

## RESEARCH REGISTRY AND ROUNDTABLE

Many individuals are pursuing research on Nevada women's history. A registry of these researchers and their focus of study will be maintained by NWHP. The goal is to encourage the sharing of information, sources, and work collaboration, as well as new publications for wide audiences, from schoolchildren to adults.

A monthly Research Roundtable begins in January. Various individuals will share information on their on-going work. The following is a beginning list of researchers and their areas of focus:

- ☞ Dana Bennett: women elected to Nevada state offices
- ☞ Jean Ford: women on the Comstock, Nevada women's suffrage, women and work
- ☞ Joan Morrow: Nevada women and the automobile
- ☞ Kathleen Noneman: early women attorneys in Nevada
- ☞ Sylvia Ontaneda-Bernales: Hispanic women in Nevada history
- ☞ Dr. Anton Sohn: women physicians in Nevada before 1900
- ☞ Carrie Townley-Porter: the life of Helen J. Stewart
- ☞ Anita Watson: incidence and effects of divorce in Nevada
- ☞ Janet White: women of Humboldt County, particularly those of the families of Hendra, DeLong, Floyd, and Mary Rose

We welcome names of researchers. Please include address, phone, fax, and e-mail, focus, time frame, etc. We will maintain all this information in our office and add to this list in subsequent Newsletters.

See Page 4 for first Schedule of Roundtables.

## A Tale of Many Women

### General Meeting slated for January

#### *Historical figures featured in showcase*

You are invited to the Nevada Women's History Project General Membership Meeting for Northern Nevada, Saturday, January 27, 1996. The meeting will be held at the Washoe County, Health Building Auditorium on 9th and Wells in Reno from 8:30 a.m. til noon.

The event will begin with a Continental breakfast, an opportunity to get acquainted with other members and friends who care about Nevada women's history.

Observers are welcome to the business meeting, starting at 9:00 a.m. Only members as of January 27 may vote.

Items on the agenda include: adoption of By-Laws, the creation of a statewide organization, reports on projects, future plans and meeting schedule.

At 10:30 the Living History Showcase will present portrayals of Anne Martin, Clara Smith, Helen J. Stewart, Sarah Winnemucca, and other Nevada historical figures, all of whom you will be able to meet informally. Following adjournment at 12 noon, participants have the option of informal

lunch-time networking at nearby restaurants. Bring a friend. If you have any questions call: 784-1560. ❖

### **Meet Sarah Winnemucca first Paiute woman activist at a Living History Showcase**

**January 27, 1996  
8:30 AM  
9th & Wells**

**Appearing with Sarah will be  
Anne Martin, Helen J. Stewart,  
Clara Smith and other Nevada  
historical figures of note.**

### **Southern Nevada moves forward on Project Showcase to be part of organizational meeting**

On Saturday, March 2, a Southern Nevada Women's History Project will be launched at a General Membership Meeting and Living History Showcase, similar to that held in Northern Nevada. The event will be held in Las Vegas at the Elks Lodge, 4100 W. Charleston, from 8:30 a.m. til noon.

This meeting is being cosponsored by the League of Women Voters, American Association of University Women of Las Vegas and Boulder City, Delta Kappa Gamma, Gamma Chapter, and the Nevada Women's Archives, the History Department, and the Women's Studies Department at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. More details will be forthcoming.

Send in your membership now so you'll be on our Southern Nevada mailing list. ❖



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## The Genesis of NWHP

by Janet White

It began quite simply, a phone call or two, then a few more. Many, many questions, some with no answers. Some suggestions on where the required information might be found. Always many more questions than solutions. Who was she? Where was she born and where did she live? When did she come to Nevada? Why did she come here? Who was the first Nevada woman to obtain the license, pass the bar, practice medicine, work her own mine, run her own ranch? The dry creek of information was flash-flooded with questions.

To Jean Ford, the woman to whom these questions were addressed, it was clear that times were a'changing and women's lives were demanding to be acknowledged, researched, written.

In 1991, Jean was appointed Acting Director of Women Studies at the University of Nevada, Reno. In the spring of 1992 she designed and taught a new course: "Nevada Women on the Frontier." Around that time, UNR professors Steve Lafer and Steve Tchudi, who had initiated "Reading and Writing the West" as a Summer Institute for teachers, engaged Jean to design and coordinate some creative bus tours for this class. So, it seemed quite logical that if anyone had questions about Nevada women, Jean Ford would know the answers.

In 1993 the phone calls poured like a cloudburst from the desert sky, and Jean was inundated. Since the history of women was being researched across the nation, why not here in Nevada? The idea of a clearinghouse on Nevada women's history was first discussed at a weekend retreat hosted by Beverly Hubbard at Meeks Bay, Lake Tahoe.

By the spring of 1994, a small nucleus had formed and the first documentation of the Nevada Women's History Project appeared: A single typewritten page headed, "Nevada Women's History Project," with a notation at the top in Jean's handwriting, "concept paper, revised 6-1-94."

This brief paper stated a proposal: November 11, 1994 to discuss "the feasibility and desirability of creating an organization to carry out some special projects relating to Nevada women's history." Additional instructions were mailed on November 5, 1994 concerning the Tahoe retreat.

But Nevada weather interfered, not uncommon in November, and the business meeting was held instead at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Northern Nevada on Del Monte Lane in Reno. Earlier that day about 50 women and men had gathered to hear Linda Dufurrena speak of her oral history projects in Humboldt County and show slides of her photography of Northern Nevada. The "agenda for November 11, 1994" unfolded as discussion and brainstorming through the afternoon and evening explored organization, purpose, programming, types of roles available for involvement, and more. What's next? Good question.

(continued on pg. 7, col. 2)

### MISSION STATEMENT

**TO PROVIDE VISIBILITY AND SUPPORT FOR THE  
GATHERING AND DISSEMINATION OF HISTORY ABOUT THE ROLES  
AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF NEVADA WOMEN OF EVERY RACE,  
CLASS AND ETHNIC BACKGROUND**



## Ten Nevada political women to talk about legacy

### NWHP sponsors first major panel discussion

**Legacies: Past and Future**, a panel discussion by 10 Nevada women featured in the special "Making A Difference: A Celebration of Women in Politics," is scheduled for Thursday, February 15, 1996 from 7-9 p.m. in the auditorium of the new E.L. Cord Public Telecommunication Center (KNPB-Channel 5), located at N. Virginia and 17th St., Reno. The 30-minute version of the documentary will be shown at 7p.m.

Invited as panelists are former Lt. Gov. Sue Wagner, Attorney General Frankie Sue del Papa, Assemblywoman Jan Evans, former State Senator Jean Ford, former lobbyist Maya Miller, former campaign manager Lynn Atcheson, environmental activist Marge Sill, conservationist Tina Nappe, UNR professor Anne Howard, and Las Vegas activist Ruby Duncan.

Panelists will speak about influences that caused them to be "political," what they learned or gained from their political experiences, where they are in terms of "political" commitment, and what is their legacy to younger generations.

A reception will follow.

Limited seating begins at 6:45. Reserve your seat by calling 784-1560. ❖

## Women's work valued

The Nevada Women's History Project has joined with hundreds of organizations across the U.S. in the "Working Women Count" initiative of the Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor.

NWHP's project, focusing on the theme of "Valuing Women's Work through Job Training and Career Advancement," will involve the following:

1. Gathering information on existing resources relating to Nevada women and work — books, pamphlets, oral history transcripts, videos, exhibits, photographs, manuscripts and other personal papers, etc.

2. Engaging in research to gather additional information on the history of Nevada women and work.

3. From the materials identified in #1 and #2, developing a 45-minute presentation appropriate for use as a module in job training and career planning workshops.

4. Preparing visuals — slides, mounted photos, posters, etc. — to accompany the presentation.

5. Sending information to Northern Nevada job training and

career planning programs, offering our services as part of their programming.

6. Giving at least three presentations within the next six months that will include discussions with the workshop participants about the material presented. It's our intent to continue this program into the future and to expand its use in Southern Nevada.

7. Develop an evaluation instrument that will help NWHP glean knowledge regarding the effect of the presentation on attitudes and future actions of the participants.

A program of this nature will provide a much-needed positive image of women at work, exercising a variety of options, acting as role models for contemporary women, and giving an appreciation of the many contributions of women who have come before us and made a difference in their families and communities.

Jean Ford, Project Director, is looking for interested women and men to help with any aspect of this project, from research to public presentations. Call her at 784-1560. ❖

## Letter from the Editor

Like many women everywhere, and possibly you, too, in my attempts to find a familiar reflection in the mirror of the past — whether here as an Hispanic or in my country of birth as a Peruvian — sometimes I've only found a blurred distortion and in most instances *nothing at all*.

A more concrete experience occurred when I embarked on the research for my documentary "Making A Difference: A Celebration of Women in Politics." I had originally decided to deal with the contributions of political women in Nevada for the period between 1920 and 1965, but that mirror kept reflecting little or *nothing at all*.

That is, with the exception of a few superficial references in current historical texts about Nevada and a handful of disjointed personal collections in the library, there is no comprehensive recorded history about those women — *nothing at all*.

So I turned to the oral evidence that some living makers of history could provide for the era of 1965 to 1982. The result was that documentary, the first of its kind in Nevada.

Because of my experiences, which I am sure resonate with yours; because I want my 17-year old daughter — a Nevada-born woman of Peruvian heritage — to see with clarity into the past, to find herself in the many faces of those women who've come before her, to derive inspiration from their lives and their efforts as she learns about commitment to society and herself; because I am passionately determined that "her-story" will never again be covered by the dust of oblivion, it gives me immense pleasure to bring you this inaugural issue of the Nevada Women's History Project newsletter.

I thank the women who've contributed to this issue: Janet White, Vikki Ford, Susan Hollis, Jean Ford, Joan Morrow, Betty Glass, Carrie Porter, Kathleen Noneman, and to my staff who've lent me such able assistance. Special thanks to Tamara Early of San Diego who designed the logo.

I take this time to make a call to all women and men who want to see Nevada women take their rightful place in history, to join NWHP — our labors will be arduous but full of satisfaction. Join us in this marvelous adventure of discovery. Do it for yourself, your daughters and granddaughters, and for every serious student of history.

Finally, I want to invite you to collaborate with me and make this newsletter the pride of Nevada. NWHP News will be published quarterly and I encourage you to submit materials by the due dates: March 1st, June 1st, September 1st and December 1st. I look forward to your comments and contributions.

Sincerely,

*Sylvia Ontaneda-Bernales*



## PROFILE

### LAURA M. TILDEN

Nevada's First Woman Attorney

by Kathleen F. Noneman, Esq.



Kathleen F. Noneman, Esq.

The American Civil War brought many social and economic changes. Women first seriously attempted to enter the professional fields. In law they encountered major obstacles that they did not meet in breaking down the barriers of medicine and higher education. Under common law married women couldn't contract or sue in their own names, so they could not contract with or represent clients. Bird Wilson, a Nevada suffragist and attorney, in her treatise "Women Under Nevada Law", pointed out that the laws of Nevada tended "to turn thinking women away from marriage." Attorneys were considered officers of the court and since women did not have the right to vote or hold office, states used that as a justification for not allowing women, married or single, to become attorneys.

Some states either expressly forbade women from becoming attorneys or used masculine gender pronouns in the statutes which courts interpreted as excluding women.

The Storey County Census for 1880 lists a 45 year old attorney named M. C. Tilden as living in Virginia City with his two sons, aged 11 and 18, and his daughter Laura, aged 9. Her place of birth is given as California, and she is reported to be away at school.

The next reference to Laura appears in a July 24, 1893 article in the *Virginia City Evening Chronicle*. It credits her with obtaining the passage of a Legislative statute the previous winter giving women the same rights and privileges as males "sofar as becoming attorneys is concerned." The article goes on to say that the women of Nevada owe her a debt of gratitude for this feat and that she is the first lady to be allowed to practice law in Nevada. Her age is given as 22 and her father is referred to as being "of" Virginia City. Laura is reported as having passed a "creditable exam" and receiving "encomiums from the entire bench for the manner in which she had borne herself." Although she was Nevada's first woman attorney, there is yet no available evidence of her actually having practiced law in Nevada.

CAPITAL WOMEN, An Interpretive History of Women in Sacramento, 1850-1920, by Elaine Connolly and Dian Self, reports that the *Sacramento Bee* in 1895 describes Laura Tilden as 'Sacramento's woman lawyer' and this implies that she was the only female in the city practicing law at that time. She was her father's law partner in an office located at 504 J Street.

The barriers against women in the legal profession started to come down in the 1870s. The California legislature passed its bill authorizing women to practice before all its state courts in 1877 after intense lobbying by Clara Shortridge Foltz and Laura De Force Gordon who, during 1870-71, had travelled throughout Nevada lecturing in favor of woman suffrage. Connolly and Self credit Laura's father, Marcellus C. Tilden, with inspiring her interest in the law and in the woman suffrage movement. They found he had signed an equal suffrage petition that had been circulated in Northern California in 1870.

Still to be uncovered are details of her personal or married life, but Connolly and Self refer to Laura Tilden Ray as a local suffrage leader in the 1890s who continued her work as a lawyer and public notary. They also later refer to her as Laura Tilden Ray Wilson. These name changes imply she was married at least once. She was also licensed to practice law in Denver, Colorado, in 1914. ❖

For the past year, Reno attorney Kathleen F. Noneman has been researching the lives of Nevada's first women attorneys and their successes in breaking down the legal, economic, and social barriers to the practice of law.

Mrs. Noneman enjoys serving as an arbitrator and as a volunteer Family Court Master in addition to her research. She welcomes any ideas or information readers may have about Laura M. Tilden or any other pioneer Nevada women attorneys.

#### ROUNDTABLE SCHEDULE

##### January 12, 1996

Speaker: Dana Bennett  
Topic: Women Elected to Nevada State Office

##### February 16, 1995

Speaker: Anita Watson  
Topic: Reno Divorce: The National Context of Local Industry

##### March 15, 1996

Speaker: Carrie Porter  
Topic: Helen J. Stewart, First Lady of Las Vegas

Location: University Inn, 10th & Virginia.  
12:30 - 2 p.m. Lunch: \$6 at the door.  
(Go to private diningroom)

For questions or to volunteer to be a speaker, please contact:  
Carrie Townley-Porter, Research Roundtable Coordinator, at 857-2050.



## We'd rather not have any than a dead one

by Joan Morrow

When I had the good luck to meet Nancy Holmes of the National Automobile Museum, little did I know the fun I would have working on her project. The Museum will hold a public program/teacher's workshop March 12, 14 and 16, and I will be presenting "Women and the Automobile." As usual, the research into women's past has been enlightening, and regarding the automobile, surprising.

"While we love them all, we'd rather not have any than a dead one . . ." commented S. P. Foster in *Motor Magazine* in May 1914. He, of course, was referring to those daring women who were so presumptuous as to sit behind the wheel of a gas driven automobile. The profoundly unladylike women would be the downfall of house, home, family, and yes, the world.

Does that argument seem dated somehow?

Let me see . . . wouldn't all those things happen if we got the vote, became doctors, didn't marry, divorced? Isn't it nice to have a scapegoat for all the ills of the world? Pandora and Eve take equal blame for the outrageous misfortunes of all humankind.

Find out more about how women took hold of the steering wheel in the auto and their lives. Join the Automobile Museum for their exciting programs in March 1996. ♦

... all people necessarily live history, and they all therefore are history.

Susan Hollis

Susan Tower Hollis is an Egyptologist, independent scholar, and writer. Her publications and presentations deal with ancient Egyptian goddesses, queens, and other women.

## What is Women's History?

by Susan Hollis

Just what is "women's history" and how does it differ from any other kind of history, e.g. ancient history or American history?

Integral to this question is the observation that "[w]ho tells your history is critical." In other words, what is the perspective from which whatever is being said is said. Often the reader of history is unaware that the historical commentator or historian must make choices about what to include and the view from which the history is seen. In other words history is limited by a

number of factors involving whom to include and what to value. For example, the formal teaching of African American history emphasizes 100 percent the impact of whites on people of color.

Similarly, women have been an invisible factor in history, as has class. And even

when women have made history, as during the 1848 Conference in Seneca Falls, for instance, their actions have fallen into obscurity, collecting dust. Indeed, women's history in the late twentieth century has had to relearn what happened as recently as 150 years ago, and this is only "add-on" history, that history which treats what women do alongside, but lacking impact on, "real" (read dominant white male) history. Go back to your American History books, or even look into your child's current school text, to search for the presence of women, women's activities, mention of class, and discussion of non-dominant groups such as African Americans or Hispanic. While you should find more than was there

when I took American History in the 1950s, there will not be much more.

Before continuing, I need to reiterate that what is presented, and how, is determined by the person or persons presenting the material. In other words, historians " 'preside over the construction' of what the cultural historian Peter Gay has called 'the collective memory'." We all have been imbued with this "collective memory" since our youth, so effecting change is difficult at the very best, even for those who truly want to change their viewpoint.

How do we make the needed change to alter the "collective memory"?

The problem is very complex by nature since we are limited by our sources, the more so the further back in time we venture, and many of the sources reflect the dominant male

voice due simply to its access to writing. Nevertheless, many are working for change, and in time a comprehensive history should evolve.

But other problems exist as well. Initially the problem was approached through what has been called "compensatory history," foregrounding women in addition to those who made the headlines, the Cleopatras and Queen Elizabeths of the world. This type of history, needed and valid, may be termed truly "her-story," but it is limited in its impact, since it presents women's experiences as separate from those of men and, at its best, simply inserts women into the received traditional history. Even when the approach is

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Susan Hollis



## NEWS

### YWCA celebrates 75th anniversary *Commissions historical manuscript*

To celebrate its 75th Anniversary, the Reno-Sparks YWCA board of directors, led by President Darlene Reed, asked that a history of the local organization be written. The manuscript, *Making Their Mark* by Victoria Ford, is ready for publication, and the YWCA is searching for funds to turn the manuscript into a paperback book to be sold as a fund-raiser.

"As the history project formed we could see its value in providing answers for the YWCA's uncertain future," Reed said. A combination of internal crisis — the deaths of two key administrators — and external changes in the community have created a major financial crunch. The YWCA's swimming pool and the fitness center have been closed to save overhead, and the current focus is on filling the day care program.

"We are also dealing with a second, and perhaps more difficult problem," Reed said. "What role should the Reno-Sparks YWCA play in today's community? This history reassures us that the YWCA has experienced turning points before and survived."

*Making Their Mark* is based on a combination of archival records and oral history interviews which focus on challenges facing each administration. "The story was best told by the women who supported the Reno-Sparks YWCA over the past 75 years," said author Victoria Ford.

"It was impossible to find details on all the women, especially those who have died or who were known only as 'Mrs. Somebody' in early documents," Ford said, "but enough information exists to show that similar problems have surfaced before and been solved."

The YWCA's annual meetings are documented in minutes dating from 1920 through 1971 and are on file at the Nevada Women's Archives at the Special Collections Department of the University of Nevada, Reno. Records

and photographs from 1971 to the present will soon be preserved there.

Many people offered valuable help which made this project possible. Designer Shelley Reimers and the author donated time and expertise. The Nevada Humanities Committee awarded a mini-grant for the manuscript project. R. T. King and his staff at the University of Nevada Oral History Program donated expertise and transcription services. Anita Watson offered direction as a professional historian. Elizabeth Norris, historian for the YWCA of the U.S.A. in New York, sent important information from the national archives.

From Special Collections at the University of Nevada, Reno, Manuscript Curator, Susan Searcy offered welcomed guidance and support, and Bob Blesse, head of Special Collections, freely offered his knowledge of design to help Shelley Reimers. Kathleen Berry assisted with the final editing.

"We have a fund-raising brochure ready to mail, and the manuscript is designed and ready for the publisher," Reed said. "We need about \$3,500 to make this fund-raiser work."

For more information or to make donations toward the project, contact President Darlene Reed in care of the Nevada Society of CPA's at 826-6800 or Board Member Dale Johnstone at 323-4575. ❖

### Survey on women's spirituality in library soon

Betty Glass, Instructional Services Librarian at the University of Nevada, Reno, has written a chapter surveying publications about women's spirituality issues from prehistory through the 1990s.

"Women's Spirituality: A Burgeoning Microcosm of Women's Studies" will be in *-Genre Collections-*, published by JAI Press of Greenwich, CT, in 1996. ❖

### NWHP members march in Nevada Day Parade

"Votes for Women: Nevada, 1914; U. S. 1920," was the theme of NWHP's Nevada Day Parade entry which was well received by thousands along the parade route in Carson City. The lineup was as follows:

The new Nevada Women's History Project banner was carried by Susan Hollis and Shawn Hall.

Roger Hiestand, chief mechanic for the National Auto Museum, drove a beautiful 1910 Oldsmobile touring car which carried Roslyn Works dressed as Anne Martin, along with April Townley, Janet White and Jean Ford. They were dressed in period gowns and fancy hats admired by many as they waved to the crowd.

Next came a line of marchers in various historic fashion: Joan Kerschner, Anita Watson, Eileen Cohen, Sheryl Kleinendorst, Maud Naroll, and Sandy Rizzo.

Sporting colorful t-shirts emblazoned with the logo for the 75th Anniversary of women's suffrage and carrying placards with the names of Nevada's most famous suffragists were parade marchers Jeff Carlton, Betty Glass, Renee Haman-Guild and children Jessie Ross and Mason, Janet Hensley, Ginnie and Bob Kersey and their two granddaughters, Mary Lee, Penny LaPome, Morgen Marshall, Dennis Myers, Kathleen Noneman, Sylvia Ontaneda-Bernales, Guy Rocha, Judith Sugar, Maija Talso, Richard Tracy, and Holly Van Valkenburgh. Lt. Governor Lonnie Hammargren joined the group for a short time.

Providing a fitting ending to this colorful display was the League of Women Voters banner carried by Nancy Scott and Val Friskey.

The NWHP participants then gathered for an informal party at Jean Ford's home in Carson City. The parade was a great ending for a year of celebrating the 75th Anniversary of American women gaining the right to vote. ❖



## HISTORY

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modified to include women-related experiences, family, domestication, and the like, one still sees a separate history.

Another approach comes via "social history," viewing groups of people, challenging the idea that only dominant males make history—a largely economic approach, it loses women as women in integration of the various parts. Yet a third approach incorporates social definitions of gender, i.e., sex, class, and power. It asks about relationships, questioning how gender and sexual difference affect the workings of power.

While each of those different visions of how to construct history has validity and, indeed, is necessary, none really attacks the root of the problem: how we view history, what the referent is. For example, a pet peeve of mine is the concern that women be "equal" to men, but what is "equal"? Generally it is taking the male's role or achievement as the measure and seeking to gain that. Surely that is not truly "equal" or sharing. Similarly in history, to take the male approach of history as kings, wars, economic power, and the like and viewing women in history on the basis of how they fit in, whether by visibility, members of social groups, or womanly activities, is still asking the same question in the same way and not validating that all people necessarily live history, and they all therefore are history. Something new is needed that recognizes and analyzes the underlying modes of thinking, followed by attempts at reformulating what history is and affirming that history includes all people.

In rewriting history to include women, we have a multifocal task. We need to identify and learn about notable women, the heroes. We must make ourselves aware of these women's contributions, and we have to become cognizant of women in the fullness of their lives, recognizing the value of their work in family, housework, reproduction, associations—in other words, in every aspect of their human experience. But finally and most of all, we have to see and understand that

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## GENESIS

(continued from page 2)

At that November meeting, 19 women signed up to become involved. The Minutes of Sally Wilkins reflect a prophetic comment, "We're on the first step of an unknown pathway!! Let's work together to create a wonderful opportunity for ourselves and those who come after us!!"

On February 7, 1995, an invitation was issued to an extensive list of nonprofit organizations and government agencies to attend, on February 22nd, "the launching of a new, exciting program regarding Nevada women's history which is being initiated during the 75th Anniversary of women gaining the right to vote." This invitation was issued by Fritsi Ericson, President and CEO of Nevada Women's Fund; Bobbie Gang, State President of the American Association of University Women; Mary Larsen, State President of Nevada Women's Political Caucus; Nancy Wall, State President of League of Women Voters of Nevada, and Jean Ford, as coordinator of the Nevada Women's History Project—an impressive group of interested women. More than twenty people attended, and expressed interest in creating a statewide organization.

Participants at a March 16 meeting chose the name Nevada Women's History Project; amended the purpose to emphasize interest in the history of Nevada women of *every race, class and ethnic background*; approved the dues and organizational structure; and, accepted the offer of the Nevada Women's Fund to act as the fiscal agent for the group until full organization was achieved.

On June 27 the first officers of the Steering Committee were elected: Chair, Jean Ford; Vice-chair and Chair of By-Laws Committee, Sally Wilkins;

Secretary and Membership Chair, Lynn Bremer; Treasurer, Linda Wyckoff; Historian, Janet White; Co-Chairs of Program Planning, Shayne del Cohen and Kathy Noneman; Chair of Newsletter Committee and Editor, Sylvia Ontaneda-Bernales; proposed for Publicity was Joan Morrow; and a Finance/Fund-raising position was held in abeyance. Additional Steering Committee Members representing individual memberships were Zola Ferguson, Madeline Parsons, Barbara Spring, and Anita Watson. Additional Steering Committee Members representing organizations were Pat Salandra (American Business Women's Association), Bobbie Talso (Delta Kappa Gamma, Lambda Chapter), Vikki Ford (Friends of UNR Library), Mary Lee (League of Women Voters of Nevada), Penny Whalen (Greater Reno Zonta Club), and Fritsi Ericson (Nevada Women's Fund).

More monthly meetings followed. At the September meeting, Jean Ford reported membership

included 44 individual members, 14 organizations and 9 state agencies; the By-Laws Committee presented a draft of organizational by-laws for consideration, the Program Committee reported on oral history and archives workshops, a summer teacher institute for 1996, a monthly Research Roundtable, and plans were finalized for NWHP participation in the Nevada Day Parade in Carson City on October 31, 1995. Additionally, the Newsletter editor set a deadline for copy for the Inaugural Issue of the NWHP newsletter.

So, here we are: The Nevada Women's History Project. As a cloudburst of membership is welcomed, our passageway to success is guaranteed by dedication, participation, and joy. ❖

*We are on the first  
step of an unknown  
pathway!!*

*Let's work together to  
create a wonderful  
opportunity for  
ourselves and those  
who come after us!!*



## More NEWS

### WORKSHOPS TEACH HOW TO PRESERVE PAST

"Save Your Past," a hands-on workshop in preserving your photos, papers, documents, memorabilia, will be presented by Jeff Kintop, Nevada State Archives Manager, on the following dates:

- ♦ Saturday, February 24, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. University Inn, 10th & Virginia, Reno (free covered parking available).
- ♦ Saturday, March 23, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Nevada State Library and Archives, 100 S. Stewart, Carson City.

Bring your boxes full of family or organizational "stuff" you promised yourself you'd organize. You'll receive your own archival storage box and learn from Jeff what materials and techniques are available to help you preserve the story of your past. Also bring your own snack for lunch break or plan to eat at a nearby restaurant.

Send \$20 fee (materials included) to Nevada Women's History Project, 1048 N. Sierra #A, Reno, NV 89503. Make check payable to NWHP.

A minimum of 12 registrations are needed to conduct each workshop; members and nonmembers are welcome.

December 9, 1995 was the inaugural "Save Your Past" workshop in Boulder City and the 17 participants found it a worthwhile experience. Other workshops are tentatively planned for Elko in May and Fallon in September.

"An Introduction to Oral History-taking" will be presented by Tom King, Director of the University of Nevada Oral History Program (UNOHP) on Saturday, February 3, at the Opera House in Eureka from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. A morning lecture will be followed by participants developing their own outline for proceeding with a potential interviewee.

Fee is \$20 (includes materials). To register, call Wally Cuchine in Eureka, 237-6006. He can also send you information on overnight accommodations.

Shayne del Cohen of Reno coordinates these NWHP-sponsored workshops. She may be reached at 827-9228.

### DOCU-DRAMAS CELEBRATE SUFFRAGE

"The Saga of Nevada Women's Suffrage: 1869-1920" has been presented in three different versions to diverse audiences.

—April 27, two performances in the Old Assembly Chamber of the Nevada State Capitol, with 15 characters in Nevada history and two narrators, for a combined audience of 250, including members of the Nevada Legislature, their guests, and interested residents of Reno, Carson City, and Fallon.

—July 19, also in the Old Assembly Chamber, for 90 participants of the UNR/ Nevada Humanities Committee "Reading and Writing the West" teacher institute.

—October 11, in Winnemucca, for participants of the Nevada State Library Association convention.

Jean Ford has developed the scripts with the following NWHP members actively involved in their performances: Roslyn Works, Sally Wilkins, Sheryl Kleinendorst, Julie Lopp, Sandra Neese, Guy Rocha. Additional chapters in the "Saga" are to be researched and scripts prepared for performance during the coming year.

For information on this project, contact Jean Ford, 784-1560

### CONGRATULATIONS TO THESE NWHP MEMBERS

Dana Bennett, author of *Forward with Enthusiasm*, a history of Midas, Nevada, 1907-1995, published by Great Basin Press.

Vikki Ford, for her interviewing and editing role in production of *War Stories*, latest release by UN Oral History Program.

## HISTORY

(continued from page 7)

women along with other participants in history who are generally ignored, i.e., people from different ethnic, racial, and cultural groups, comprise history as a whole, and all of us are simply the most recent players.

Without women and the non-dominant males of all different groups, the history with which we are familiar would not exist. The issue now is to write and rewrite the 'real' history of the world or any segment of it, the one which recognizes that others besides the powerful make history what it is.

True history entails a 'revisioning' of history, a reexamination of how we view the past, an approach which recognizes that, in fact, names, dates, and places of events are not truly history, but people of all kinds and all backgrounds make history what it is. To highlight only the very small number who are the Caesars and Napoleons, or even Nefertitis, of this world is to distort our roots. ♦

[Ed. Note]

A future newsletter will include a list of some references for further reading on this topic, which may even provide the basis for study and discussion among interested members and friends of the Nevada Women's History Project about what history really is.

Sylvia Ontaneda-Bernales, for her 30-minute version of "Making A Difference: Nevada Women in Politics, 1965-1982," a *Nevada Experience* documentary aired on December 18 by KNPB-Channel 5.

## Nevada Women's History Project

## NEWS

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