership Management System in January 2023. This new system has six components – membership, events, e-mailing and newsletters, financial accounting, merchandise sales, and a donations platform, with website integration. It also has the ability to accept online payments for membership, events, and merchandise.

Furthermore, it integrates all of these features, so at a glance, we can track the various activities of our members to garner what is working for our organization. This information will assist us to enhance the value of NWHP to our members.

Wild Apricot is a product of Personify Corp. and is used by over 50,000 nonprofits, trade associations, chambers of commerce, and colleges and universities worldwide.

Like all transitions to new technology, there have been a few bumps and glitches here and there, and we haven't fully implemented all of the new features yet, such as merchandise sales. But ultimately this system will pave the way for NWHP members to spend less of their volunteer time processing paperwork, and more time doing research, making presentations to schools and clubs, and advocating for the discovery and preservation of women's history in Nevada.

Not to worry, there will always be a paper option for those who prefer to sign up and pay for membership and events the old-fashioned way, but we are now poised to function smartly in our increasingly digital world.

**2023-2024  
NWHP Board of Directors**

### **Executive Committee**

#### **Chair:**

Sue Davis

#### **Vice-Chair:**

Lisa-Marie Lightfoot

#### **Secretary:**

Marcia Cuccaro

#### **Treasurer:**

Michelle Gardner

### **Appointed Directors**

#### **Past Chair:**

Patti Bernard

#### **Membership:**

Joy Orlich

#### **Website Biographies:**

Janice Hoke

#### **Website First Ladies'**

##### **Biographies:**

Patti Bernard

#### **Jean Ford Research Center:**

Patti Bernard

#### **At Large Director:**

Kathy Noneman

#### **At Large Director:**

Christianne Hamel

#### **At Large Director:**

Mona Reno

### **Committee Chairs**

#### **Communication:**

Silvana Ricci

#### **Corresponding Secretary:**

Sarah Britt

#### **Newsletter:**

Donna Knapp



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## 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

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ CELL PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Check No: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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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](mailto:renomrl65@gmail.com)

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

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