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

A History of the Equal Rights Amendment

By Marcia Bernard Cuccaro

The Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) has been languishing in Congress since it was first introduced in December of 1923 by Alice Paul and Crystal Eastman. It failed ratification. It was approved by Congress in 1972 and given an arbitrary time limit for ratification of seven years. Phyllis Schlafly then established the National Committee to Stop the ERA movement.

By 1973 the League of Women Voters, the newly founded National Conference for Puerto Rican Women as well as the American Federation of Labor-Congress of Industrialized Organizations (AFL-CIO) had endorsed the amendment. By 1977, 35 states of the 38 necessary had ratified the ERA Amendment. The March 22, 1979 deadline that had been set by Congress was fast approaching. Divisive politics, those for the ERA and those against, stalled further action. On October 6, 1978, a time extension was granted by Congress. The vote was 60 for and 36 against. The new deadline became June 30, 1982.

In 1979 ERA opponents launched an all-out-attack to pass rescission bills in several states. There were court cases challenging the constitutionality of the ERA extension as well as a Missouri suit which alleged that the National Organization of Women (NOW) had violated the Sherman Antitrust Act by urging groups to boycott unratified states. Missouri lost that court battle in 1980 but in that same year, the Republican Party reversed its 40-year tradition of support for the ERA. Lawsuits and court cases continued, including a federal court opinion by Judge Callister, who ruled the ERA extension illegal and rescission by states that had previously ratified the amendment to be legal. NOW appealed to the Supreme Court. In 1982, the Supreme Court unanimously granted a stay prohibiting the enforcement of Callister's decision and agreeing to hear NOW's appeal at a later date.

In June 1980, the ERA was three states short of ratification and in July the bill was officially reintroduced in Congress. That bill failed to pass based mostly along party lines.

Between 1985 and 1992 the bill was reintroduced in Congress and held in Committee. Meanwhile NOW continued to push for inclusion of the ERA in the United States Constitution. In July 2009, the ERA was again re-introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives by Rep. Carolyn Maloney. In June 2011 she and Sen. Robert Menendez again reintroduced the ERA citing a recent Supreme Court Decision in which sex discrimination at work was ruled as not protected by the Constitution.

On March 8, 2011, a House bill was submitted to remove the ERA ratification deadline and make ERA law upon the additional three states ratifying the Equal Rights Amendment. It failed. Both sides of the ERA debate have continued to actively work to approve/defeat the ERA permanently and continue to do so. The Amendment has steadily become more political.

History of the ERA: Cont'd

In 2017, Nevada ratified the ERA, in 2018, Illinois and in 2020 Virginia. Three-quarters of the states have now ratified the ERA. However, the debate continues based on the increasing polarity of the two parties' political beliefs.

In March 2023, Senator John N. Kennedy and Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith introduced a resolution against the ERA in which they basically allege the "Congress has no authority to go back in time to revive a failed constitutional amendment, which makes the current push to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment wrong on its face. Beyond the illegitimacy of trying to resurrect the ERA, we cannot ignore the very serious effects adding the ERA to our Constitution today would have on abortion, religion liberty, protections for women, and more," said Hyde-Smith.

<https://www.hydesmith.senate.gov/hyde-smith-resolution-outlines-illegitimacy-effort-revive-equal-rights-amendment>

On July 19, 2023, Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley, Co-Chair of the Congressional Caucus for the Equal Rights Amendment, led her colleagues in filing a discharge petition that could compel the House to hold a vote of H.J. Res. 25 which is her joint resolution to affirm the ratification of the ERA.

Meanwhile throughout the United States, despite heightened partisanship and increased visibility of anti-equality policies and messaging in recent years, a June 2022 poll by Data for Progress showed that 85 percent of the people polled support the Equal Rights Amendment, with only 10 percent opposing it and 5 percent not sure. The breakdown by party showed very high support across the partisan divide, with 93 percent of Democrats, 79 percent of Independents, and 79 percent of Republicans saying they strongly or somewhat strongly supported the ERA.

<https://www.dataforprogress.org/blog/2022/6/2/fifty-years-later-voters-support-passing-the-equal-rights-amendment>

That support has grown since a 2020 poll by the Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research found significant majority support nationally for the ERA. When asked "Do you favor or oppose the Equal Rights Amendment?" 73% of respondents (89% of Democrats, 61% of Republicans) said they favored it. Only 4% of respondents (1% of Democrats, 9% of Republicans) indicated that they opposed it. In line with previous polls, the gender gap was not significant, with 76% of women and 70% of men supporting the ERA.

<https://apnews.com/article/42b93fd7386089110543f4e1827ded67>

Questions in previous polls generally used a term like "constitutional guarantee of equal rights for women and men" rather than "Equal Rights Amendment" in order to filter out a lack of knowledge or misconceptions about what the ERA is. Those polls showed that equal rights without regard to sex has public support at an almost unprecedented level. In 2016 the research agency db5 (Data for Progress) found that 94% of Americans support an amendment to the Constitution to guarantee equal rights for men and women. This support reached as high as 99% among 18-to-24-year-olds and African-Americans, Asian-Americans, and Hispanic-Americans."

<https://www.eracoalition.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/ERA-Polling-Press-Release.pdf>

In conclusion, whether or not the 28th Amendment, guaranteeing equal protection under the law for both women and men, ever becomes law, it appears abundantly clear, the majority of Americans believe in equal rights for both women and men.

*Are you looking for something to do?
We have the opportunity for you!
Your volunteer efforts are needed, but you will always have help!*

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

Secretary (Jan. 2024-Dec. 2025): Attend monthly board meetings and keep a book of minutes at the principal office. Write and submit minutes to the Executive Committee for approval. Upload approved minutes to the NWHP cloud (Microsoft). The Secretary shall give notice of all the meetings of the Board required by the Bylaws.

Co-Treasurer (for 2023): Assist the current Treasurer. **Move to Treasurer (Jan. 2024-Dec. 2025):** Keep, maintain, and safeguard adequate and correct accounts of the finances, and business transactions. Sign financial documents on behalf of the nonprofit corporation. Attend monthly board meetings and give financial report. QuickBooks experience preferred. Knowledge of grant accounting is helpful.

Website Biography Editor (Jan. 2024-Dec. 2025): Assist Chair to solicit and edit biographies. Obtain biography releases. Obtain biography photographs from family members, University of Reno, Nevada State Museum, Nevada Historical Society, etc. Submit approved biographies to webmaster for posting to website. Attend monthly board meetings to give monthly progress report.

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 and the budget for the NWHP Event using NWHP established guidelines.
- ♦ 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!!!

Membership, Renewals, and Donations

NWHP - Membership Report

As of September 11, 2023 the membership of NWHP is 125 members in good standing. We have 13 Honorary Members, 10 Best Friends Forever, 3 Good Friends, 2 Best Friends, 10 Family, 60 Individual, 23 Friends and 4 organizations.

Joy Orlich, Membership

Membership:

Individual-New

Nancy Cerceau
Francine Mannix
Kathi Rice

Diana Hudson
Marilyn Markovich

Donations:

General Fund

Francine Mannix - \$10.00

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
Lynette 530-448-6448 lynetteastors@gmail.com
 or Patti 775-826-3612 awtuv1@gmail.com

Lighting Up Ladies: Neon in Nevada

Date: Saturday, October 21, 2023

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

Where:

Sparks Heritage Museum
 814 Victorian Avenue
 Sparks, NV 89431



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

Join us for a unique presentation by Will Durham who is the director of **The Nevada Neon Project**. Mr. Durham will explain how and why he began to collect and preserve neon signs from Nevada. The Nevada Neon Project is a local nonprofit dedicated to the preservation, cultural interpretation and exhibition of historic Nevada Neon artifacts. Learn about Betty Willis from Overton, Nevada who was a designer of many of the neon signs displayed Las Vegas.

Light refreshments will be served.

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

November Event

November 18, 2023 To Be Announced

Watch for more information in your email blast.

December Event

Christmas in Nevada To Be Announced

Watch for more information in your email blast.

OR

For details and to register online go to:

<https://nevadawomen.org/events/>

Best Friend Forever!

Jaculine Chiatovich Jones

By Mona Reno

Welcome to Jaculine Jones.

Jaculine graduated from the University of Nevada Reno with a bachelor's in English with a social studies minor and a master's in education counseling. She used this



Source: UNR Alumni Highlight

knowledge to have a thirty-year career with the Washoe County School District.

In March 1980, Jones was named principal of Wooster High School, giving her the distinction of being the first female high school principal in Washoe County. When asked about how she felt being the first principal in the county and pioneering the way for other women, Jones responded humbly saying "At that time, I didn't feel like I was doing anything special. I didn't think of it as setting this standard or being a leader in that area or anything like that. I just felt that I needed to do what was right for me and other women to come."

During her career, Jones was president or chairman of many school and community boards, including Washoe County Secondary Administrator's Association, Nevada Secondary School Principal's Association, Truckee Meadows Community College (TMCC) Advisory Board, and the Crisis Call Center. She was the charter president of Soroptimist International of Truckee Meadows and a member of the board of the Liberal Arts College and the Nevada Women's Fund.

After retirement, the Governor appointed Jones to the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners, where she served as vice-president. She also conducted special education mediations for the State and supervised student teachers for the University and Sierra Nevada College.

This article is a shortened version of an Alumni Highlight produced by the University of Nevada, Reno.

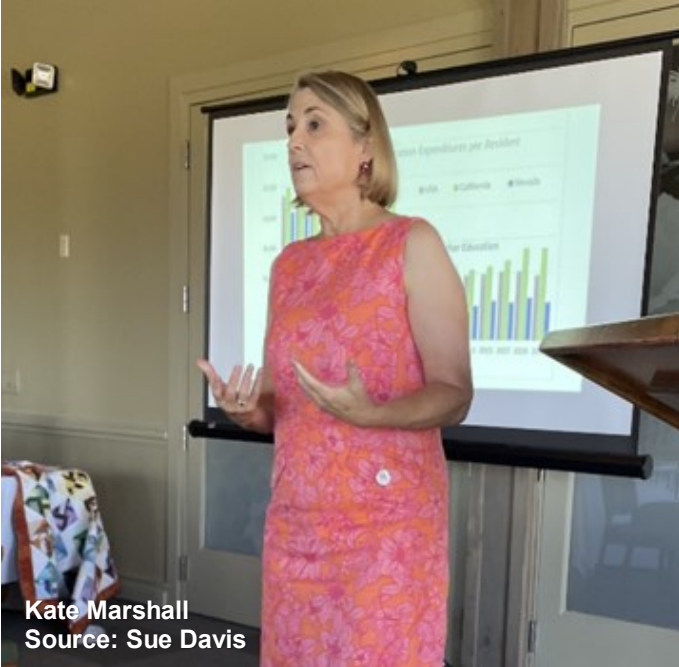
<https://www.unr.edu/education/giving/jaculine-chiatovich-jones>

NWHP Annual Meeting

NWHP Annual Meeting Speaker-Kate Marshall

By Rozalyne Reynolds

Ms. Marshall, who served two terms as Nevada State Treasurer, was elected Lt. Governor in 2018 and most recently served as liaison to Governors in the Biden administration, was the speaker at the July 15, 2023 annual meeting held at the Toiyabe Golf Club. She gave a very interesting, data-driven, and inspiring talk on three topics as they relate to Nevada and Nevadans. She discussed the funding of education, prescription drug coverage and paid medical leave in our state.



Kate Marshall
Source: Sue Davis

In her most recent role, coordinating Governors with the Biden administration, she was able to see how various states access and utilize federal funding. She saw that Nevada does the least well at both accessing available federal funding and utilizing the funds it does receive. The reason for this is the serious lack of infrastructure in our state government.

Several examples that Ms. Marshall shared with us, through very informative handouts, demonstrated that education funding in Nevada, from 1986 through 2021, remains far below both California and the National average per resident and per student for both K-12 and higher education. There are

current efforts to try to develop pathways for those who will need to learn new industry skills for a fast-changing future for which we will not be ready without an increased investment in education.

We were also shown in detail how the new Inflation Reduction Act will roll out reductions in medication prices for Medicare patients over the next six years. She made the point that rolling out policy changes takes years so we must stay committed and informed to make these positive changes.

And finally, Ms. Marshall discussed how she was able to shepherd SB429 through the State legislature, over the Governor's initial veto, resulting in paid medical leave for employees of companies with fewer than 50 employees. Negotiating solutions to disagreements to achieve an overall investment in improving life in our state was at the heart of her efforts.

NWHP - Treasurer's Report

The Year-to-Date, as of August 31, 2023, financial report shows a bank and Pay-Pal balance of \$70,188.31, \$0.00 liability and net YTD income of \$5,904.20. The total equity plus liability of the NWHP is \$70,188.31.

Michelle Gardner – Treasurer

New Interviews posted to Gold in the Silver State

By Mona Reno

Many wonderful interviews have been conducted in the last couple of years and are now posted to our website. They are part of [Gold in the Silver State](#) which is a link to our full interview and highlight videos of 43 Nevada women. We thank our generous donors for making these interviews possible.



Deborah Bufkin Armstrong was interviewed by the Nevada Women's History Project on March 25, 2022, through a grant from the Terry Lee Wells Foundation. <https://nevadawomen.org/armstrong-deborah-bufkin/>



Marjean Huddleston Bufkin was interviewed by the Nevada Women's History Project on December 10, 2022, through a grant from the Estelle J. Kelsey Foundation. Marjean is Deborah Armstrong's Mother.

<https://nevadawomen.org/bufkin-marjean-huddleston/>



Shayne Del Cohen was interviewed on December 13, 2022, by the Nevada Women's History Project through a grant from the Ericson Family Trust Foundation.

<https://nevadawomen.org/cohen-shayne-del/>



Dawn Gibbons, First Lady of Nevada 2007-2010, was interviewed by the Nevada Women's History Project on September 22, 2021, through a grant from the Estelle J. Kelsey Foundation.

<https://nevadawomen.org/gibbons-dawn/>



Patricia A. Lynch was interviewed on December 16, 2002, by the Nevada Women's History Project through a grant from the Ericson Family Trust Foundation.

<https://nevadawomen.org/lynch-patricia-a/>



Leontine "Tina" Bundy Nappe was interviewed by the Nevada Women's History Project on December 10, 2022, through a grant from the Estelle J. Kelsey Foundation.

<https://nevadawomen.org/nappe-leontine-tina-bundy/>



Sandy Raffealli was interviewed by the Nevada Women's History Project on December 14, 2022, through a grant from the Ericson Family Trust Foundation.

<https://nevadawomen.org/raffealli-sandy/>

From our Research Desk

National Women's History Alliance Founder, Molly Murphy MacGregor

By Mona Reno

Although not a native Nevadan, we may owe Molly Murphy MacGregor our very existence as an organization. Molly MacGregor is a former California high school social studies teacher who has worked for over 40 years in the field of gender equity and women's history. She conducts women's history workshops and women's historic sites tours throughout the country. She also works with state and national agencies on strategies and programs to help acknowledge and recognize the historic contributions of women. Her work in the field of multicultural women's history has been widely recognized including awards from the National Education Association, the US Department of Education, the National Association for Multicultural Education, and the Association for Gender Equity Leadership in Education Leadership. *From the National Women's History Alliance webpage.*



National Women's
History Alliance League

Molly is one of the cofounders of the National Women's History Project in 1980. Also in that year she lobbied for Congressional recognition of women's history. President Jimmy Carter issued an Executive Proclamation declaring March 2-8, 1980 as National Women's History Week. In 1987 Congress established that the month of March is National Women's History Month. It is celebrated during March in the U.S. corresponding with International Women's Day on March 8.

The National WHP had a major push toward the inclusion of women's history at the K-12 level. Molly says "It first started at K-12, we had no idea how much effect it would have on the community and government." (*Sonoma West Times & News* 3/24/2019)

In a recent telephone call with Molly I asked her about the use of the word "Project." She replied that it was the 1970s and that was how they talked. She said they had no idea they would still be working on this for 40 years. The name spread in the 1980s

and is still the name groups often choose when they establish a women's history organization. The National WHP sent out organizational guides to groups who expressed an interest.

There were already state, county and city women's history projects in the U.S. when Nevada formed its group. Molly believes that Maryland was the first state to form a women's history project. I couldn't identify a year for their formation on the web.

In 1995 and 1998 the National WHA led national campaigns to celebrate and recognize the work of

Akron WHP 1983
Episcopal WHP 1980
Texas WHP in 1978
Worcester HWP 1994

-And more formed after Nevada's
1994
Evanston WHP 2007
Lycoming County WHP 2006
North Mississippi WHP 2005

women in expanding and enriching democracy. Jean Ford shared Molly's insight into the paucity of sources for women's history. In 1991 Jean was the interim director of the Women's Studies Program at UNR. Molly told me that Jean came to one of national's curriculum conferences. Jean was enthusiastic about forming curriculum for Nevada schools, which is one of the primary objectives of the current Board of Nevada WHP. Sue Davis and Patti Bernard are working on matching our biographies with curriculum standards to provide a way for Nevada women to be included in Nevada schools. A grant from the Terry Lee Wells Foundation will fund this effort.

Molly will still be available at the office of the National Women's History Alliance for the foreseeable future. She is retiring to share and help with the new generation of women who will continue the work of "Writing Women Back Into History." Molly shared that her motto is "Forward Together." She reminded me that the first part of a quote from Susan B. Anthony is usually not mentioned in her famous saying "Failure is impossible." The actual sentence is "When people of good faith work together, failure is impossible."

Here are a couple of articles about Molly if you'd like to learn more about her.

Sheroes of History. May 4, 2017:

<https://sheroesofhistory.wordpress.com/2017/05/04/molly-murphy-macgregor/>

The Woman Behind National Women's History Month.

<https://blog.gale.com/the-woman-behind-national-womens-history-month/>

Nevada Women's History Project Garden Party

by Christianne Hamel

The Garden Party was held on August 19, 2023, at Patti Bernard's home. We had an excellent turnout and wonderful food. Over 30 potential and current members attended.

Our guest speaker was Catherine Magee, Director of the Nevada Historical Society (NHS). Catherine talked about the importance of historical society's role, in such areas as education for schools, community engagement, and its importance in preserving Nevada's history.



Catherine Magee & Sue Davis
Source: Jon Hamel

After the presentation, NWHP recognized two of our members, Mona Reno, Researcher and article author and past Newsletter Editor, and Janice Hoke, Women's Biographies Editor.



Patti Bernard & Mona Reno
Source: Jon Hamel

They received our most sincere gratitude for their dedication and

contributions in advancing women's role in Nevada History. We wish Janice and her husband the best as they start a new life in Colorado.



Janice Hoke & Sue Davis
Source: Jon Hamel

Best Friend Forever

Janet Spelman

By Mona Reno

We welcome Janet Spelman as a life member of the Nevada Women's History Project. Janet is the daughter of the NWHP founder Jean Ford. Janet is a University of Nevada Las Vegas graduate in communications.

While going to college she was a dancer.



<https://www.loveyourvegashome.com/about/>

Janet Ford was a lead dancer and a "Jubilee!" icon at Bally's in Las Vegas. She danced for Don Arden. Bob Mackie, costume designer said she was "a leading dancer and the face of "Jubilee!" for many years. She was Barely in her 20s," Mackie said of the 6-foot-1 Janet Ford. *LVRJ* 2/15/2016. Janet was in the first group of showgirls inducted into the Casino Legends Hall of Fame in the Tropicana Hotel, on February 4, 1999. *It's The Norm*, 2-6-2004.



Designer Bob Mackie and Janet Ford (Spelman) in "Jubilee!" in 1980.

The NWHP newsletter of Spring 1999 featured a photo of Janet receiving a plaque from legislative leaders honoring Jean Ford.

<https://nevadawomen.org/wp-content/uploads/newsletters/1999/1999%20v4%20n2.pdf>

The proclamation about Jean follows on page 2.

Janet has been a Realtor in the Las Vegas valley since 2003. She is a Certified Residential Specialist, an Accredited Buyer's Agent, a Sellers Representative Specialist, and an ePRO.

Nevada Women in the Military

By Patti Bernard

On Saturday, September 16, 2023, NWHP hosted members and interested community to hear Major General Cindy Kirkland speak about her experiences as a woman in military service, culminating in her position as Major General in command of the entire 152nd Nevada Air and Army National Guard. As Adjutant General for the State of Nevada, she was the military Chief of Staff to the Governor, responsible for both the federal and state missions. In that position she commanded more than 3,000 personnel.

After high school graduation, in the early 1970s, without the finances to enter college, Kirkland enlisted in the Navy to qualify for the G.I. Bill, a program that helps qualifying veterans pay for education and training. However, she enlisted in military service at a time when expanded roles for women, other than clerical or nursing, were being accepted by all armed forces "rather reluctantly." It wasn't until 1976 that women could enter the United States Naval Academy.

In addition to her regular naval assignments, because of her height and athleticism, she qualified for Navy sports teams, which took her all over Europe, an experience she thought was invaluable.



Michelle Gardner & Joy Orlich

Source: Sue Davis



Sue Davis & Cindy Kirkland

Source: Joy Orlich

From the Navy, Kirkland transitioned to the Department of Veteran's Affairs, and ultimately to the Nevada National Guard as a Staff Sergeant, where she rose through the ranks to attain the rank of Adjutant General of Nevada.

The General shared with the audience instances, both positive and negative, that she encountered as a Naval officer, and National Guardsman, relating both serious and humorous experiences. Her first experience with Navy regulations was humorous. At 6'1", she was over the 6' qualification to be admitted into the Navy. This was because ships and submarines have doors and openings that fit troops 6' and less. However, as the Vietnam War was winding down, and universal draft had just ended, her disqualifying height requirement was waived.

A question-and-answer period followed in which the audience peppered General Kirkland with questions concerning young women now thinking of a military career, and the future challenges they will face. We all left with a better appreciation of women's military roles in the past, as well as leadership paths now becoming available.

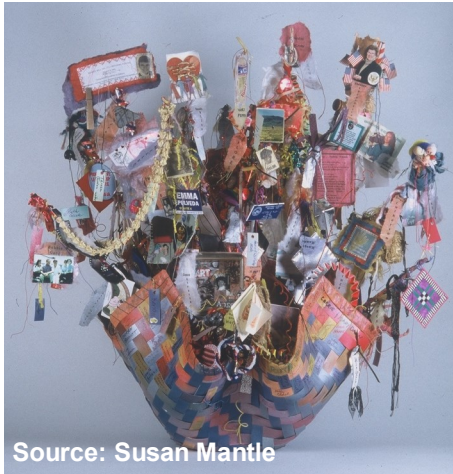


Great Refreshments!

Source: Sue Davis

Women's History Bouquet Donated to Nevada Historical Society

By Mona Reno



Source: Susan Mantle

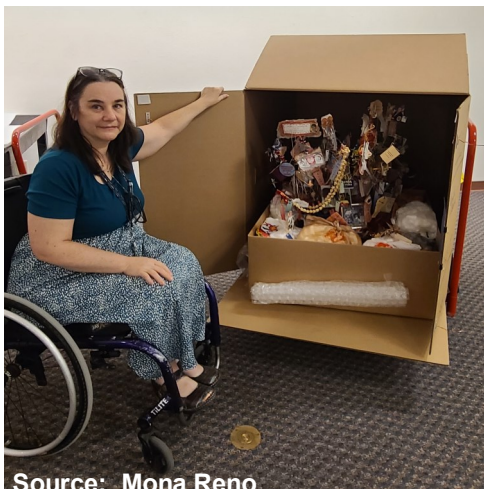
Mary Lee Fulkerson made an amazing basket for a Great Basin Basketmakers exhibit during Women's History Month in March 1996. Following that exhibit she gave this basket to the Nevada Women's History Project. [NWH News August 1996](#), page 10.

The basket is composed of mementos from many women in Nevada. The completed work is a masterpiece of women's history.

For 20 years this basket was displayed in the main public room at the Nevada State Library in Carson City. The basket was returned to the NWHP in 2016 and has been safely stored since then.

Recently the Board of NWHP approached the NHS about our donating this basket to their collection. That has now been completed.

Thank you Catherine Magee, NHS Director, and Debra Brastoff, NHS Registrar, for facilitating this donation.



Source: Mona Reno

Debra Brastoff with the Women's History Bouquet at the NHS, 8-24-2023.

**2023-2024
NWHP Board of Directors**

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Sue Davis

Vice-Chair:

Lisa-Marie Lightfoot

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Janice Hoke

Website First Ladies' Biographies:

Patti Bernard

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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

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www.nevadawomen.org <https://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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