

## Mark Your Calendars...

### *Second Annual NWHP North General Membership Meeting Holds Excitement For All*

Don't pencil it in. Ink in June 2 on your date book now! Snack-off, book assessment authors and anecdotes, election of officers, volunteer recognition, a look at program priorities—you can count on all this and more at the Second Annual General Membership Business Meeting.

All members are urged to attend this special event on Monday, June 2, 5:30 - 8:00 p.m., in the auditorium of the Washoe County Health Department at the corner of 9th and Wells in Reno.

The Second Annual Snack-Off Contest will begin at 5:30 p.m. Bring a snack, home-made or store-bought, to share with others. The two categories this year are: 1) Conscientiously Healthy, and 2) What-Me Worry? Contest ballots will be distributed at the registration table and prizes will be awarded to the winners of both

categories.

The theme for the evening's program is "Book Assessment: Anecdotes and Authors." Several volunteers who worked on the Book Assessment Project will share brief excerpts from some of the Nevada books they assessed. A Nevada author or two will be invited to share their interests in writing about Nevada. We will also hear about next steps in the NWHP Book Assessment Project.

Volunteers who helped with various NWHP activities during the past year will be recognized. The evening's agenda will conclude with election of officers, adoption of the budget, and action taken on recommended By-Law changes. Further information will follow in a mailing to all NWHP North members in late May.—Betty Glass, Program Chair.

## Book Assessment-- Phase 1 Completed!!

The work was impressive: over 600 books on Nevada reviewed in just four months by 90 NWHP members and friends participating in this statewide Project. The results? The completed assessment forms pouring into our Reno office identified about 300 books with "substantial" content about Nevada women in history; the content of 109 of those books has a major focus on some aspect of the lives and/or contributions of Nevada women.

*Women's History in Nevada: A Bibliography of Published Sources* emerged as a limited printing for distribution at our Women's History Conference in March, a most helpful tool for the teachers, librarians, researchers and students who attended.

*Continued on page 3*

### First Annual Nevada Women's History Project Conference

*See pages 4, 6 and 7 for stories and photos.*



*Kathy Noneman, Roz Works and Bonda Lewis in suffrage drama*

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# African American Women Migrants: A Las Vegas Odyssey

by Claytee White

"Come on out here, they're giving away money; eight dollars a day and working in the shade." That's how Lucille Bryant persuaded her friends and relatives in Tallulah, LA to join her in Las Vegas. In 1940, there were 167 blacks in Las Vegas. By 1955, that number had grown to 13,000. A major portion of that increase came from two small towns in the South--Fordyce, AK, and Tallulah, LA. African American communities in small towns with a high unemployment rate became the targets of labor agents from factories like Basic Magnesium (BMI) in Henderson, NV, where magnesium was processed to make bombs for the war effort. Executive Order 8802 signed by President Truman forbade discrimination in the employment of workers in defense industries or government on the basis of race, creed, color or national origin; thus, black workers had to be located.

Migrants traveled to Las Vegas by bus and by car. Fordyce did not have a

bus station and for many years, the bus station in Tallulah was not allowed to sell one-way tickets to blacks headed for Las Vegas. This was true of many towns throughout the South as far back as the Great Migration of the World War I period. Whites were afraid of losing their labor force. Black women, a primary part of this labor force, were eager to leave because they could only earn \$2 to \$3 per day working in the cotton fields and \$1 per day doing domestic work in private homes. These women also wanted better lives for their children.

The first arrivals in the early 1940's lived in tents and shacks on the Westside, the only section where blacks were allowed to rent or purchase property. Viola Johnson remembers living in a small tent with six other family members. She stated that, "The men in the family worked different shifts at BMI, so when some were sleeping, others were at work. Some of us would sleep under the trees outside. We cooked on a two burner oil stove on the inside and a huge wood stove on the outside. About fifteen feet away was our neighbor in another tent."

Las Vegas allowed black women to gain financial independence, upward mobility and a united voice through union membership in the Culinary Workers Union Local 226. They worked in the "back-of-the-house" (housekeeping departments) of the downtown and Strip hotels. As the town grew, these jobs became more abundant, permitting women the flexibility to move from one hotel to another until they were satisfied with their working conditions. I coined the phrase *Employment Gyration* to describe this working phenomenon. Most were content when they located that hotel where the employees in the



Claytee White

back-of-the-house operated in a family atmosphere, and those are the places where they shaped their careers.

Alma Whitney started at the Desert Inn in 1952, was promoted to supervisor in 1966, and worked there for 35 years. Lucille Bryant worked for 31 years as a Linen Room Supervisor at the Stardust after working as a maid at the Algiers Hotel. Essie Jacobs worked at the Aladdin for 20 years, becoming a supervisor and a Shop Steward.

The recent management at Caesar's Palace refers to the back-of-the-house of their hotel as the "heart-of-the-house." The women from Fordyce and Tallulah made it so.

*Claytee arrived in Las Vegas four and a half years ago and was able to fulfill her dream of returning to college after working for twenty-two years in Los Angeles. She is pursuing a Master's Degree in Women's History at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV), where her thesis project is the investigation of the migration of African American women from small towns in the South to Las Vegas. She is studying with Dr. Joanne Goodwin who has been instrumental in obtaining funds for the study of Women in Gaming and Entertainment, the umbrella project for which Claytee conducts oral histories. In the fall of 1997, she plans to start a Ph.D. program in American History also at UNLV.*

The Nevada Women's History Project newsletter is published quarterly in Reno, Nevada. Annual subscription rate is included in dues. Nonmember subscription rate is \$20 domestic, additional overseas.

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Editor: Joan Morrow



# Join Members in North for Exciting Summer Programs

## Hiking and History:

A special week-end event on June 13/14 introduces this first of a series as we enjoy wildflowers in the Tahoe basin and learn about women botanists of Nevada.

On Friday, June 13, Bev and Duke Hubbard invite hike participants to arrive at Meek's Bay Resort on Lake Tahoe's West Shore anytime between 5:00 and 7:00 p.m. when dinner will be served. The evening will feature Betty Glass's biographical sketch of Olga Reifschneider, a Nevada botanist. Bedding will be provided for those sleeping over; bring your own towel.

After a continental breakfast on Saturday morning, June 14, we car-cavan to Shirley Canyon in Squaw Valley to enjoy the diversity of wildflowers. Jean Ford will be our guide and help with flower identification; on the trail, Frankie Lukasko will introduce another pioneering Nevada botanist, Edith Van Allen Murphey, author of *Indian Uses of Native Plants*. Bring your own lunch and drinking water.

Time permitting, we may also try to get a glimpse of the blue camas lilies at Sagehen Creek or check out more wildflowers in the Martis Creek meadows near Truckee. We should be back in Reno by 5:00 p.m.

Advance reservations are necessary for this outing. Call the Reno office, 322-7754, by June 5th for your flower connection!

## Nevada Women Artists:

On July 11 at 4:00 p.m., we will gather at the Nevada Historical Society in Reno, 1650 N. Virginia, where James McCormick, retired UNR art professor, will brief us on the purpose and activities associated with the Nevada Art Research Project. Learn about the Florence Humphrey Church traveling art show of 1922, the sculpture of Yolande Jacobsen Sheppard and Sarah

Sweetwater, and other women artists who worked in graphic design, watercolor, ceramics, printmaking, and photography.

For more information, call 323-5646.

## Bowers Mansion Tour and Picnic:

Plan to bring the family to this August 16 outing at Bowers Mansion in Washoe Valley. Come at 3:00 p.m. to hear Tammy Buzick tell us about the fascinating life of Eilley Oram Bowers and lead a short walk to her gravesite; tours of the Mansion also will be available for a small fee. At 5:00 p.m. we'll spread our quilts on the lawn and enjoy a family potluck dinner. Call 322-7754 to let us know you're coming so appropriate plans can be made for an enjoyable event.

## NWHP Considering By-Law Changes

NWHP Steering Committee members North and South are discussing possible By-Law changes to enhance better communication and overall effectiveness of the organization. One recommendation is to change the fiscal year to coincide with the calendar year. Another is to combine the Executive Committee and the Steering Committee for quarterly meetings.

Specific wording for these recommendations will be mailed to all members with the notice of the Annual Business Meetings to be held in June in Reno and Las Vegas. If you have questions or suggestions, call Kathleen Noneman in Reno, 853-8393, or Iris Torfason in Las Vegas, 737-7644.

## Book Assessment...

*Continued from page 1*

The *Bibliography* is only a beginning, containing author, title, year of publication, publisher, and number of pages. It includes both fiction and non-fiction, reference works, biographies, autobiographies, community or regional histories, poetry, photographic essays, and general historical works. With a few exceptions, it does not include oral histories, masters theses, doctoral dissertations, and manuscripts or other primary source material.

Phase II of the Project will be the publication of an annotated bibliography of these books, including for each the title, a summary of the content, useful information regarding documentation, where to find if out-of-print, etc. We anticipate completion in late 1997. Plans are being finalized for printing and distribution to librarians and teachers throughout the state; copies for purchase will be available from the NWHP offices in Reno and Las Vegas.

The following individuals deserve great thanks for their extensive involvement in this Project: NWHP members Kelly Abend, Ruth Aberasturi, Penny Mayer, Darryl Morris, Cindy Reynolds, Leslie Shipp, Jean Spiller, and Bobbie Talso; Frankie Lukasko, Library Coordinator for the Washoe County School District; Stan Fuke, Library Coordinator for the Clark County School District, and the more than 80 additional women and men who gave of their time and talent to complete the book assessments.

Widespread interest and active participation generated by the assessment work has been gratifying evidence of the need for new and substantive efforts in regard to research and publishing about women's history in Nevada. We see this Project encouraging and facilitating those efforts in the months to come.

Want to help with Phase II? Call Jean Ford at 322-7754.



# Over 220 Attend NWHP Conference...

## Evaluations Indicate Positive Response

By Kay Sanders, Co-Chair

Approximately 220 people attended our First Biennial Conference in Reno, March 2nd and 3rd. They came from 21 different Nevada and California communities. This exciting event drew nearly 200 women and 20 men to the National Automobile Museum and the Sands Regency Hotel with representation from the following Nevada communities (given in order of registrant count): Reno, Carson City, Las Vegas, Fallon, Sparks, Gardnerville, Gerlach, Virginia City, Elko, Genoa, Winnemucca, Mesquite, Eureka, Zephyr Cove, Incline Village, Boulder City, Yerington, and North Las Vegas. Californians were present from South Lake Tahoe, Los Gatos, and Cohasset.

Less than half of those present at the conference were members of the Nevada Women's History Project; at least 10 of those attending joined NWHP at our membership booth. Their occupational or interest backgrounds included the following: teachers, students, university personnel, librarians, community non-profit organizations, museums, private businesses, government, media, and miscellaneous categories including retired people in all the above.

Five women, organized by Carley Sullivan and all dressed in lovely period costumes, were gracious hostesses to all arrivals that first day. Bonda Lewis, Roslyn Works, and Kathleen Noneman, with the help of Anne Howard and Don and Shirley King and their 1915 Overland car, reenacted moments in the history of woman suffrage, including the arrival of suffragist Sara Bard Field to Reno as part of her 1915 transcontinental auto trip. The weather cooperated somewhat by not snowing - a cold wind blew off the mountains and down the Truckee River for the outside segment of the presentation, but that only added to the atmosphere.

Day two at the Sands Regency Hotel featured our Keynote Speaker Dr. Virginia Scharff of the U. of New Mexico. She presented her fascinating slides and lively talk on "Women, Wheels, and the West." Thirteen separate workshops given by 22 presenters covered subject including "Women on the Comstock Lode" and "Women in Military History" to "How to Publish Your Research." It was standing room only in most of the sessions. Kathleen Dickinson and her Zonta colleagues did a most professional job in facilitating the various sessions.

At the closing plenary, 18 individuals and four organizations were recognized in the Nevada Women's History Roll of Honor ceremony for having "made a difference" in the gathering and dissemination of Nevada women's history. Carrie Townley Porter and Guy Rocha announced the honorees and gave certificates to the 11 who were present. The creative work of Sally Wilkins, who designed the unique stage setting, and Reno High senior Patrick St. Jean, who painted the beautiful Nevada backdrop, added to the enjoyment of the event. (More about the honorees can be found on page 10 in this issue.)

Twenty vendors and exhibitors had booths in the Imperial Ballroom. The interaction between representatives and the participants was exceptional. These exhibitors, coordinated by Joan Kerschner, were an integral and interesting part of our conference. We also enjoyed the creative photo exhibits of Nevada women and the automobile, prepared by Sheryl Kleinendorst. Several of the panels are now available for display in the community.

Evaluations returned indicated a high rate of approval of our conference. Out of the 80 forms returned, 30

gave us an overall score of "10" (the highest); 14 - "9"; 14 - "8"; 3 - "7" and one - "6". This indicates all Excellent to Good + evaluations. We were pleased with this response. The evaluations also contained many excellent recommendations for planners of the next conference which will be held in Southern Nevada.

We can be proud of our first conference. It was a quality event which received the highest compliments from those attending and those working at the event. Whether our next conference occurs in 1999 or 1998 as has been suggested, we will be looking forward to gathering again to celebrate Nevada women's place in history.

## Where To From Here--The Future

By Jean Ford, Co-Chair

As the conference neared the end with our "honoring the past," it was important that we took a few minutes to "plan for the future." Attendees were asked to give their attention to an NWHP Statewide Program Overview in their packets, outlining major activities undertaken since the Spring of 1995. Eva Stowers, representing NWHP-South, and I briefed them on activities planned for 1997 and other programmatic ideas under consideration. All present were urged to leave with us some indication as to their opinion regarding program priorities and particularly in which areas they would be willing to work.

Many responded and we will be in contact as future plans and budgets are developed. To summarize, our priorities for 1997 are:

- \* Book Assessment Project: publication and distribution of *An Annotated Bibliography of Published Materials About Nevada Women*
- \* Nevada School Network: complete contract for development of "web" pages on Nevada women's history for teachers statewide
- \* Nevada History Day: encourage participation by giving teachers technical assistance and making special awards to students

Future Continued page 11



*Nevada Humanities Continued...* exhibits, *Nevada and the West* videos, *The Nevada Experience*, public television series, magic lantern slideshows and audiotapes.

Judith Winzeler began working with the Nevada Humanities Committee in 1977 and has been the Director since 1984.

(More profiles in the Summer issue)

## Research Registry

Our registry of those researching Nevada women in history continues to grow with the following additions:

- ◆ **Lynn Bremer**, Incline Village: Mary S. Doten
- ◆ **Kari Coughlin**, Death Valley National Park: women of Rhyolite
- ◆ **Elmer Rusco**, Reno: women involved in civil rights movement in Nevada
- ◆ **Tammy Buzick**, Reno: Laura Dettenreider
- ◆ **Kay Sanders**, Reno: women who lived in early mining camps
- ◆ **Sally Wilkins**, Reno: Idah M. Strobbridge
- ◆ **Carol Corbett**, Las Vegas: Southern Nevada watering holes and springs named after women
- ◆ **Dixie Westergard**, Carson City: Dat-So-La-Lee

If you would like your research topic shared with others, please call 322-7754 (Reno) or 585-2088 (Las Vegas).

Research Roundtables are being activated by NWHP-South in the Fall by Eva Stowers, 895-0542. In the meantime, summer programming by NWHP-North is taking on a "new look" by combining research with wildflower hikes and tours of museums and historic sites; details are carried on page 3 in this issue. Suggestions for NWHP-North programming for the Fall can be made to Carrie Townley Porter, 857-2050.

✓ **First general election contest between two female candidates for Legislature: 1922, Mineral County. Rita Millar (D) defeated Genevieve H. Sperling (R)**

# World War II UNR Coed Reunion

## We'll Meet Again at Golden Wolves Reunion

by Esther Early

This January 16, 26 women who had attended UNR during World War II reunited amid tears, smiles, hugs and laughter. Girlhood friends shared their memories of those years at a reunion held at the Reno YWCA. The event was co-hosted by Esther Early and Ruth Smith and sponsored by the NWHP.

The reunion started with a warm welcome from Jean Ford who talked of the exciting work that NWHP is engaged in and invited all to join. Then World War II coeds proceeded to take the group on a walk through history as they shared scrapbooks and other memorabilia. Historical copies of the *Sagebrush*, the UNR newspaper, were displayed with particular attention paid to an article published in the September 1943 issue that reported the ASUN Senate had passed legislation making it legal for women to run for president of that body.

Typical of universities across the United States, this was a pivotal time in women's history. Because few civilian men remained on campus, women moved into positions of authority, holding offices in most organizations. Their public involvement didn't stop there as the women devoted time and effort contributing to the war effort, even raising \$16,000 to buy a fighter plane for the Navy.

These women of the World War II era shared stories with the group recalling how girls from out of town had to stay in the ATO and Lambda Chi fraternity houses. The women's dormitories as well as the gymnasium were being used by Army Air Force Cadets and Engineers who had been sent to the University to study. Some of the women spoke of the tragedy of the loss of loved ones in the war and

others the joy of reunion when their loved ones returned safely.

The January meeting led to future meeting plans and Susie Kuczynski, program director for the University of Nevada Alumni Association offered the help of her organization in future gatherings. Esther thanked Ms. Kuczynski for her help in locating addresses of coeds which were added to the ones Esther and Ruth had discovered. Esther went on to thank Tom King of the Oral History Department for providing a video camera which Joann Peden used to tape the January 16 event. Thanks also went to Karen Gash of the UNR Getchell Library Archives for her help in researching information of that era.

As a result of the meeting, a number of women volunteered to be interviewed for the Oral History Project, and videotapes of the meeting were presented to NWHP, the Oral History Project and the Archives at Getchell Library.

A steering committee later met in April when members decided to reunite again at the University during the Golden Wolves Reunion at the time of Commencement. Invitations will be sent to as many women as can be located. Any woman who went to UNR during the war years is welcome to attend. Our purpose is to generate information about women at that time and how it has affected our history. We will audio tape interviews, make videotapes and form groups who may be invited to go to area schools to let students know what it was like in those days. All of this information will be given to NWHP.

For more information, please contact Esther Early at 857-9776 or Ruth Smith at 322-5217.



# Nevada Women on the Move Through History

First Biennial NWHP Conference a Grand Success!

## Why Gather For Women's History...

*A Reminiscence by Patt Quinn-Davis*

I'm the collector of my grandmother's figurine, my great-aunt's stuffed dog, my grandmother's ring, my husband's grandmother's engagement ring, my mother-in-law's tea sets, my grandmother's table. The list is rather endless—the silverware, the china, cedar chest, a dining set, linens from a great-grandmother I never knew, a crocheted throw from Ireland. I always wondered why the attachment, why the fondness for filling my home with mementos, many with their own stories of which I'm not even aware. After attending the first Nevada Women's History Conference held in March in Reno, much of my wonderment has been laid to rest.

I stood with the crowd in front of the National Automobile Museum, listening to Sara Bard Field's passionate speech supporting women's right to vote, and the history books I have read on that movement stirred with life. Finally I could grasp my own gratitude for those pioneer women's overwhelming work. As if those women were here, or perhaps as if I was there, I became connected with what has gone before me, and I became part of the continuum of what is still ahead. Perhaps that is one of the powers of the Nevada Women's History Project.

Many people will certainly dismiss the awareness of Nevada women in history as minor-league paraphernalia—entertaining, maybe, but not very important. I wager that those who have been involved in the History Project would disagree with such nonsense. It's a simple fact. When we don't know where we have been, it's easier to plead ignorance as we forge ahead. And when we are unaware of our direction, often we find ourselves going in tiresome circle after tiresome circle. We try to develop, to build, disconnected from a past that is so often the source of the wisdom, the experience that certainly

could add richness, depth and wholeness to our present lives.

There were many poignant moments during this first women's history conference. There was the opening salute to the places where we live, the tribute to those who traveled from Las Vegas, from Carson City, from Virginia City and Elko. In that salute was a pride for the roots we have established in those communities. Again was that sense of continuum, that as we identify our towns, so we identify those who have also lived in those same towns in past generations. And we are connected.

We listened as keynote speaker Virginia Scharff recounted the history of women and their automobiles. It is no coincidence that women's political and social activities increased along with the use of their "wheels." The author put to rest decisively any notion that women were staying home following World War II. It was they who kept the car, driving the husband to work, picking up children, dropping them off, running to the grocery store. Whether we were the moms or the children, what memories were evoked during Scharff's talk.

Then there was the closing, a fitting tribute to those men and women who left visible prints through their public and private works. And sandwiched between these main events were the workshops, only made difficult by having to choose to attend one over another. Oh well.

Ask me what impressed me the most about the first Nevada Women's History Conference, and I am at a loss. The value was in the stories heard—of Dat-So-La-Lee, of Sara Bard Field, of women in Nevada politics. That is much like the value of my mementos, that are not in the diamond or the silver or the wood of which they are made. Rather, it is in the particular story kindled by their presence.

*Patt Quinn Davis is a member of NWHP, lives in Carson City, and is a freelance writer and owner of Writer's Block, Ink.*

The Pi



*Planning Team Members—see names below*



*Las Vegas Attendees—see names below*

## Auto Memories

*by Elizabeth Beale Clancy*

I was born in The Congregational Parsonage in Laconia, N.H. in 1921. In 1922, we moved to Milwaukee, Wisconsin. In 1926, my folks bought a summer cottage in Rockport, Massachusetts.

Every summer we made the 5 day trip each way between Milwaukee and Rockport. There were many delays because of highway repairs and one way traffic. A big thrill was carrying the flag if we were at the end of the line of traffic.

My brother, very wise and 8 years older than I, would shout out the makes of cars approaching us. I didn't see how he could do it.

Mrs. A.O. Smith, a parishioner in my father's church, gave my folks a new 1928 Buick. When we got into the new Buick, we said farewell to the smaller Buick with its flower vase on the car wall next to the rear seat. I was very sad to leave the vase.



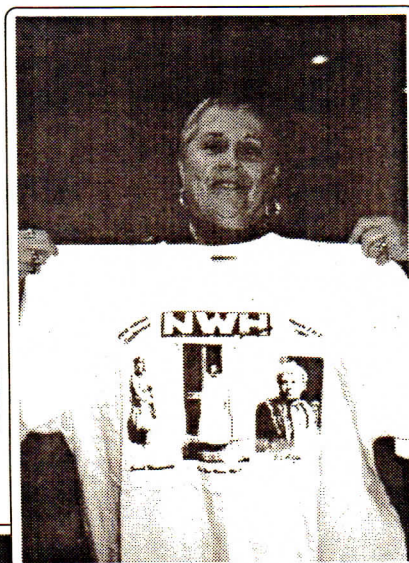
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Dr. Virginia Scharff, Keynote Speaker



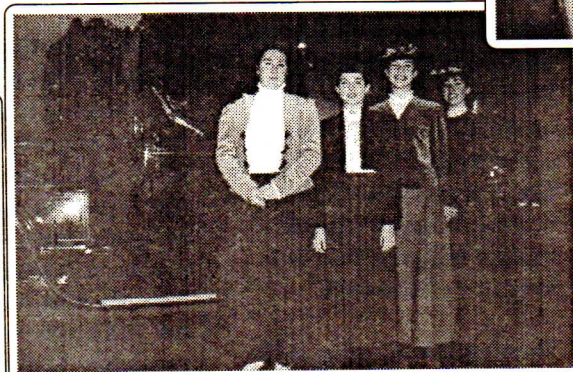
Roll of Honor Recipients--see names below



Martha Gould Holds Conference Shirt



Happy Participants



Carson High Seniors Perform Suffrage Songs

## Thanks to Our Special Friends of the Conference

### Auto Memories Continued...

In 1934, when I was 13 and my father was between pulpits, we stayed into the fall at the cottage at Rockport. My father and I went down to the wharf and looked at the boats. On the way back to the cottage, he stopped the car, our 1928 Buick, and came around the car and said, "You drive."

### Photo Credit Names

- **Planning Team, L-R:** Kay Sanders, Jean Ford, Cindy Reynolds, Joan Kerschner
- **Las Vegas Attendees, L-R:** Eva Stowers, Verlee Anderson, Nancy Hudson, Charlene Cruze-Fuller, Marlene Adrian, Sheila White, Carol Corbett, Barbara Slivac, Mimi Rodden
- **Roll of Honor, L-R:** Sylvia Ontaneda-Bernales, Jan Loverin, Judy Winzeler, Pat Geuder, Lynn Ossolinski

**Conference News begins on  
Page 4 ...**

We appreciate those giving financial support as underwriters for the first NWHP Conference. Underwriters included the Nevada State Library and Archives, the Nevada Humanities Committee and the University of Nevada, Reno Hilliard Endowment Committee. The National Automobile Museum, the UNR History Department, UNR Women's Studies Department, UNR Women's Resource Center, UNLV History Department and UNLV Women's Studies Department were co-sponsors.

We give special donors Joe Galata and SNCAT a big round of thanks for preparing the video used in the opening plenary and for the one-hour feature on SNCAT highlighting interviews with some of our organizational leaders. Joe and his associates also videotaped much of the proceedings and did a live broadcast immediately following the conference.

Linda Galloway and Instant Sign Center made a substantial in-kind donation by preparing all the signage needs as well as a large banner used in Sunday's drama.

The University of Nevada Press donated copies of *How I Got Cultured: A Nevada Memoir* by Phyllis Barber for distribution to all conference attendees.

Musicians and dancers including Sandy Young, keyboard accompanist, and Jackie Maye and her students from Carson City, donated their time and talent performing a special song and dance routine for our opening plenary.

Last but not least, Conference Co-Chairs Kay Sanders and Jean Ford give special recognition and thanks to all of our volunteers and committee members who, because of their dedication, constant efforts, and hard work, made this conference possible.



# Mark Your Calendar ✓

## NORTH

### May

**Friday, 5/9, Noon-1 p.m.:** Research Roundtable with Dr. Anne Howard on "Deletions and Completions: Reflections on Anne Martin." Brown bag lunch, NWHP office, 1301 Valley Rd., #5, Reno. For info, call 322-7754.

**Thursday/Sunday, 5/15-18:** Historical Preservation Week-end featuring "Kids on the Comstock." Sponsored by the Comstock Arts Council and Fourth Ward School, Virginia City. To receive full schedule of events, call 882-6657.

**Tuesday/Wednesday, 5/20-21:** Nevada Historical Society Biennial History Conference, Reno. For info, call 688-1191.

**Tuesday, 5/27, 5:30 p.m.:** Research Roundtable: Gertrude Gottschalk on "Early Ormsby County Politics." 1316 Fremont, Carson City. For info, call 883-3634.

**Thursday/Saturday, 5/29-31:** "Researching the Bancroft Library with Dr. Anne Howard." Three-day field trip to UC Berkeley Bancroft Library and historical sightseeing in Bay area. For info, call 322-7754.

### June

**Monday, 6/2, 5:30 - 8:00 p.m.:** All members urged to attend NWHP Annual General Membership Business Meeting with 2nd Annual Snack-off Contest, election of officers, adoption

of program priorities for coming year, and an entertaining and informative program: "Book Assessment Project: Anecdotes and Authors." Washoe County Health Department Auditorium, 9th and Wells Ave. (park north of building in lot off Wells Ave). For info, call 322-7754.

**Friday/Saturday, 6/13-14:** "Hiking with History." First in a series of outings combining easy to moderate hikes with wildflower identification, information on Indian uses of native plants, and biographies of Nevada woman botanists. See full article on page 3 regarding Meeks Bay sleep-over and Shirley Canyon hike. For reservation, call 322-7754.

### July

**Friday-Sunday, 7/4-6:** cultural history motorcoach tour featuring Independence Day celebrations in rural Nevada and the National Basque Festival in Elko. Tour guides are Jean Ford and James McCormick. \$180 total cost; \$50 reserves a seat on the bus. For brochure describing tour highlights, call 322-7754.

**Friday, July 11, 4:00 p.m.:** Lecture by James McCormick, highlighting women artists and ongoing work of the Nevada Art Research Project. Nevada Historical Society, 1650 N. Virginia. For info, call 322-7754.

**Monday-Thursday, 7/14-18:** Great Basin Chautauqua, Rancho San Rafael, Reno. For full schedule of daytime and evening events, call the Nevada Humanities Committee, 784-6587.

### August

**Tuesday, 8/12, 7:30p.m.:** *Sister Fredricka of Daughters of Charity* presented by Carolyn Beaupre as part of the Gold Hill Hotel Lecture Series. Gold Hill Hotel on the Comstock, Gold Hill Nevada. For info, call 847-0111.

**Saturday, 8/16, 3:00 p.m.:** Lecture on Eilley Oram Bowers by Tammy Buzick and tour of Bowers Mansion in Washoe Valley; 5:00 p.m., family potluck picnic on grounds of Bowers Mansion. For info, call 322-7754.

## National Women's History Project\*

**Sunday-Thursday, 8/3-7:** "A Woman's Place is...in the Curriculum," a 5-day workshop on multicultural approaches to incorporating women's history into all areas of the K-12 curriculum. Rohnert Park, CA. \$395 registration is due by July 11. For info, call the National Women's History Project, 707/838-6000.

\* Jean Ford is attending this workshop and is looking for a room-mate. Want to share? Call 322-7754.



# SOUTH

## May

**Saturday, 5/17, 7:45 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.:** "Historical Stories of Women's Life on the Mojave Desert" Bus Tour with tour guide Charlene Cruze-Fuller. \$29.00. Send check to Eva Stowers, 3690 Willow Bend Court, Las Vegas, NV 89121. See article this page for full description.

**Saturday, 5/24, 9:00 a.m.:** Southern Regional Steering Committee meeting. Nevada Museum & Historical Society Auditorium, 700 Twin Lakes Drive. New member orientation 10:30 a.m. Hosted by Regional Steering Committee.

## June

**Saturday, 6/21, 12:00 Noon:** NWHP Annual Business Meeting - Southern Region with special program presented by Marie Pelliccoine, "Olive Lake, Historic Woman Rancher of Southern Nevada." Country Inn Restaurant (just south of the Ethel-M Chocolate Factory). Paid reservations only. Send \$12.00 check by June 1 to Eva Stowers, 3690 Willow Bend Court, Las Vegas, NV 89121.

## September

**Friday, 9/5, 6:00 - 7:00p.m.:** Research Roundtable with Dr. Lynn Ruegamer, "One-Room Schools in Nevada." Desert Research Institute Library, 755 E. Flamingo Road. Light refreshments will be provided.

## Historical Stories of Women's Lives on the Mojave Desert

Travel the wild country along the Colorado River to the enchanted Spirit Mountain, a mystical white granite formation sacred to many South-west Indian tribes. Enjoy a short, easy walk to Indian Petroglyphs of Grapevine Canyon. Tour Searchlight and historic Nipton Station and Trading Post. Along the way, our guide, Charlene Cruze-Fuller will relate stories of native and pioneer women's life in this area.

**Saturday, May 17, 1997**

**Bus Tour**

**Bus loads at 7:45 a.m. in the back parking lot of the Flamingo Library. Cost is \$29.00 Call Eva Stowers in Las Vegas at 895-0405.**

**Please join us for this exciting day of history.**

## Southern Regional Steering Committee Meeting

**Saturday, May 24, 1997, 9:00 a.m.**

The Southern membership invited to this meeting. Find out what women making history are doing, and find out how you can participate in all the excitement. There will be a new member orientation at 10:30 a.m. See full information in previous column.



Conference Attendees Browse Exhibits

## NWHP Leadership 1996-1997

### Northern Region

#### Officers

Jean Ford, Chair  
Kay Sanders, Vice-Chair  
Kay Allred, Secretary  
Kathleen Clemence, Treasurer

#### Steering Committee

Ruth Aberasturi  
Kathleen Dickinson  
Esther Early  
Friti Ericson  
Betty Glass  
Mary Lee  
Sylvia Ontaneda-Bernales  
Lynn Ossolinski  
Bobbie Talso  
Anita Watson  
Carolyn Widman

### Southern Region

#### Officers

Sheila White, Chair  
Charlene Cruze-Fuller,  
Vice-Chair

Joyce King, Secretary  
Eva Stowers, Treasurer

#### Steering Committee

Verlee Anderson  
Carol Corbett  
Rene Diamond  
Ann Henderson  
Pat McNutt  
Ellen Reed  
Leslie Shipp  
Jean Spiller  
Carol Thompson  
Iris Torfason  
Ethel Trione  
Claytee White  
Frankie Williams

## 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.*



# Individuals and Organizations Honored by NWHP

The Roll of Honor was introduced at the first biennial Nevada Women's History Conference held on March 3, 1997. The purpose of this on-going project is to honor individuals and organizations who have "made a difference" in the gathering and dissemination of Nevada women's history.

Serving on the Roll of Honor Committee are Carrie Townley Porter, Chair; Carol Corbett, Jean Ford, Martha Gould, Dr. James Hulse, Dennis Myers, Guy Rocha and Sheila White.

Twenty-two individuals and organi-

zations were honored at this first presentation. Individuals who were honored posthumously are: Isabelle Blackman, Mary Freeman, Nona Parkin, Helen J. Stewart, Margaret (Peg) Wheat and Dr. Jeanne E. Wier. Other individuals honored are: Dr. Elaine Enarson, Dr. Patricia A. Gueder, Mary Ellen Glass, Dr. Anne Howard, Verde Hughes, Ron James, Lee Kosso, Janet I. Loverin, Celesta Lowe, Lee Mortensen, Sylvia Ontaneda-Bernales and Dr. Sally Zanjani. Organizations inducted into the Roll of Honor are: the American Association of University Women (Nevada Division), Delta

Kappa Gama (Alpha Chi State Chapter), Mesquite Club of Las Vegas and Nevada Humanities Committee.

These honorees have shown commitment and creativity which resulted in contributions of published works, video collections, accessible research data and special services. Background information on the honorees will be published in this and forthcoming issues of the newsletter.

NWHP members and friends are encouraged to nominate others to be added to the Roll of Honor in the future. Forms are available at the NWHP Reno office or call 322-7754.

## The Honorees

### Dr. Elaine Enarson...

Dr. Elaine Enarson earned a BA from the University of California, Santa Cruz in 1972, an MA in 1975 and a Ph.D. in 1981 from the University of Oregon. She served as adjunct faculty in the Department of Sociology and as Director of Women's Programs at the University of Nevada, Reno.

Enarson served as UNR's first Director of Women's Studies and developed the curriculum for that program. In 1988, she received a Nevada Humanities grant to develop *Movers and Shakers*, a three-part traveling photo exhibit with accompanying booklets on Nevada women and work, politics, community and family. Those exhibits are still being shown throughout Nevada.

In 1991 she received the Good Guy Award from the Anne Martin Women's Political Caucus and moved from Nevada due to her husband's work transfer. She currently resides in N. Vancouver, BC, Canada.

### Dr. Sally Zanjani...

Sally Zanjani, political science educator and author, was born in San Francisco to George and Sallie (Rupert) Springmeyer. The granddaughter of Carson Valley pioneer Herman H. Springmeyer, Sally was reared in Nevada. She moved to New York where she received her BA, MA and Ph.D. at New York University.

Sally has authored numerous articles and six books on Nevada history. The latest, *A Mine of Her Own: Women Prospectors in the American West, 1850-1950*, will be released this spring. She is currently writing a biography of Paiute activist Sarah Winnemucca.

Guy Rocha comments, "What is striking about Sally's studies and stories of Nevada, the Great Basin and the American West is her inclusion of women as primary players in the drama of Western history. We get to know these women not as caricatures of some romantic past or political symbols of an activist present, but rather as real people with all the flaws and foibles, strength and determination, aspiration and desperation, love and hate that make up the character of human beings. Sally's lively and engaging writing style is particularly powerful when she captures the interpersonal dynamics of men and women interacting on America's western frontier. Sally has done much to give women from all walks of life their rightful place in the nation's history."

### Margaret (Peg) Wheat...

Peg Wheat was born September 9, 1908, in Fallon, Nevada, and died there August 28, 1988. She was recognized as a self-taught geologist and anthropologist and worked for the United States Geological Society, the

Nevada State Museum and the Desert Research Institute.

Wheat devoted her life to recording the traditional arts and sacred beliefs of the Northern Nevada Paiute Tribe. She gained their confidence and was able to make notes on their technology, photograph their lifestyle, and tape record their memories. The results were two significant works: *Survival Arts of the Primitive Paiutes*, and a series of oral and film recordings.

Her work, consisting of 8.5 cubic feet of records, 172 audio tapes, several thousand feet of movie film, and several thousand negatives, are preserved in the Special Collections Department at the University of Nevada, Reno. Her contribution to the history of Nevada's native American women is unequalled.

### Nevada Humanities Committee...

Since 1971, the Nevada Humanities Committee has awarded over \$2.5 million to individuals and organizations in Nevada for the development of humanities projects related to literature, philosophy and religion. These projects have consistently included a focus on Nevada women. Types of projects which focus on Nevada women in addition to the *Movers & Shakers* are photographic





**Welcome,  
New Members!**

### **INDIVIDUAL:**

**Carson City:** Bonnie Buckley, Isabel Espinoza, Jeanne Hall, Patt Quinn-Davis;  
**Fallon:** Kathleen Bearden Seline, Marian LaVoy; **Gardnerville:** Debbie Byers, Eileen J. Kessler, Lois Storke;  
**Henderson:** R. Becca Britt, Dr. Pat Geuder, Denell Hahn, Judi Steele; **Las Vegas:** Marlene Adrian, Nancy Hudson, Freda Klein, Mary Manning, Lynn Ruegamer, Susan Tegano, Mildred Willard; **Sparks:** Sandy Young; **Reno:** Delna Campbell, Marley Gunning, Virginia Kersey, Sally Kinsey, Eva M. Leiker, N. Leina Machado, Kitty P. Rose, Robbin E. Rose, Bonnie J. Vogler;  
**Truckee, CA:** Suzanne Prouty;  
**N. Vancouver, BC:** Elaine Enarson.

Our total membership can be summarized as follows:

	North	South	Out-of-State	Total
Individual	226	113	8	347
Organization	22	5	0	27
Associate	25	9	0	34
Total	273	127	8	408

### **Membership lists**

Any NWHP member may receive the full membership list by sending \$3, indicating whether Northern or Southern Region, or \$5 for both lists, to NWHP, 1301 Valley Rd., #5, Reno, NV 89512

### **Future Continued From Page 4...**

- Teacher in-service training on women's history resources: continue in Washoe Co. and expand to other parts of the State
  - "How-to" workshops on oral history, research, materials preservation: continue and expand
  - Cultivate financial support through grants and gifts to enable us to have part-time staffing, office, voice mail, etc. in both Reno and Las Vegas
- New projects with high interest include:
- Research and publication focus on Nevada women of various identities, such as African-American, Asian-American, Hispanic, Basque, Native American

## **MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

Membership is open to any woman or man willing to support the mission, purposes and policies of NWHP. Organizational representatives may also join as individual members.

Name (Individual or Organization): \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone:(day) \_\_\_\_\_ (eve) \_\_\_\_\_ (FAX) \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Voice Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization President or Director: \_\_\_\_\_

No. of Members: \_\_\_\_\_ Representative: \_\_\_\_\_

Other Phone:(day) \_\_\_\_\_ (eve) \_\_\_\_\_ (FAX) \_\_\_\_\_

### **CATEGORY (Check all that apply)**

**I** \_\_\_\_\_ **INDIVIDUAL**

\$15/yr (voting)

**Ila** \_\_\_\_\_ **ORGANIZATION**

\$50/yr (voting)

\_\_\_\_ New \_\_\_\_ Renewal

**Iib** \_\_\_\_\_ **CORPORATE SPONSOR**

\$250/yr (non-voting)

**Iic** \_\_\_\_\_ **ASSOCIATE**

Gov't Agency or Institution

No Dues (non-voting)

## **Note: Dues Increase Goes Into Effect This Year**

At its March 2 meeting, the NWHP State Board approved an increase of NWHP dues for individual members to \$25.00 per year beginning July 1, 1997. It is felt this amount is still reasonable for an organization of this type, and it will enable us to continue the high quality of the *NWHP News* and other programs and activities offered to members.

Combined with the recommended By-Lay change of the fiscal year to a calendar year, which will be voted on by members at the annual Business Meeting to be held in Reno and Las Vegas in June, the following dues timeline will be in effect:

- Through September 30, 1997: new

members pay \$15 for membership through December 31, 1997, then pay \$25 to renew.

- October 1, 1997 through September 30, 1998: new members pay \$25 for membership through December 31, 1998.
- July 1, 1997: all members who joined before March 1, 1997 renew by paying \$25 for membership through December 31, 1998. Renewal notices will be mailed to current members. Those not renewing by September 15 will be dropped from the membership roster.

New or renewing dues for organizational memberships remain at \$50.00 per year.

- Publishing opportunities: survey and distribute findings
  - Nevada Cultural History Tours: develop itineraries, explore potential types of participants, including schoolchildren
  - Drama: continue "Saga of Suffrage" performances and expand to other productions based on moments in Nevada women's history
- To carry out any part of the above

requires continued commitment of time, energy, talent, and money from our members and friends throughout the State. Where to you fit in? Do let us know, even if it's only a small amount of time, by calling 322-7754 in Reno or 585-2088 in Las Vegas.

**Don't Forget! Historical Stories of Women's Lives on the Mojave Desert Tour--Las Vegas--May 17!**



# Nevada Women's History Project

## NEWS

1301 Valley Road, #5

Reno, NV 89512

NWPH is a delegate agency of the  
Nevada Women's Fund

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To:

## NWHP To Be on World Wide Web

NWHP has been approved for a grant of \$5,600 from the UNR Instructional Media Services (IMS) to be used in developing instructional materials on Nevada women's history for the Nevada School Network, available "on-line" to teachers throughout the State.

Sally Wilkins, NWHP members and Washoe County teacher, is taking the lead on this project and is currently being trained in the techniques of building websites on the Internet.

"This is challenging and exciting work, to learn new ways to develop activity units and utilize the Net," says Sally. "What an opportunity to build into the educational system this important information about Nevada women."

The Project will first focus on an educational unit for students K-6 on "Home Means Nevada," the state song written by Bertha Rafetto. It will include the words and music of the song, background and photo of the composer, and suggested related activities for the classroom.

The second and more extensive work will be the development of a biographical database featuring

Nevada women in history, utilizing research files at the NWHP Reno office compiled by Jean Ford as well as additional research by NWHP members throughout the State. This will also include photographs, bibliographies of additional resource materials, lesson plans and guided activities for students K-12.

Teachers statewide will be notified of the availability of these materials once the Project is completed and demonstrations are planned as a part of new in-service teacher training classes to be offered in the Fall.

For further information, call Sally Wilkins at 322-7730 or at Reno High School at 333-5050. WCSD employees may Email Wilkins at Reno High. See the address book on Groupwise.

## NWHP - North Of Interest:

### Thanks...

...to Cindy Southerland for her work as Publicity Chair; sorry her university classes and legislative staff work prevented her from continuing, but we understand.

...to Elaine Enarson, former UNR Director of Women's Studies, now living in N. Vancouver, BC, for her generous gift of \$1000 for Nevada History Day awards to middle school girls and boys. (See more about Elaine under Roll of Honor!)

...to those much-appreciated office volunteers during the past three months: Joan Berger, Phyllis Cudek, Alice Lohse, Nancy Manfredi, Joyce McCarty, Donna Schuster, Charlotte Wilcox, Sandy Young ...to Val Chappell for designing and implementing our new computerized database for members and newsletter mailing lists

...to UNR History and Women's Studies Departments, for providing in-kind printing assistance for our publication coming out of the first phase of the Book Assessment Project: *Women's History in Nevada: A Bibliography of Published Sources*.

### Welcome...

...to Cindy Reynolds, UNR senior anthropology major, now working as our part time assistant in the NWHP office ...to Robert Stewart, who will join the Executive Committee as Chair of Publicity, and Patt Quinn-Davis, who will assist

### Congratulations...

...to D.G. Fulford, author of *To Our Children's Children*, busy at work on two new book contracts ...to Eileen Cohen, whose research on Hannah Clapp has resulted in her performing Chautauqua-style for school children in Pleasant Valley and Carson City ...to Betty Glass, whose chapter on "Women's Spirituality" has been published in *Genre and Ethnic Collections*, published by JAI Press of Greenwich, CT.