

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

Janice Hoke Inducted into the NWHP Roll of Honor

By Patti Bernard



Janice Hoke was recently inducted into the Nevada Women's History Project Roll of Honor. Janice has been our invaluable Nevada Women Website Editor for the last six years.

Janice's father was a physician in the U.S. Public Health Service, so as a child she lived in multiple places, including the Philippines. In her teenage years the family settled down in Dallas, Texas, where she graduated from high school. She obtained her B.A. from Agnes Scott College in Decatur, Georgia, and M.A. in education from Vanderbilt University. She met her husband, Michael Hoke in Charlotte, N.C., where she had been teaching.

After their marriage in 1970 she became an "Army Wife." After Mike's military service, they returned to South Carolina where he finished his MBA degree.

The couple moved to Reno in 1976. She was employed by Bally Manufacturing. Taking some time off to become a full-time mother of twins, Janice returned to working life as a writer for the Reno News Bureau. She then became a freelance copy editor and became a full-time editor and writer for the "Neighbors" section and later, a news reporter for the *Reno Gazette Journal* in the areas of education.

Volunteerism is an important part of Janice's life. She has volunteered at Libby Booth Elementary School, the Food Bank of Northern Nevada, and joined the ranks of volunteers at the Nevada Women's History Project. She was almost immediately "coaxed" to become the organization's Nevada Women's Biography Editor where she has been invaluable to the Project, soliciting and editing numerous biographies that are uploaded to our website, nevadawomen.org.

Janice and Mike are moving to Colorado, so her in-person presence will be sorely missed by us, as well as her other volunteer organizations. She, however, has agreed to stay as a co-editor to still edit our biographies. We are looking for someone to help her with the local legwork such as obtaining biography photographs at our historical repositories. NWHP wishes her all the best and thanks her for her service to the organization.

NWHP Roll of Honor History and Recipients

By Mona Reno

The Roll of Honor was introduced at the first biennial Nevada Women's History Conference held on March 3, 1997. The purpose of this ongoing project is to honor individuals and organizations who have 'Made a Difference' in the gathering and dissemination of Nevada women's history. Carrie Townley-Porter [NWH News Vol. 2, No. 2, May 1997, pg. 10.](#)

The honorees have shown commitment and creativity which resulted in contributions of published works, video productions, making accessible research data and special services. The Roll of Honor was one of Jean Ford's many ideas, and she refused to be included among the first honored. Carrie Townley-Porter [NWH News Vol. 4, No. 2, May 1999, pg. 8](#)

This list of the persons and organizations that have been inducted into the NWHP Roll of Honor is also on our website at nevadawomen.org/the-project/roll-of-honor. We are proud of these people for the contributions they have made to the history of women in Nevada. The articles written about the individual honorees are listed in the following table.

All issues of the NWHP News are available on our website at nevadawomen.org/research-center/newsletters/. Please take a look at all the wonderful information there.

NWHP Roll of Honor	Year	NWHP News
American Association of University Women, Nevada Division	1997	
Anne Howard PhD	1997	V2n1, p2
Carol Marshall Clanton	2008	V13n4, p6
Carrie Townley Porter	2005	V11n1, p6
Caryll Batt Dziedziak	2008	V14n2, p2
Celesta Lowe	1997	V2n4, p6
Churchill County Museum	2001	
Delta Kappa Gamma-Alfa Chi State Chapter	1997	
Dixie Westergard	2003	V8n2, p10
Douglas County Historical Society	2005	
Eileen Cohen	2006	V12n1, p10

NWHP Roll of Honor	Year	NWHP News
Elaine Enarson PhD	1997	V2n2, p10
Eleanor Gottschalk	2001	V7n2, p7
Fritsi Ericson	2001	V6n4, p5
Gwen Clancy	2005	V11n1, p6
Helen J. Stewart	1997	V3n1, p6
Isabelle Slavin Blackman	1997	V2n3, p4
Jan Cleere	2006	V12n2, p10
Jan Loverin	1997	V3n2, p6
Jane Pieplow	2001	V7n1, p9
Janice Hoke	2023	V28n4
Jean Ford	1999	V4n2, p8
Jeanne Elizabeth Weir, PhD	1997	V2n4, p6
Jo Anne Peden	2008	V12n2, p10
Joanne Goodwin, PhD	2008	V14n2, p3
Jon Hamel	2016	V21n3, p5
Joyce Marshall	2001	V7n1, p6
Lee Kosso	1997	V3n1, p6
Lee Mortensen	1997	V2n4, p6
Margaret (Peg) Wheat	1997	V2n2, p10
Margaret Wells Butts	2001	V6n3, p6
Marlene Adrian PhD	2006	V11n4, p6
Mary Ellen Glass	1997	V2n3, p4
Mary Freeman	1997	V2n4, p6
Mesquite Club of Las Vegas	1997	V2n3, p4
Mona Reno	2012	V18n1, p1
Nevada Humanities Committee	1997	V2n2, p10
Nevada Women's Fund	2001	V7n3, p7
Nona Parkin	1997	V3n1, p6
Patricia A Gueder PhD	1997	V2n3, p4
Patti Bernard	2019	V24n1, p3
Patty Cafferata	2008	V13n3, p11
Paulette Grune	2003	V8n2, p10
Ron James	1997	V3n2, p6
Sally Zanjani PhD	1997	V2n2, p10
Sylvia Ontañeda-Bernales	1997	V3n1, p6
Verde Hughes	1997	V2n3, p4
Victoria Ford	2001	V7n4, p7

HATS OFF TO OUR DONORS

By Patti Bernard

NWHP could not exist without its benefactors, both those who, through memberships and donations, sustain our organization's expenses and events, but also, those individuals and foundations that, through their grants, sustain our oral history interviews. We would like to acknowledge them and their importance to one of our newer NWHP formats, the ***Nevada Women: Gold in the Silver State*** oral history program. <https://nevadawomen.org/research-center/media-center/gold-in-the-silver-state/> Thanks to the generosity of the following donors, 45 video interviews have been conducted and uploaded to the site:

- ✚ the **John Ben Snow Memorial Trust**
- ✚ the **Robert Z Hawkins Foundation**
- ✚ the **Phil and Jennifer Satre Family Charitable Fund through the Community Foundation of Northern Nevada**
- ✚ the **Roxie and Azad Joseph Foundation Trust**
- ✚ the **Terry Lee Wells Foundation**
- ✚ the **Ericson Family Fund at the Nevada Women's Fund**
- ✚ the **Estelle J. Kelsey Foundation**

A special thanks to the **Ericson Family Fund at the Nevada Women's Fund** and the **Estelle J. Kelsey Foundation** who have given NWHP oral interview grants for multiple years.

The program saw its beginnings in 2014. It was decided to add this format of recording living women's activities to complement the biographies of deceased women we had been researching, writing, and publicizing, for the first twenty years of our organization's existence. We previously had worked with a wonderful videographer, Gwen Clancy, and asked her to join us on our new venture, then set out to write a grant that would enable us to travel to communities along Hwy. 50, "The Loneliest Road in America." We chose the John Ben Snow Memorial Trust as our first grant "ask" as they had awarded us previous grants, and 'shot for the moon' and asked for \$10,000.

With that funding in hand, we gathered up our equipment and headed out to communities along that "Loneliest Road in America" for a 3-day road trip. Our first stop was Carson City, and then on to Austin, Kingston, Eureka, and Baker, to interview Nevada women, often the bedrock in their towns, but whose activities would never be recognized outside their own communities.

Then, the question had to be answered of how to highlight these women on our website to give them the exposure they so richly deserved. The answer came to us through a metaphor. These women were like undiscovered gold in Nevada, and thus our heading became, ***Nevada Women: Gold in the Silver State***. The interviews would be "housed" under our Research/Media Center website heading. After Gwen had lightly edited the interviews, we joyously uploaded our first 16 oral histories onto the site. The next foundation we approached was the Robert Z Hawkins Foundation and, thanks to their generosity, 14 more interviews were added.

Fast forward to December 2023, and the site will house 50 interviews when those of the five women currently being interviewed, will be added. The ages of interviewees range from 55 to 98, with multiple ethnic backgrounds represented. In addition to interviewing locally, we hope to recreate our interview road trips in future years, as there are many more women to be "discovered" along Nevada Highways 93, 95, and I80.

So, NWHP tips its hat to all our donors. Women should not have to wait until they are dead to have their achievements acknowledged. You all have made an incalculable difference in 'recording' women's history. Thank you!

Membership, Renewals, and Donations

September through December

Honorary Members:

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

Best Friend Forever - \$1,000:

Marybel Batjer
 Dana Bennett
 Lynn Bremer
 Grace Davis
 Dr. Jaculine C. Jones
 Vida Keller
 Catherine Magee
 Sandy Raffealli
 Mona Reno
 Janet Spelman
 Carole Tripp

Membership:

Individual - \$30
 Cheryle (Cheri) Abbott
 Elaine Alexander-*new*
 Byllie D'Amato Andrews
 Terri Avansino
 Sarah Britt
 Elsa Cafferata-*new*
 Patricia (Patty) Cafferata
 Debby Carlson
 Vicki Carlson
 Janet Carnes
 Madeline H. Carpenter
 Dr. Linda Clements
 Patty Clock
 Gail Duwe
 Frances Edison
 Carleen Ernest
 Jacqueline (Jacki) Falkenroth
 Candice (Candy) Fife

Carla Ford
 Carolyn Gardner
 Janice Hoke
 Beverly Hubbard
 Abigail Johnson
 Gilda Johnstone
 Renee Kolvet
 Marian LaVoy
 Marilyn Lewis
 Karen Morris
 Kelsey Piechocki
 Judith Reuter
 Rosalynne Reynolds
 Betty Rose
 Janine Smith-*new*
 Charlene Sprague
 Holly Walton-Buchanan
 Carolyn Wilson

Family - \$50
 Maria Birdsall-*new*
 Catherine Cuccaro and
 Jeff Milligan
 Katie and Bonnie Drinkwater
 Barbara and Dave Finley
 Christianne and Jon Hamel
 Reyna and Keith Johnson-*new*
 Nancyann Leeder
 Kathleen and Charlie Noneman
 Sue and Jim Smith

Friend - \$100
 Faye Andersen
 Lynette Astors
 Sandy Bitler-*new*
 Sue Davis
 Helen De Marco
 Linda Dufurrena-*new*
 Mary Lee Fulkerson
 Michelle Gardner
 Terry Horgan
 Nancy Hudson
 Carol Hunter
 Lisa Jayne
 Donna Knapp
 Tina Nappe-*new*
 Joy Orlich
 Jane Tors

Good Friend - \$250

Janet Loverin

Best Friend - \$500

Patti Bernard
 Marcia Cuccaro

Organization:

Nevada Women's Fund
 DKG, Lambda Chapter

General Fund Donations:

General Fund

Faye Anderson \$100
 Christina Batjer \$500
 Janet Carnes \$20
 Frances Edison \$20
 Carla Ford \$70
 Beverly Hubbard \$100
 Marian LaVoy \$20
 Judith Reuter \$20.00
 Florence Suenaga \$100

Endowment Fund Donations

In Memory of Peggy Hamel

Patti Bernard
 Mona Reno

In Memory of James Hulse

Patti Bernard
 Betty Hulse
 Mona Reno

In Memory of Cecilia Losada

Patti Bernard
 Marcia Cuccaro

In Honor of Patti Bernard's Birthday

Marcia Cuccaro

Thank You All!



“Resurrecting Nevada’s Most Notable Women” at Mountain View Cemetery

By Marcia Cuccaro

Pictured: Lorraine Peterson as Jeanne Weir and friend

Photo From NWPH Collection

It was a beautiful morning on Saturday, June 17, 2023, as NWHP members and friends gathered to listen to the stories of the lives of women passed (Mary Poor Bell, Vida Boyle, Mary S. Doten, Mimosa Pittman, Bertha Raffetto, Barbara Vucanovich, Anna Warren and Jeanne Weir). Their biographies are available at <https://nevadawomen.org/research-center/>. Lunch followed at Reno’s Gold and Silver restaurant. The history of the restaurant was shared by historian, Patti Bernard, and attendees shared their memories and stories of this beloved restaurant.

Lighting Up Ladies: Neon In Nevada

By Sue Davis



Will Durham

The NWHP October program featured Will Durham, of The Nevada Neon Project and was held at the Sparks Heritage Museum on October 18, 2023. The 30 guests thoroughly enjoyed Will’s enthusiastic presentation about the various Nevada neon signs he has collected over many years. His collection of neon signs documents the many phases of Nevada’s businesses and gambling establishments. He explained the process of removing the very large neon signs and the problems storing the signs once removed. Although he has not



found a location to display his neon signs, he continues to collect and one day hopes to establish a museum. We also learned about Betty Willis, a neon sign designer from Las Vegas. Recently NWHP posted her biography. <https://nevadawomen.org/research-center/biographies-alphabetical/betty-whitehead-willis/>

Annie Saunders, a local Reno neon artist, gave a presentation explaining how neon has become a medium for many women artists. She helps Will collect neon signs and was very enthusiastic about working with neon.



Photos from NWHP Collection

Featured Historic Nevada Woman:

MAYA PAINE MILLER

At A Glance:

Born: June 29, 1915 Los Angeles, CA

Died: May 30, 2006 Washoe Valley, NV

Maiden Name: Paine

Race/Nationality/Ethnic

Background: European American

Married: Married Richard Gordon Miller of Denison, Iowa in 1940, in Los Angeles, Divorced him in 1976

Children: Eric McClary Miller née Eric McClary (male), born April 14, 1953, died July 4, 2002; Carson Ann (Kit) Miller (female) born March 7, 1955

Primary City and County of Residence and Work: Washoe Valley, Nevada.

Worked there, and in Carson City, Reno (Washoe County), Las Vegas (Clark County) and rural Nevada. She worked nationally and internationally.

Major Fields of Work: Poverty, welfare rights, women's issues, women with children, environment, feminism, human rights, race relations, peace.



Photo Courtesy of Dennis Myers

Biography

Maya Paine Miller was born June 29, 1915, in Los Angeles, California, to Olivia Newman Paine and Paul Paine, an oil engineer. She grew up and attended elementary school in Beverly Hills, and graduated from Principia High School in St. Louis, Missouri, and Principia College in Elmhurst, Illinois. She earned a Master's degree in English from Cornell University and worked on a PhD at Stanford University.

She married Richard Gordon Miller, an ichthyologist from Denison, Iowa, in 1940, and worked in San Francisco during World War II, while Dick was in the Pacific Theater. In 1945, the couple came to Nevada, where Maya taught English briefly at the University of Nevada, Reno. They had two children, Eric McClary Miller, and Carson Ann (Kit) Miller.

In 1960, the Millers founded Foresta Institute for Ocean and Mountain Studies, a non-profit center for the study of ecology. In 1961, they purchased the historic Washoe Pines Ranch next door to their home in Washoe Valley, which they ran as an environmental summer camp for youth. As the result of an inheritance, Maya's financial independence allowed her to support philanthropic causes of public interest without fear of economic pressure and without owing favors.

One of Maya's earliest efforts was a fight to establish a bi-state park at Sand Harbor, Lake Tahoe. Through the early 1960s, Maya strategized, organized, and testified, along with environmentalists

and sportsmen, and lobbied the Nevada and California legislatures. The park was established in 1971, ensuring public access to one of the most beautiful areas in the world.

In the 1960s, Maya also gave seed funds to the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe's fight to reclaim their water rights and save Pyramid Lake. The case went all the way to the Supreme Court, which ruled in favor of the tribe, and reallocated Truckee River water for Pyramid.

Maya worked with the League of Women Voters (LWV) of Nevada for many years and chaired the Communities Committee on the LWV national board. But she resigned when the board failed to pass an anti-war resolution. During the Vietnam War era, Miller, by now a peace activist, and Dick, found themselves on President Nixon's "Enemies List," possibly because of their financial support of the antiwar movement.

Through the 1970s and 1980s, Maya was involved in the welfare rights movement in Nevada with her friend and colleague, Ruby Duncan, lobbying at the state Legislature for better treatment and more respect for welfare recipients—who tended to be women and mothers—to help them get off public assistance. "Maya was most comfortable and happiest fighting for the underdog," her daughter, Kit, said. Maya had aligned herself with one of the legislators' favorite targets — poor women. The frustration came to a head with the notorious "Hamburger Incident" in 1973, when legislators who were meeting with the welfare group had lunch brought in for themselves. The men ate in front of the welfare recipients, then offered the leavings to them. After the legislators left, Maya began angrily picking up their trash, then thought, "What am I doing?!" and dropped the trash to the floor. She went home, but later that evening, when her family was at dinner, a police car with lights flashing came roaring up the driveway and served Maya with an ultimatum to apologize to the Legislature or be banned. Faced with the loss of her lobbying privileges, she gave one of the most grudging apologies ever penned: "I am sorry for the litter, but I cannot tell you I am sorry for my impatience or my sense of outrage at the violence Nevada does daily to its poor children. As I sat in the lounge on Friday watching men eat and talk while women listened and watched, I was overwhelmed by the sense of those poor women's patience." The legislature never quite got over Maya. A couple of decades later, Reno News & Review reporter Dennis Myers was passing a legislative security guard when the transceiver on the guard's belt came alive: "Be aware—Maya Miller is in the building."

From the mid-1970's to the early 1990's, Maya worked as the Chairperson on the Board of Trustees for Operation Life Community Development Corporation in Las Vegas, Nevada.

In 1974, at the request of several women leaders, Miller ran for the United States Senate, losing to Lt. Governor Harry Reid in the Democratic primary. At the time there were no women serving in the U.S. Senate, and her campaign drew national attention, funding, and volunteers. She still managed to receive 38% of the votes and her campaign revealed that there was a strong base of women and men willing to support a woman candidate. "Maya wasn't a real politician. She was an outside agitator fighting the powers that be," daughter Kit Miller said. "She ran for the Senate because she felt the cause was right."

A few days after that election, Maya and Kit traveled to a hearing in Germantown, Maryland, where they testified against storage of nuclear waste in Nevada, which at that time was near heresy. One outcome of her campaign was the state's first anti-nuclear political organization, Citizen Alert, founded by two of her campaign volunteers. That same year she helped start the Washington, D.C.-based Women's Campaign Fund, a non-partisan organization, dedicated to achieving parity for women in public office in all levels of government, from school board to Congress. (<http://www.wcfonline.org>).

She was also an early backer of Emily's List, which supports female candidates in national races. She personally provided seed money for dozens of Nevada election campaigns of women, changing the face of state politics both literally and figuratively. She helped establish many groups, including the Committee to Aid Abused Women, Citizen Alert, the Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada, and the Nevada Women's Fund.

Maya and Dick Miller divorced in 1976, and Maya stayed in Washoe Valley. Her home, Orchard House, and Washoe Pines Ranch next door became known as welcome gathering spots for activists in Nevada.

In addition to her work in Nevada, Maya went to Washington DC to lobby for the rights of welfare mothers. She was involved with the National Welfare Rights Organization, National Women's Political Caucus, and Women's Lobby, Inc. She defeated Nevada's lone U.S. House member in an election for chair of the Nevada delegation at the 1976 Democratic National Convention.

As this author observed, Maya Miller was a humble person, not impressed with being a part of the "in crowd." When she was named a Distinguished Nevadan in 1981 at the University of Nevada, Reno's commencement, she was asked why her children did not attend such an important ceremony. "They're at the ranch working on the compost heap," she said.

Throughout the 1980s, Maya traveled to Central America and other war zones around the world, advocating for an end to US military intervention. She helped build a Peace House on the Atlantic Coast of Nicaragua.

In 1991 at the start of the Persian Gulf War, Maya joined members of Madre, an international women's human rights group, and broke a U.S. embargo to deliver about \$100,000 in infant formula and medical supplies to Iraqi women and children. Then in her 70s, she drove a supply truck part of the way from Jordan to Baghdad.

Maya Miller died May 30, 2006, at her home, Orchard House, at the age of 90. However, her legacy lives on through the lives of the many people she aided and inspired, and through her papers which are filed with Special Collections at the University of Nevada, Reno.

Researched and written by Mary Lee Fulkerson with assistance from Kit Miller, Maya's daughter. Posted to Web Site April 2017.

<https://nevadawomen.org/research-center/biographies-alphabetical/maya-miller/>

NWHP Presents Gift to Nevada Women's Fund

By Sue Davis

In January 2023, the Nevada Women's Fund (NWF) remodeled the boardroom in their office. As many of you know, we rent space within the NWF office. The newly remodeled boardroom now has room for 40 people, easy to move tables and chairs, a smart TV, a whiteboard, and computer, and is a wonderful space for our programs. As a good neighbor, NWHP presented NWF with a beverage refrigerator for the newly remodeled boardroom. We are very grateful the Nevada Women's Fund shares their space with us.

Pictured from left:

NWF Michele Montoya, Marge Millar, Ila Achtabowski

NWHP Christianne Hamel, Marcia Cuccaro, Michelle Gardner



Photo From NWHP Collection

NWHP Legacy Site

By Marcia Bernard Cuccaro

In 2017, a decision was made to create a "Legacy Site" as an additional format for NWHP to capture Nevada's history. It can be easily accessed through its own URL:

<https://nvlegacy.nevadawomen.org> or through our main website: www.nevadawomen.org. Our purpose in creating this site was to record the activities of Nevada women and men, who made their communities and state better in some way, as well as honoring their memory. Our intent was to have patrons post obituaries, photographs, and other print material to make a record of his/her personal history. In September of 2019, our newsletter announced:

"A \$10,000 Terry Lee Wells Foundation grant, in part, will finance a Nevada Legacy page that will be added to our website by the end of 2019. The public will be able to upload histories- memories- obituaries of any deceased individual, female, or male, who was a Nevadan by birth or by choice. There will be a one-time fee for this web hosting. We are looking forward to having this component added, and it is our hope that this web feature will ultimately contain much 'unofficial' history by highlighting the accomplishments of citizens who have made unheralded contributions to our state."

The website was initially launched in October of 2019, but there were technical difficulties that we had not anticipated which took some time to resolve. We now have ten Legacies on this site, and we encourage our members to use this site as a permanent repository for remembering their loved ones. The cost is \$25 to \$37.50, depending on how much information is posted. Payment is online through PayPal.

There are helpful hints to assist you, and when you have completed it, you simply submit it for review and approval. And, you don't have to finish your submission all at one time. Directions show you how to stop/save what you have done, and later go back to add to and/or correct your submission. Once approved, the legacies are then uploaded for friends, family, and the public to read. The name/s of your loved one/s will also come up on a Google search.

Below are two hot linked Legacy entries to illustrate examples of different styles. In the first one, a manually typed obituary (*Word document*) was chosen to serve as the 'Legacy Introduction Page'.

<https://nvlegacy.nevadawomen.org/nevada-legacies/charles-eugene-clock>

In the 2nd example below, you will see that a manually typed memorial tribute was used as the memorial page, and the "scanned" obituary is treated as one of the photographs.

<https://nvlegacy.nevadawomen.org/nevada-legacies/gloria-fundis>

We urge you to become familiar with this site. Use it, pass the site location to your friends, and become not only a consumer of Nevada history, but an active contributor in the recording of it.

JoAnne Peden

By Patti Bernard

One of our early members, JoAnne Peden recently passed away. JoAnne was a documentary filmmaker, oral historian, Indian Education Advisor, and a great supporter of NWHP. She was NWHP's original videographer and filmed our earliest oral history interviews, which were of four Nevada Native American women. Condolences can be sent to her son: Scott Goodwin, 3010 Tagus Ct., Sparks, NV, 89436. Scott said a memorial for JoAnne will be set for some time this spring and will contact us when the date is known.



Source: LinkedIn

Women of Reno High School Their Legacy

By Marcia Cuccaro

On November 18, 2023, we took a trip down memory lane at Reno High School (RHS). Members and some students from Reno High met in the Reno High School Legacy Center to hear a presentation by historian and NWHP member, Patti Bernard. A short history of Reno High School was given then Patti showcased some Reno High School's notable women graduates. Did you know the first woman Director of the U. S. Mint was Eva Adams? If you ever watched Gilligan's Island on television, you would have seen Dawn Wells portraying "Mary Ann". Olympic cyclist, Inga Thompson and Olympic skier, Dodie Gann, also graduated from RHS, as did Pulitzer Prize winner, cartoonist Ann Telnaes.



Patti Bernard, Sue Davis

Reno elementary school namesakes, Esther Bennet and Jessie Beck were also RHS graduates as was Effie Mona Mack, American historian, educator, and textbook co-author. The University of Nevada, Reno, Social Science Building is named after her.



Mona Reno, Patti Bernard, Tina Napper, Local residents, RHS graduates and local historians, Pat Klos and Toni Peloni also shared experiences of attending RHS in the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s. Guests also toured the RHS Legacy Center Museum, the only high school alumni museum in the U.S., built and maintained by RHS alumni. This museum is open to the public and is a great source of information on graduates as well as the history of Reno, Nevada. Call (775) 825-2586 for more information.



Joy Orlich

Photos from NWHP Collection

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 Directors:

Kathy Noneman

Christianne Hamel

Mona Reno

Committee Chairs

Communication:

Silvana Ricci

Corresponding Secretary:

Sarah Britt

Newsletter:

Donna Knapp



**Like us
on Facebook**

NWHP News Contacts

NWHP Office

770 Smithridge Dr., Suite 300,
Reno, NV 89502-0708

NWHP Treasurer's Report

The Year-to-Date (YTD), as of December 31, 2023, financial report shows a bank and Pay-Pal balance of \$80,244.08, \$0.00 liability and net YTD income of \$15,959.97. The total equity plus liability of the NWHP is \$80,244.08.

Michelle Gardner – Treasurer



Writing Women Back Into History



Dear Friends of the Nevada Women's History Project,

As 2023 comes to an end and I finish my first year as NWHP Chair, I would like to share our many successes and the few challenges. The successes are due to the Nevada Women's History Project Board. The all-volunteer Board is dedicated to preserve Jean Ford's goal of writing women into the history of Nevada while constantly maintaining high standards. Your support through your membership and attendance at our programs is very important to our success in our mission of preserving Nevada history and maintaining our website, housing our various formats of research, which is our principal legacy. Thanks to you, our membership levels and donations increased in 2023 which allows us to engage more fully in our research, oral histories, newsletters, and presentations.

This year we have been very fortunate to be awarded a \$5,000.00 Estelle J. Kelsey Foundation grant, a \$5,000.00 grant from the Zonta Club of Greater Reno and \$2,607.00 from the Jean Ford Endowment and the Ericson Family Trust. These grants substantiate the validity of our effort to preserve women in Nevada's history. However, these funds must be used for specific identified projects and not our everyday expenses.

This year's achievements include: six biographies and seven oral histories soon to be on the website, www.nevadawomen.org. Our **new** newsletter editor, Donna Knapp, stepped right in and completed four excellent newsletters. We are working with the Washoe County School District (WCSD) Social Studies Coordinator preparing documents and lessons for Nevada history teachers which will be housed on our website. Our outreach programs included presentations to the Carson Soroptimist Club and the Reno branch of the Monday Club.

In addition, we held 11 programs this year including a Historical Society presentation on 19th Century Nevada Women, a guided tour of the Sparks Heritage Museum, a Jean Ford Wildflower Hike, a visit to the Mountain View Cemetery, our Annual Luncheon with guest speaker Kate Marshall, our Annual Garden Party, and a presentation about Women in the Military and more.

Our first big challenge of the year was transitioning to the membership management system, Wild Apricot. Without Joy Orlich, this transition would have been impossible, but it has helped all of us with time saving features. We can now renew our membership online, register for programs online, maintain financial records, and send out monthly emails using the program's database.

Maintaining a high level of performance requires grant funding, membership dues, donations, program income, and volunteer hours. Although volunteer hours provide the information, website professional services are an ongoing expense. Your membership, donations and attendance are most important to us. As NWHP Chair, I urge you to consider our organization as a worthy entity to support. Not only have we gained credibility for our documented research on Nevada women, but our biographies and oral histories serve as models for youth as they progress into their adulthood.

Sincerely,
Sue Davis, NWHP Chair

NWHP News

NEVADA WOMEN'S HISTORY PROJECT

770 Smithridge Dr., Suite 300 • Reno, NV 89502
 (775) 786-2335 • FAX (775) 786-8152
www.nevadawomen.org
<https://suffrage100nv.org/>
 NevWHP@gmail.com

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



**Like us
on Facebook**

The Nevada Women's History Project newsletter is published in Carson City, Nevada. Annual subscription rate is included in dues. Non-member subscription rate is \$20 domestic, additional overseas. Copyright NWHP. All rights reserved. Under copyright law, this newsletter and the contents herein may not be reproduced, in whole or in part, by any means, electronic or otherwise, without permission from the publishers, except in normal use as provided by law. Opinions expressed by authors do not necessarily reflect official policy of NWHP. Unsolicited articles and photos and requests for Writer's Guidelines should be sent to: Editor NWHP News, 770 Smithridge Dr., Suite 300, Reno, NV 89502-0708. 775-786-2335 NevWHP@gmail.com

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.

In This Issue

Janice Hoke: Roll of Honor	1	NWHP Presents Gift to NWF	8
NWHP Roll of Honor History and Recipients	2	NWHP Legacy Site	9
Hats Off to Our Donors	3	JoAnne Peden	9
Membership Report	4	Women of Reno High Their Legacy	10
Resurrecting Nevada's Most Notable Women	5	Board of Directors Committee Chairs Treasurer's Report	10
Lighting Up Ladies: Neon in Nevada	5	Writing Women Back Into History	11
Featured Historic Woman: Maya Paine Miller	6-8	Get Your Name Badge	12