Our Mission:

To provide visibility and support for the gathering and dissemination of history about the roles and contributions of all Nevada women of every race, class and ethnic background.

## 2024 NWHP Woman of Achievement By Marcia Cuccaro



Shannon Hataway, our webmaster (Tangerine Design & Web), was NWHP's honoree at the 2024 Nevada Women's Fund's 32nd Women of Achievement luncheon held on May 23, 2024.

A graduate from UNR, Shannon, launched her professional career as a cartographer, graphic designer and Geographic Information System (GIS) Specialist with an archaeological firm. Over the ensuing 20 years, she pursued training in web design and development, opening Tangerine Design & Web (named for the fresh, citrusy, sweet, tangy, plump, juicy tangerines of Morocco) in Carson City in 2013. She specializes in web design, web development, graphic design and consulting. Shannon is an avid long-distance runner and balances her hours of

screen time with miles on mountain trails, chronicling the journey with her camera. She and her husband of 30 years have "proudly raised two remarkable Nevada women."

The luncheon was a sold-out affair with hundreds of supporters honoring 71 women employed in the fields of business, medicine, construction, education, law, government, and mining. Marybel Batjer was inducted into the Nevada Women's Fund Hall of Fame for her life achievements in the areas of policy reform and organizational restructuring while working in pivotal positions in government and private industry. Her oral history can be found on our website: <a href="https://nevadawomen.org/batjer-marybel-reno-washoe/">https://nevadawomen.org/batjer-marybel-reno-washoe/</a>

Punam Mathur, Executive Director of the Elaine P. Wynn & Family Foundation in Las Vegas, Nev. was the keynote speaker. Her message was Nevada is doing better nationally on the "good lists" on social statistics because of the valuable work of local Nevada nonprofit groups. She indicated there are 12,000 registered non-profit organizations in Nevada. 625 of them meet the criteria of having at least one full-time equivalent (FTE) workload and a social or educational mission. Since our state priorities aren't going to change much since we are a low-tax state, non-profits must look on the bright side of how much their efforts supplement the standard of living in Nevada, toot their horns more, celebrate the positive achievements, and then do more. She suggests that as board members and supporters, we resist trying to get employed executive directors and staff to do even more, ask how much **we** could accomplish if provided the necessary resources.

She compared us favorably to southern Nevada stating she felt there was more unity here and a real can-do spirit. She also noted that when she took her morning walk in Reno, people looked her in the eye and said "good morning" - something that, in her experience, just doesn't happen in southern Nevada. She acknowledged that feeling of unity in the room.

Perhaps unity was the reason the Nevada Women's Fund was able to generate over \$120,000 in the **five** minutes following Ms. Mathur's talk!

This luncheon is one of two major fundraisers for The Nevada Women's Fund and the money raised has thus far provided over \$5 million dollars in scholarships to Nevada women since 1983 and awarded over \$4 million dollars in community grants to community organizations. The mission of their organization is to "Empower women to achievement through education and career

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

advancement" with a vision of "strengthening our community by ensuring women face no barriers to achievement." This organization is most definitely living its mission.

And for those who don't know, the Nevada Women's History Project was designated a "delegate agency" of the Nevada Women's Fund in late 1994. We lived under their non-profit umbrella until we became our own 501 (C) (3) in 2014.

Pictured: Joy Orlich, Marcia Cuccaro, Shannon Hataway, Patti Bernard, Mona Reno



## PBS Reno "Finding Your Roots" Panel

By Mona Reno

The Reno affiliate of the Public Broadcasting Service sponsored a panel discussion on family history at the Sierra View Branch of the Washoe County Library on May 9, 2024. I had the privilege of participating on the panel with Sarah Patton, Nevada Historical Society, and two people involved in the "Finding Your Roots" program on national television, CeCe Moore and Natalia Warchol. This was the second program for CeCe and Natalia in two days. They were in northern Nevada for a fundraiser at Montreux on May 8. Two of our members, Joy Orlich and Sue Wagner, attended that event.



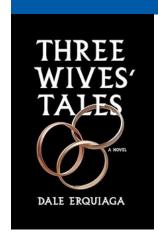
Mona Reno, Natalia Warchol, CeCe Moore, and Sarah Patton Photo by Shane Trotter

The program was in two parts. First PBS Reno showed an episode of "Finding Your Roots," S10E10, which has not aired yet. This episode involved regular people, not the celebrities they usually feature. The second part was a discussion of conducting family history.

Natalia and CeCe talked about producing and researching their popular program. Natalia Warchol is the producer of the program. CeCe Moore is an acclaimed DNA genealogist who has worked with law enforcement to identify perpetrators.

Sarah Patton and I provided local sources for conducting family history searches. We focused on information not available online.

This event was attended by around 40 people and had a waiting list.



When: Saturday, July 13, 2024 There will be a raffle!!!!

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

Where: Louis' Basque Corner Restaurant, 301 E. 4th Street, Reno, NV 89501

Cost: \$40.00 for members, \$45.00 for non-members

\*\*\*Includes the "No Entrée Lunch" Special\*\*\*



Join us for **Lunch at Louis Basque Corner Restaurant** for a discussion with Dale Erquiaga about Basque women and his book: "Three Wives' Tales."

Please go to <a href="https://nevadawomen.org/events/6288/">https://nevadawomen.org/events/6288/</a> to register for the event.

Dale Erquiaga will discuss his experience working with family memoirs and oral histories to create the novel of historical fiction, Three Wives' Tales. The book details the immigrant experiences of Victoria Urrutia Rubianes and Eladia Aguirre Erquiaga, the author's grandmothers, as well as the life of his mother, Anita Rubianes Erquiaga. Woven together as a work of historical fiction, the memoirs and family lore of these three Nevada women capture a journey of self-discovery filled with wisdom and strength that Basque and other immigrant families will recognize.

#### About the Author

Dale Erquiaga recently retired from his post as acting chancellor of the Nevada System of Higher Education and served as Nevada's 27th superintendent of public instruction and as chief strategy officer for Nevada Governor Brian Sandoval. The grandson of Spanish Basque immigrants, Erquiaga holds a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Nevada, Reno.

Questions: Sue Davis: shdavis4364@att.net

## How Far We've Come

By Patti Bernard

In 2023, 80.2 percent of the families in the U.S. had at least one employed member. Among married-couple families, both spouses were employed in 49.7 percent of the families. So, it's common for both partners to be employed in a significant proportion of married households. (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Employment Characteristics of Families—2023.)

The following 1938 Nevada State article illustrates how times have changed.

Because of a cut in 1938 federal highway funds, Robert Allen, state highway engineer, issued this order that affected women in the state highway workplace.

1938 March 26 - Reno Evening Gazette - p.5

The recent highway department ruling with respect to employed wives may spread to other state departments, it was indicated this week. In fact it was reported that a married woman employed in one state office was dropped when the official found out she was married and a promised job in the unemployment compensation bureau offices failed to materialize for her. The highway department ruled that wives of its employes who were working must either quit or their husbands would be dropped from the department. About twenty wives quit their jobs, it was reported, and a few more will quit as soon as civil service positions they hold can be filled.

## Nevada State Capitol and Nevada Mint Tour

By Sue H. Davis



On April 27, 2024, eighteen Nevada Women's History Project members and guests toured Nevada's State Capitol with tour guides pictured, NWHP member Nancy Cerceau and David Christy.

This picture was taken in Nevada's Capitol Rotunda featuring the Sarah Winnemucca Statue. The Sarah Winnemucca statue was a project sponsored by Nevada Women's History Project. The process was started in 2000 by gaining Nevada legislative approval to place a statue of Sarah Winnemucca in the National Statuary Hall in Washington, D.C. as Nevada's second entry. NWHP was successful in raising the funds to design, build and place the statue. In 2005 the statue was officially dedicated in the National Statuary Hall.

The Capitol was completed on May 1, 1871. Masons used sandstone quarried at the Nevada State Prison for the exterior of the building. The first floor of the building exhibits a frieze at the top of the walls which

included images representing agriculture, ranching, and mining, the principal industries of early Nevada. In 1875, an iron fence was erected around the Capitol grounds to keep livestock out. The bid to build the fence was awarded to Hannah Clapp and Eliza Babcock, local schoolteachers and businesswomen. In 1974 the Capitol building was deemed structurally unsound and a public safety hazard. Rather than construct a new building it was agreed to rehabilitate the Capitol in 1977. It was completed in 1981.

After touring the Capitol, we went to the Nevada State Museum to visit the Carson City Mint. The mint was established during the height of the silver mining era and minted gold and silver coins between the years of 1870-1893. The coin press frequently breaks down, but on the day we visited they were minting souvenir coins.

Pictured are the Coin Press Manager, Kelly Brant and NWHP members Michelle Gardner, Joy Orlich, Mona Reno and Janine Smith. After our tours of the Capitol and State Museum, we met for lunch and conversation in Carson City.



**Photo from NWHP Collection** 

## My Contribution to the Women of Diversity Podcast Series

By Patti Bernard

Last year I did the research for a biography on Effie Mona Mack (1889-1969) to add to our list of women's biographies on our website, <a href="www.nevadawomen.org">www.nevadawomen.org</a>. She had a stellar career as a Nevada historian, author, and educator and the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) Effie Mona Mack Building is named after her. Perhaps her greatest legacy is her efforts to start official negotiations between UNR, the State of Nevada, and Howell-North Publishers, which culminated in UNR purchasing the 79 volumes of the Journals of Alfred Doten, a journalist and contemporary of Mark Twain. Doten's observations are considered by historians to be one of the most unique and valuable documents on

the social history of the American West. It was a real coup.

Women of Diversity, Inc. is a southern Nevada based women's history organization, <a href="https://womenofdiversity.org">https://womenofdiversity.org</a>, that NWHP partnered with in 2014. The joint project was to interview 150 Nevada women, statewide, about their community contributions, for their website and a book they produced for Nevada's Sesquicentennial. NWHP interviewed over 80 women in northern Nevada counties for them.

Their new project is a podcast series entitled. The Women Who Saved https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/the-women-who-savedhistory/id1738937653 about women who have made contributions to preserving our state's history. Nineteen women were



womenofdiversity.ora

chosen to be highlighted, and I was honored to be asked to speak about Effie Mona Mack's life. Each segment runs 30-45 minutes.

I was flown to Las Vegas where the podcast was recorded at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) Lied Library. The moderator was Claytee White, Director of the Oral History Research Center. Su Kim Chung, Head of Public Services in Special Collections also joined the discussion. My only experience with audio interviews was with a ZOOM format. I had never been in an actual soundproof room, set up for podcasting with special audio equipment, so it was guite an eye opener for me.

The first 3 interviews are now posted. Su Kim Chung spoke about the life of Jeanne Wier, who is credited with the formation of the Nevada Historical Society. She was also a University of Nevada professor who taught Effie Mack in the early part of the twentieth century. My interview on Effie Mona Mack is the latest podcast posted. https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/dr-effie-mona-mack -pioneering-nevada-historian-educator/id1738937653?i=1000656788730

The Women of Who Saved History podcasts can be heard on Apple, Spotify, and other podcast formats.

## We Need You!!!! Please!!!

Are you a stickler for the Rules? Would you like to make a difference and help our organization to run effectively and efficiently? We need volunteers to serve on the Bylaws Committee that has been created by the Board.

Some responsibilities are:

- Review bylaws to determine if changes are needed or to compare them to other documents or practices
- Receive, review, and recommend amendments to bylaws, or draft possible amendments on their own
- Assist in developing a process for presenting amendments to the board
- Implement solutions to bylaws-related problems
- Monitor that the most recent versions of the digitized, posted and written bylaws are in their designated locations



All interested: Contact Sue Davis: shdavis4364@att.net

## Featured Historic Nevada Woman

#### **HELEN DELICH BENTLEY**

#### At A Glance:

**Born:** November 8, 1923, Ruth, White Pine County, NV **Died:** August 8, 2016 Timonium, Baltimore County, Maryland

Maiden Name: Helen Delich

Race/Nationality/Ethnic Background: Serbian

Married: Roy Bentley Children: None

Primary City and County of Residence and Work:

Tonopah Canyon, Nevada, Baltimore, MD and Washington, D.C. **Major Fields of Work:** Journalist, Congresswoman, Chair of the

Federal Maritime Commission

**Other Role Identities:** Radio and TV Personality, International Consultant. President/Chief Executive Officer for HDB

International

**Awards:** National Outstanding high school graduate by the National Elks Club Foundation in 1941, San Francisco Port Commission Order of Maritime Merit, 1969, University of Missouri outstanding female graduate, 1969, Baltimore Women's Advertising Club "Woman of the Year" 1956 and 1969, Honorary



Photo from the Helen Delich Bentley Collection

Membership (only woman member) in the Maritime Law Association of the United States, 1970, Meritorious Service Awards from the Baltimore Traffic Club, 1958, North Atlantic Ports Association, 1965, AFL-CIO Maritime Port Council of the Maritime Trades Department of the Port of Greater New York, 1965, Valley Forge Freedoms Foundation George Washington Honor medal, 1971 and 1976, University of Missouri Faculty Alumni Gold Medal, 1971, New York Foreign Freight Forwards and Brokers Association "Man of the Year, 1972, Women's National Republican Club Distinguished Service Medal, 1972, Robert L. Hague Marchant Marine Industries Post No. 1242 American Legion Distinguished Service Medal, 1973, Navy League of the United States Robert M.J. Thompson Award for Outstanding Civilian Leadership, 1973, Nevada State Society Distinguished Woman of the Century award, 1973, Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers 22nd Annual Jerry Land Medal for outstanding accomplishments in the Maritime field, 1974, Who's Who in America and many more.

**Education:** B.A. in Journalism from the University of Missouri, 1944.

**Honorary Degrees:** Doctor of Laws from the University of Michigan, University of Maryland, University of Alaska, Long Island University and Boucher College; Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from the University of Portland, Oregon and Bryant College of Business Administration

## Biography:

Helen Delich was born on November 23, 1923, in the small White Pine County, Nevada Serbian mining community of Tonopah Canyon just outside Ruth which was located near Ely, NV. According to Wikipedia, Ruth had a population of almost 2,300 inhabitants in 1923. Her parents Michael Ivanesevich Delich and Mary Kovich, both immigrated to the United States in 1906. From Ellis Island, N.Y., the Delich's made their way West and ended up in Ruth. The Mike Delich family had 6 children, Malie, George, Mary, Sam and Helen. A sixth child had died in infancy. Life in a Nevada mining town was rough. Helen later wrote of her family's experiences which were printed in the "American Serb Life". She wrote, "Miners worked 12-hour shifts, 7 days a week. Women often took

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in boarders as her mother did, all the while raising small children of their own. There was no running water in the miners' homes during the early years. The women carried their buckets a good half mile uphill several times a day to get enough water for all the family needs plus those of the boarders who changed work clothes in the house. The boarders slept in shifts, like they worked. When one group left for work, Mom would quickly straighten out the beds and another group would tumble right back in. Maids were unheard of. These hardy women also reared big families and usually were attended only by a neighbor at childbirth. In two days, the mother was up and slaving away again." As the Great Depression wore on, the population of Ruth diminished. Helen's father had been stricken with miner's consumption. In March of 1923, he died at his home. He was 48 years old and left a widow with three young children to raise. Helen, the youngest, was eight years old. The family struggled, but as in many immigrant families, education was seen as the key to obtaining a better life. She attended schools in White Pine County. Helen wrote in her "American Life" article, "In those days the Serbs kept pretty much to themselves. They talked the company into building the Serbian Hall and there they'd gather for their drustva meetings and socials. Their kids also isolated themselves, as much in defense of barbs as in the preference of their own company. But when they began walking with school honors, the jeers and taunts turned to covetous respect. Bit by bit they began taking a more active part in the general life of the community."

Helen was active in school activities and took her education seriously. In 1938 she placed second and won \$250 in the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary essay contest. In 1940 she received the Rotary Club citizenship scholarship award. As a White Pine senior, she was named a four-year honor student and designated valedictorian of her class of 1941. She was also the recipient of the National Elks foundation scholarship for girls at the conclusion of a trip to Philadelphia sponsored by the Elks foundation. While in high school, she did part-time writing for the Ely Record. She continued writing for the Ely Record after she enrolled in the University of Nevada in the fall of 1941. She was interested in politics and in 1942 she managed former Governor James G. Scrugham's successful Senate campaign in two of Nevada's Counties. He was elected to the U.S. Senate and Helen went to Washington D.C. with him to work as his secretary. She was never to return to Nevada to live. However, this young woman went on to achieve national recognition in United States politics.

Helen worked as a stringer for the United Press, then as a reporter and Bureau Manager in Fort Wayne, Indiana during 1944-1945. She graduated from the University of Missouri School of Journalism in 1944, "graduating the same day as her mother became a citizen of the United States almost 1,000 miles away in Ely, Nevada" During 1945 she also worked as a telegraph editor for the Lewiston, Idaho, Tribune. In 1945 she was hired as a reporter for the Baltimore Sun where she primarily covered labor issues. In 1947, at age 24, Helen became the first female newspaper reporter to cover an American Federation of Labor Convention. That same year she was assigned to cover the shipping and waterfront activities at the Baltimore Maryland Port and by 1952, she had been promoted to maritime editor of the Baltimore Sun. Her future began to skyrocket. She was writing and producing her own television show, "The Port that Built a City and a State" which ran on Baltimore WMAR-TV from 1950 to 1965 and on Washington D.C. WTTG-TV from 1955 to 1959. She served as staff advisor on shipping matters for Richard Nixon during his 1968 Presidential campaign and in 1969 he appointed her as Chairman of the Federal Maritime Commission where she served until 1975.

During all this upward mobility she married a local schoolteacher, William Roy Bentley, and together they opened an antique shop in Maryland. As one can surmise, Helen Delich Bently was a self-

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described workaholic. In 1969, Helen was the only woman aboard the S.S. Manhattan when the tanker made its historic voyage through the Arctic waters of the Northwest Passage. Helen served as Congresswoman from Maryland from 1984 to 1994 when she resigned her position to run for Governor of Maryland. She ran as a moderate but was defeated in the primary by a long-time friend and a conservative. During her first term as congresswoman, she helped pass a bill allowing a channel to "be dredged into the Baltimore port, making it the only East Coast port with that distinction." After Helen left Congress, she started Helen Bentley & Associates and began working as a lobbyist for maritime and defense industries. In 2004 she was inducted into the International Maritime Hall of Fame in New York. In 2006 former Governor and now Congressman Robert L. Ehrlich Jr. announced during the 300th anniversary celebration of the Baltimore Port that it had been renamed and was now designated as the "Helen Delich Bentley Port of Baltimore". She was described by Michael Dresser in the Baltimore Sun as "the colorful and cantankerous former Maryland Congresswoman, whose fierce advocacy for the port of Baltimore led to its being named in her honor..."

Helen Delich Bentley, "Patron of the Port of Baltimore, passed away in Timonium, Baltimore County, Maryland on August 06, 2016. She was ninety-three years of age. Obituaries appeared in the Chicago Tribune, the Pennsylvania Philadelphia Inquirer, the New York Times, the Washington Post, the Baltimore Sun and the Palm Springs Desert Sun. This author was unable to locate an obituary in a Nevada newspaper. Helen had outlived her husband, William Bentley, by three years. In this author's opinion, Helen Delich Bentley was arguably the most nationally recognized and most powerful Nevada woman the state has ever produced.

## Researched and written by Marcia Cuccaro. Posted to Website April 2017.

#### Author's note;

In 2006, Helen Delich Bentley had personally donated clothing and some personal papers to the Nevada State Museum's Marjorie Guild Russell Clothing and Textile Research Center (NSMMRCTRC) in Carson City, NV. Jan Loverin, Curator of the NWMMRCTRC, had looked through the papers a few years later and at that time she contacted this author to inquire if the NWHP had written a biography on this interesting Nevada woman. At the time Ms. Bentley was still living, but I took the papers and filed them away. I recently learned that Ms. Bentley had passed away in August of 2016 and felt the time had come to document this woman's remarkable life.

I took the autobiography Helen had written and much of the information in this biography came from it backed up by national newspapers which documented Ms. Bentley's rise to power. I would also like to note the biography I've written does not fully capture her personal character. Pictures show her as a diminutive woman with an apparent determination to succeed. There were many descriptions in the material I reviewed describing her ambitious nature and an extensive longshoreman vocabulary developed throughout the years she covered the Maryland waterfront and which, when necessary, she used to the fullest extent. There is also one documented occasion when in a fit of anger, she punched a longshoreman in the jaw when he insulted her appearance. Pictures show a tiny blond woman with a big smile. A friend I know who had once met Helen Delich Bentley said, "she knew what she wanted and didn't settle for less."

Source: https://nevadawomen.org/research-center/biographies-alphabetical/helen-delich-bentley/





## Come to our Garden party! Celebrating our members - both present and future

When: Saturday, August 17, 2024

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

Where: Home of Patti Bernard – 995 Pineridge Drive – Reno – 89509

Cost: No charge, Free, Nada, Zilch But there will be a raffle!!

Join us to visit and learn about the NWHP. See what we have been doing along with recognizing and celebrating our members. Know someone interested in women's history? Or joining a great group of people? **Bring them along!!** 

Although there is no charge, **we need reservations by August 14, 2024**, to ensure enough refreshments. Please go to <u>nevadawomen.org/events</u> to register for the event.

Questions: Sue Davis: <a href="mailto:shdavis4364@att.net">shdavis4364@att.net</a> or Patti Bernard: 775-826-3612

## Nevada Historical Society's 120th Birthday Celebration

By Sue H. Davis



On May 4, 2024, over 25 Living History Groups and Educational Groups gathered to celebrate Nevada Historical Society's (NHS) 120<sup>th</sup> birthday. Nevada Women's History Project set up their display which included photographs of Nevada women, our trifold display which provides information about our organization, membership forms and various items that we sell. Due to the windy and cold weather all the groups moved their displays into the NHS building. At noon, dignitaries, Friends of NHS, and director Dr. Catherine Magee gave celebratory speeches and proclamations acknowledging NHS 120<sup>th</sup> birthday. Dignitaries included

Senator Mark Amodei, Councilwoman Naomi Duer and representatives from both Sparks' and Reno's mayors' offices. After the speeches and birthday cake, Dr. Su Kim Chung, (Head of Special Collections Public Service, University Libraries at UNLV) gave a presentation about NHS founder Jeanne Wier entitled: The Woman Who Saved History. A special thanks to Sheryln Hayes-Zorn for her organizational skills and invitation.

## Special Visit to UNR Special Collections

### Marcia Cuccaro



On June 6, 2024, 14 NWHP members made the trek to the University of Collections Nevada Special University Archives (SCUA). I mention "trek" navigating because University's parking facilities is an adventure. We (Terri Avansino, Patti Bernard, Lynn Bremer, Janet Carnes Catherine Cuccaro, Marcia Cuccaro, Sue Davis, Beverly Hubbard, Donna Knapp, Renee Kolvet, Patricia Lynch, Jeff Milligan, Mona Reno Rosalyne Reynolds) met in the lobby of the Mathewson-IGT Knowledge Center and made our way to the third

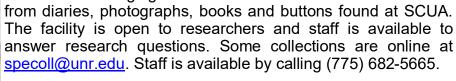
floor Special Collections/University Archives. We were greeted by Elspeth Olson, Outreach & Public Elsbeth Services Archivist. took us to visit computerized retrieval area where books and materials magically appear when a coded number is entered into the computer system. The Mathewson Automated Retrieval System (MARS) searches the immense storage area and delivers the material to the recipient at a central desk. MARS is pretty amazing!

More than 3,000 archival collections of materials (correspondence, maps, diaries, reports, digital files and ephemera) are stored in this facility. We visited the areas where boxes of paper records and drawers of interesting historical memorabilia are stored. Elspeth explained how SCUA receives donations and determines where they are

to be stored. She of historical

showed us a display of the various kinds memorabilia ranging







After the presentation, members adjourned to The Cracker Barrel on W. 5<sup>th</sup> Street for a no-host lunch and more discussion of what we had seen and heard.

**Photos From NWHP Collection** 

# Membership, Renewals, and Donations March through May 2024

### Membership:

Individual - \$30

Adelle Cerreta Barbara Guerin Regan Hartzell Patricia Lynch Ron Reno Chelsea White Mary Williams Organization:

DXG Xi Chapter

#### **General Fund Donations:**

Lorraine Petersen LEGACY for Sam Macaluso

## We Will Miss Our Friend, Joyce Cox

By Patti Bernard

Our friend and fellow NWHP member, Joyce Cox passed away May 14, 2024.



I first met Joyce when she was Head of Reference at the Nevada State Library. As a member of NWHP, I was looking for sources of information about Nevada's First Ladies to write biographies for each First Lady for our website. The Nevada Historical Society (NHS) had some information but no files

specific to these women. I traveled to Carson City to the State Library and Archives. Again, the information was meager with no files specific to the 25 women who held the First Lady office up to 2010. Joyce became interested in my project and thought it important enough to start files in the Nevada State Library's clipping file for each lady. I spent hours working with her, as she had access to a myriad of resources.

She became so interested in these women that she volunteered to research and write biographies of some First Ladies for our website, <a href="www.nevadawomen.org">www.nevadawomen.org</a>. She was meticulous in her research and wrote interesting biographies of Mary Poor Bell (1850-1925), who had the shortest tenure in that office of any woman from September 1890 to December 1890, and Elnora Sparks (1857-1947), wife of Governor John Sparks.

Joyce supported our programs and events. She was always willing to volunteer her help. We were thrilled when she started to publish pictorial histories for Arcadia Press, and as usual, the photographs that she used were always meticulously researched. Joyce authored three research books that have been highlighted in previous newsletters. She was honored as a Woman of Achievement by the Nevada Women's Fund in May 2023.

In short, in Joyce's career as a historian, she made innumerable contributions to research preserving the historical events of Nevada. In her membership with NWHP, she contributed greatly to the research and preservation of Nevada women. She will be greatly missed.

#### 2024-2025 NWHP Board of Directors

## **Executive Committee**

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Lisa-Marie Lightfoot

Secretary:

Rosalyne Reynolds

Treasurer:

Donna K. Knapp

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Patti Bernard

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Marcia Cuccaro Christianne Hamel Kathy Noneman

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Patti Bernard

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Janice Hoke

Website First Ladies' Biographies:

Patti Bernard

#### **NWHP News Contacts**

**NWHP Office** 

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

Tel: 775-786-2335 - Fax: 775-786-8152

## Treasurer's Report

The Year-to-Date (YTD), as of May 31, 2024, financial report shows a bank balance of \$54,975.34 and \$0.00 liability The total equity plus liability of the NWHP is \$54,975.34.

Donna K. Knapp – Treasurer



770 Smithridge Dr., Suite 300 Reno, NV 89502 (775) 786-2335 • FAX (775) 786-8152 nevadawomen.org suffrage100nv.org nvlegacy.nevadawomen.org NevWHP@gmail.com



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## **NWHP Name Badge**



Cost: \$15.25

Contact Mona at renomrl65@gmail.com

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

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