

Murder, Mayhem, and Mysteries

1st Annual Authors' Luncheon Planned for November 8, 2008

Calling all readers and writers! Writers, please call Kathy Noneman at 853-8393 if you would like to participate. Readers, bring your friends and book clubs. This exciting first-time event is scheduled for Saturday, November 8, 2008, at the Peppermill Resort Spa Casino in Reno at 2707 S. Virginia Street, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The cost is \$50.00 per person.

What will you get for your \$50? Mike Croft will host a writers' forum where you will have the opportunity to hear favorite regional authors discussing their works and publishing woes. You can buy books and have them autographed. You will have a wonderful lunch at the Peppermill and be entertained by Frank X.



Frank X. Mullen — Keynote Speaker at Authors' Luncheon

Mullen, a talented writer and storyteller. You will meet and lunch with exciting authors right at your table. You will be making a \$15 donation to the Jean Ford Research Center. Participation and attendance will be limited, so please send your check to NWHP, 770 Smithridge Drive, Suite 300, Reno, NV 89502 as soon as possible to guarantee your reservation.

Frank X. Mullen, our keynote speaker, will step back in time and create a new role of a hardbitten, crusading newspaperman, out to solve Reno's historical unsolved mysteries, such as the disappearance of Roy Frist. He has done 10 different Chautauqua characters over the years since 1997 in several states. He appears frequently at the Great Basin

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Jean Ford Tribute Planned

NWHP will honor the 10th anniversary of Jean's death with a visit to the site on the Tahoe Rim Trail, top of Spooner's Summit on Highway 50, where Jean's ashes were scattered. We will meet at 4:30 p.m. on August 26, 2008, at the parking lot at the North Trailhead. This trailhead is a few miles from the junction of Highway 50 and Highway 395 headed toward Lake Tahoe. Participants are urged to bring

wildflower seeds to scatter at the site.

After the short hike and tribute, we will drive back to Carson City to the home of North Chair Mary Anne Convis at 2185 Court Side Circle. A catered dinner will be provided. Please RSVP to Kay Sanders at (775) 747-1740 or Mary Anne Convis at (775) 888-9867 by Friday, August

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NWHP Leadership

Northern Region

Steering Committee:

Mary Anne Convis: Chair
Holly Walton-Buchanan: Vice-Chair
Holly Van Valkenburgh: Treasurer
Patti Bernard: Secretary
Kay Sanders:

Communications Co-Chair

Lisa-Marie Lightfoot:

Communications Co-Chair

Isabel Espinoza: Finance Chair
Grace Davis: Membership Chair
Carrie Townley-Porter:

Project Review Chair

Carleen Ernest and Karen Benna:

Program Chairs

Cherry Jones: Past Chair

Southern Region

Executive Committee

Mary Gafford: President
Betty Ault: First Vice President
Joan LeMere: Second Vice President
Bev O'Connor: Recording Secretary
Yvonne Kelly: Corresponding Secretary
Mary Margaret Rea: Treasurer
Dr. Linda Miller: Past President

NWHP State Committee Members

Dianne Steel: President

Lisa-Marie Lightfoot:

First Vice-President

Betty Miller: Second Vice-President

Holly Van Valkenburgh:

Third Vice-President

Su Kim Chung: Treasurer

Patti Bernard: Secretary

Denise Yoxsimer: Nevada Women's

Fund Representative

Kay Sanders: Editor for State

Newsletter

Lisa-Marie Lightfoot: Webmaster

Carrie Townley Porter: Archivist

Cherry Jones: Past President

From Judge Dianne Steel, State President Nevada Women's History Project

From my very first meeting, I was hooked! I sat in a meeting surrounded by women who all played a significant role in shaping Nevada's vast, proud history. I ate lunch with newsmakers, community leaders, and active supporters that had all touched Nevada's past and were actively shaping a positive future. I was immersed in conversation and the speaker's presentation which was rich with information about other women I had only heard of but never known – and I wanted to meet all of them.

There was talk of video histories, of biographies, and statues; there was a guest speaker that spoke about her experiences in Nevada. Everyone in the room gave each project, speaker and member their full attention and the respect they so rightfully deserved. I felt insignificant surrounded by these great people and their accomplishments, and I burned with the desire to be a part of something meaningful. I am proud to say that I became a member of NWHP that day. As a member, the NWHP has provided me with opportunities to experience events and meet people that have been both landmarks in my life as well as in Ne-

vada's history. I have had the privilege of attending a Pink Tea at the Governor's Mansion where I met several members from the Northern region, all of whom share my enthusiasm for preserving this State's women's history.

When the call came to ask if I would consider accepting the position of State President, I could hardly believe my ears! It is with great pride that I accept the honor bestowed upon me by the membership of the Nevada Women's History Project.

"Provide visibility and support for the gathering and dissemination of history about the roles and contribu-

tions of Nevada women of every race, class, and ethnic background." This is our mission and my goal as incoming President of Nevada Women's History Project. The Project has its own unique history to preserve with its regional and state projects and distinguished members. This will be an exciting year to coordinate the efforts of our members to preserve that history from each region. I am personally looking forward to working with all of the members of this Project to preserve Nevada's past and enrich future generations.

*It is with great pride that
I accept the honor
bestowed upon me...*

Jean Ford Tribute

(Continued from page 1)

22nd. Those who wish to attend the dinner only are welcome. Please be at Mary Anne's home by 6:00 p.m.

The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Northern Nevada in Reno also plans a tribute to Jean, who was a long-time leader and member of that congregation. At 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, August 24, at their facility,

780 Del Monte Lane, Reno, a DVD recording of the documentary, "Making a Difference: A Celebration of Women in Politics" will be shown. Refreshments will be served. During the 10:30 a.m. service a few NWHP members will share their memories of Jean.

Kay Sanders

Letter From the Editor

For the past few weeks, in the smoke-covered city of Reno, your editor has been hard at work finding a new layout and design specialist and printer for newsletter production. I have chosen, with agreement from the Newsletter Committee, LRP Printing and Layout Specialist Lenore Halfide of that company. So NWHP News will have a new appearance. Hope you like it.

The results of the questionnaire sent out with the May newsletter were disappointing as most of you chose not to respond. Less than 25 were returned with only 12 indicating that they would prefer to download the NWHP newsletter from our Web site rather than receiving it in the mail. We will inform the 12 when our Web site has the current newsletter available to be printed or read, or both.



Now for the heartfelt appeal from me: This is my 10th year as editor. Beginning in 2009 I will have to have a replacement for the editor position. Please think it over, any budding editor-types out there, and let me and your NWHP State President Dianne Steel know if you are interested in applying for the job. The Newsletter Committee is a wonderful support group, but someone has to be the editor-in-charge and lead the planning for each issue.

Have a wonderful rest of the summer; look over our calendar of events and take part in those that are of interest to you. A special thanks to our Planning Committees for coming up with so many great opportunities.

Sincerely,
Kay Sanders, Editor

Murder, Mayhem & Mysteries

(Continued from page 1)

Chautauqua in such varied roles as Babe Ruth, Huey Long and Benedict Arnold. In real life, he is the Reno Gazette-Journal investigative reporter who has tackled stories about the Fallon cancer cluster, Nevada's most dangerous doctors, and the mystery of what Sierra Army Depot does with its munitions. He is the author of several books, lectures about Western History, and teaches a journalism class at the University of Nevada, Reno. Currently Frank is writing a novel about prehistoric Nevada and a history of the Truckee River.

As many of you know, the activities of the Jean Ford Research Center keep expanding as we are called upon to do more and more outreach to the community to fulfill our mission to get the word out about women in Nevada history. To keep up this commitment, it is necessary to raise the needed funds. We hope that this annual authors' luncheon will be a real winner that will unite readers and their favorite authors. With your support we will be enabled to continue our mission.

Kathy Noneman

Isabel Espinoza

2008 Woman of Achievement Honoree

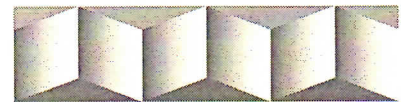


Northern Region Finance Chair Isabel Espinoza received the 2008 Nevada Women's Fund Woman of Achievement award at a luncheon held

on June 10th at the Grand Sierra Resort in Reno. She was nominated by the NWHP North Region for her outstanding work as an organizer of tours, lecture series, Nevada Day parade entries, and book sales. She served on the Sarah

Winnemucca Statue Fundraising Committee. She has assisted with most of our conferences and this year she served as co-chair of the 2008 Biennial State Conference held in Carson City. Her willingness to volunteer and take a leadership role in many of our projects is greatly appreciated by our membership. This award is one way that we, as a non-profit organization, can express our thanks for her dedication over the years.

A native of New Mexico, Isabel lives and works in Carson City and has one son, Brian. Currently she is legal secretary to an Administrative



Law Judge in Carson City. Her educational accomplishments include graduating from the Sierra Nevada College with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Management Science.

Isabel was one of 63 women to be recognized at the event for the contributions they made to their community.

Congratulations, Isabel!

Northern Region Calendar

August 26 – Jean Ford Memorial Hike. Meet at 4:30 p.m. at top of Spooner's Summit, Highway 50, north Tahoe Rim Trail parking lot. We will hike to the spot where her ashes were scattered, have a brief memorial, scatter wildflower seeds, and then leave to drive to the home of Mary Anne Convis in Carson City where we will have a catered dinner. See article on p. 1 for details.

Leader: Kay Sanders – (775) 747-1740.

Sept. 13 – Walking Tour. Prohibition - Reno Style. Tammy Buzick will lead. Starts at 2:00 p.m. and ends at 4:00 p.m. Meet in front of the historic Riverside Hotel on Virginia Street right next to the bridge by the Dreamers Restaurant at 1:45 p.m. Please RSVP to Tammy at: (775) 747-8849. Cost: \$15.00 per person. Dinner option at Santa Fe Basque Restaurant add \$30. 6 p.m. dinner, 7 p.m. open mike.

Sept. 15 – North Region Steering Committee Meeting. 5:30 p.m. - 2185 Courtside, Carson City home of Mary Anne Convis. Dinner will be provided.

Sept. 27 – High Sierra Aspen Hike – We will hike where the fall colors are best. Call Kay Sanders at (775) 747-1740 for details.

October 18 - "Legendary Women and Houses", a tour of Old Reno followed by lunch/dinner. Call Holly Walton-Buchanan for details at (775) 772-2086.

November 3 – North Region Steering Committee Meeting. 5:30 p.m. at NWHP office at 770 Smithridge Dr., Suite 300.

Nov. 8 – "Murder, Mystery and Mayhem" Authors' Luncheon at the Peppermill Spa and Casino, Reno. 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. See article on p. 1 for details.

News From the North

**What a joy in having
such a hard working board!**

I went to a family reunion in Texas and Louisiana and while I was gone, the program committee met and planned programs for more than a year. They are only one part of our board. All those involved always say "yes" when asked to be a part of a project.

This tells us that there are many who support Jean Ford's vision. It's hard to believe that she has been gone for 10 years. We will honor her with a hike to the spot near Spooner Summit where her ashes were scattered. We will add wildflower seeds to those that were scattered before. We know she would be proud of our ongoing commitment to record Nevada women's history.

Mary Anne Convis
Northern Region Chair

Lisa-Marie Lightfoot Receives Literacy Award

NWHP State Committee First Vice-President Lisa-Marie Lightfoot was honored by the Sierra Nevada Chapter of the International Reading Association for her contributions to literacy throughout our community. She received their Celebrate Literacy Award. Lisa-Marie is employed by the Washoe County School District as their Volunteer Services Coordinator and was selected because of the contributions she provided in order to promote literacy in schools.

Her comments after being told of her selection were, "I feel honored to be recognized by such a respected organization. My job, providing academic resources to support teachers in their literacy efforts, could not have been done without the generous support of many others. The 300 individuals who volunteer to help our struggling readers are passionate about reading and their love of books is contagious for our students. Our district is rich with talented people, and our community is filled with many caring and generous people and organizations."

Good job, Lisa-Marie!

Kay Sanders

PLEASE INFORM THE STATE MEMBERSHIP CHAIR AND YOUR REGIONAL MEMBERSHIP CHAIR OF ANY CHANGES IN YOUR ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER, AND/OR E-MAIL ADDRESS.

STATE: BETTY MILLER, 2633 LEGEND DRIVE, LAS VEGAS, NV 89134-8810.

NORTH: GRACE DAVIS, 14145 SADDLEBOW DR. RENO, NV 89511-6730.

SOUTH: JOAN LEMERE, 4755 S. PEARL STREET, LAS VEGAS, NV 89121-6007.

News From the South

These recent months have been filled with exciting happenings for Southern Region's past president, Dr. Linda Miller. The College of Southern Nevada bestowed two awards on her: Woman of Excellence Award for promoting women's studies and Asian and Pacific Islander Award for promoting Asian studies. She held a workshop on Korea and she took one of her students on a China trip. In July, in England at the University of London, Linda did a presentation on teaching about the Industrial Revolution for the World History Association at the World History Conference. The week of July 21-26 she was in Colorado attending a workshop on teaching with primary sources at the Library of Congress. Training included how to use their web site.

Linda will apply this knowledge to her teaching in a class entitled "Boulder City/Hoover Dam: Then and Now" on Friday, September 27, at Boulder City. Dr. Linda Miller is the State Coordinator of the Nevada Council for History Education.

NWHP members did take part in the Hellsdorado Parade. Participants included Linda Miller, President Mary Gafford, First Vice-President Bette Ault, and Treasurer Marge Rea – all from Southern Region-NWHP. Bette's two granddaughters carried our banner.

Mary Gafford
Southern Region President

Biographical Writing Project in Full Swing

At the request of our new Southern Region President Mary Gafford, the Biographical Writing Project began once again in the Southern Region with enthusiasm. In an effort to fulfill our mission statement, a meeting was held early in June at the home of moderator Joan LeMere. Many new writers were assembled as well as experienced women who had enjoyed this endeavor in the past. Our biographic files had been updated with new obituaries and other pertinent information garnered from various historical archives in Southern Nevada. The ladies in attendance simply had a field day making the difficult decision as to which "woman of worth" they wished to write about. At completion, all biographies will be sent to the NWHP State Office for inclusion on the NWHP Web Site. If anyone in the Southern Region is interested in working with other writers on this project, please contact Joan LeMere at (702) 456-9242. It is a lot of fun when we are all together and we learn together.

Joan LeMere

Articles for the November 2008 newsletter are due to Newsletter Editor, Kay Sanders, no later than October 30, 2008. E-mail her at ksanders@unr.nevada.edu.

Southern Region Calendar

Sept. 6 – Saturday Southern Region luncheon at Marie Callender's Restaurant, 4800 South Eastern in Garden Room. Social hour 11:00 a.m.-noon. Meal at noon followed by program. Southern Region member Joan Fragakis will do Chautauqua presentation of Virginia City, Nevada's, Julia Bulette, Lady of the Evening. Pay \$19 each at the door day of the luncheon. Please make reservations to Bette Ault, phone #: 360-3233 by Thursday, Sept. 4th.

Sept. 20 – Southern Region to host NWHP State Board Meeting. Location: Joan LeMere's home, 4755 Pearl Street, Las Vegas. Time TBA.

Sept. 20 – Helen J. Stewart Statue Kick-Off Fund Raiser. 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Place: Old Mormon Fort State Historical Park, 500 East Washington Ave. Meet the sculptor Benjamin Victor while partaking of tasty foods and drinks. View rustic paintings done by Nevada Watercolor Society members. Meet Dr. Linda Miller, the Chautauquan personality of Helen J. Stewart. Tickets to be sold for \$40 each or \$75 per couple. Call Mary Gafford at (702) 648-9415 for ticket information.

Dec. 20 – Christmas High Tea at the lovely Summerlin home of gracious hostess Jeanne Greenawalt. 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. A special treat for Southern Region members and guests. Please call Bette Ault at (702) 360-3233 by Thursday, Dec. 18th, for reservations and location of this celebration.

Some NWHP News Contacts

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Washington, D.C. Stanchion Dedication

In late April, a group of NWHP members (along with spouses and one daughter) flew to Washington, D.C. for the dedication of the Nevada flag stanchion at the Women's War Memorial located just outside the gates of Arlington National Cemetery. As stated in the Spring 2005 NWHP newsletter, this is the nation's only museum/research fa-



cility solely dedicated to the history of women who have served our country in both military and civilian capacities. The passionate and energetic woman who spear-headed this monumental undertaking, Wilma L. Vaught, Brigadier General (USAF – Ret.), conducted the dedication and hosted a luncheon and tour of the Women's War Memorial for the NWHP members.

The stanchion project came about after the 2005 dedication of the Sarah Winnemucca statue in Washington, D.C. When NWHP members toured the Women's War Memorial, they discovered the stanchion that held Nevada's flag did not have any "personal" inscription showing our state's recognition and gratitude for the efforts of Nevada's women in support of our nation's military for well over a century.

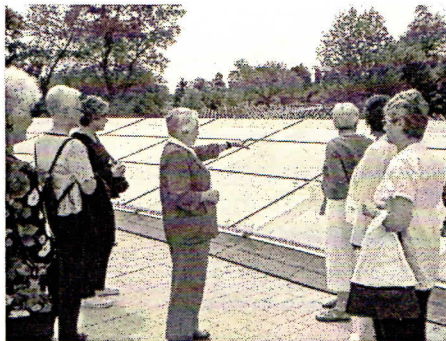
Upon returning to Nevada, members voted to fund the \$5,000 donation to have our state stanchion suitably identified. A raffle, personal donations, and the remaining balance in the Sarah Win-

nemucca state fund, after all existing obligations had been paid, were used and Nevada's flag stanchion has now been dignified with an appropriate inscription.

The inscription reads as follows: **"Nevada women who have served their state and country are saluted by the Nevada Women's History Project."**

While in Washington, D.C., David Convis, son of Northern Region's Chair Mary Anne Convis, gave up a Saturday with his family to take the 15 member Nevada contingent to Mount Vernon and then for some sightseeing before and after lunch at The Chart House in the historic town of Alexandria. Members and guests also enjoyed other Washington, D.C. highlights before returning home.

Another project taken on by the NWHP as a result of the latest visit to the Women's Memorial was to contact every Senior Center throughout Nevada in order to help General Vaught connect with



women or their family members who may have served in the Military Service and who would be eligible for inclusion in the Women in Military Service registry. If you know of any woman war veteran (Active Duty, Reserve, Guard, U.S. Public Health Service, uniformed women, Coast Guard Auxiliary, Civil Air Patrol, Red Cross, USO or Special Services (living or deceased), and who may be eligible to register,

please contact Marcia Cuccaro at vergato1@sbcglobal.net for additional information on how to register.

Attending the dedication were: Mary Anne and Chuck Convis, Kathy and Charlie Noneman, Rose and Greg Stuart, Holly Van Valkenburgh and daughter Jeni Munoz, Grace and Ken Davis, Isabel Espinoza, Shirley Frazier, Patti Bernard and Marcia Cuccaro and former Nevada resident and NWHP member Sylvia Ontaneda-Bernales, who now lives in Maryland.

Our thanks go out to Rose and Mary Anne for their work in planning such a wonderful trip.

Marcia Cuccaro



STATE MEMBERSHIP REPORT

NWHP now has 214 paid members for 2008. Wouldn't it be wonderful to double that number? We will be back to meetings and activities again very soon. Now is the time to think about inviting a friend who might be interested in Nevada history and enjoy our organization. Tell her about NWHP and invite her to a meeting. If you have any questions about membership or need a membership application call me at (702) 254-5875.

Betty Miller
Membership Chair

Pink Tea Highlights

On June 7th, we again had the wonderful opportunity to attend our "Pink Tea" in the Carson City Governor's Mansion, where we were warmly welcomed by First Lady Dawn Gibbons. There were approximately 40 members and guests in attendance, many in pe-



Carley McConnell, First Lady Dawn Gibbons, Margee Richardson, and Louise McConnell at the Mansion.

riod costumes. Some members poured tea and others gave living history presentations. Heidi Wood (as Mrs. John Mackay) and Holly Van Valkenburgh (as Nevada Historical Society founder, Jeannie Weir) entertained us with their delightful portrayals.

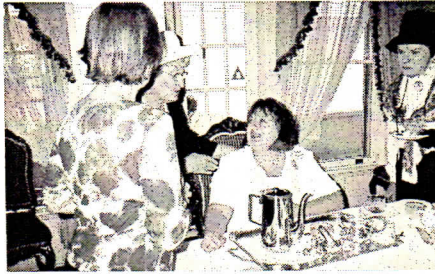
The "Pink Tea" is an annual North Region event which has tra-



Holly Van Valkenburgh and Patty Cafferata enjoying the Pink Tea.

ditionally been held at the Mansion. The Pink Tea started prior to the Sarah Winnemucca activities but gained in popularity during the period of fund raising for the Sarah Winnemucca statue in conjunction with First Lady Dema Guinn and

her assistance with the fund raising. This event has also been an opportunity to honor the many women



Lisa-Marie Lightfoot pours tea for Kathy Noneman and Sue Paslov.

suffragettes of the past and other historical figures.

Our "Pink Tea" is modeled after historical national pink teas. Women who sought the vote for many years were often interrupted during their strategy meetings by



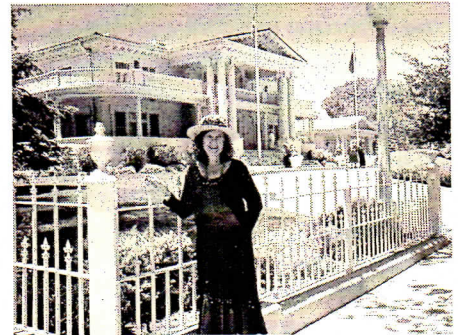
Heidi Wood portrayed Mrs. John Mackay.

those opposed to women obtaining the right to vote. Pink teas evolved around pink decorations, as well as sewing and quilting activities which could quickly be resumed if meetings were disrupted.

It is noteworthy that a constitutional amendment giving the right to vote to women was proposed as early as 1848. Another 72 years passed before women finally received the national right to vote in 1920 (1914 in Nevada).

We hope that many of our former First Ladies will be able to attend the 2009 Pink Tea to help us celebrate the Centennial of the Governor's Mansion. It would be a pleasure to recognize them for their past service to the citizens of our state.

We were pleased to welcome Linda Karen Miller, Past South Region President, to our Pink Tea event and subsequent business meeting.. Our sincere thanks go to Mary Anne Convis, North Region Chair and hard-working organizer for this annual affair.



Linda Miller poses at the Governor's Mansion.

Featured Historic Nevada Woman: Anna Frances Elleser Rechel

Born: January 1, 1884

Died: August 21, 1967

Maiden Name: Elleser

Race/nationality/ethnic background: Caucasian (German)

Married: George Rechel, Alvin Nelson

Children: six (two daughters, two sons survived beyond infancy)

Primary city and county of residence and work: Rawhide (Mineral County)

Major fields of work: mining (prospector, miner)

Other role identities: wife, mother



Photo courtesy of Sally Zanjani

Anna Frances Elleser was born on January 1, 1884 in Pearl River, New Jersey and raised in comfort. Her parents were immigrants from Germany who settled in Tappan, New York, where Anna grew up in a mansion. She was still a young woman in her early 20s when both parents died, and her brother Walter became her life-long friend and companion. She married young, but divorced her husband quickly when she realized her mistake. They had one child, which died. She married George Rechel in 1911, and when complications from her divorce developed, the couple moved to Nevada to complete the process. They settled on a ranch south of Fernley where all of George and Anna's children were born. While there, a prospector named Bill Stewart often stopped to visit with Anna about his mining ventures. The mining fever struck and Anna began reading everything she could find on the subject. When the Rechels' ranch failed to support their family and the Great Depression brought hard times to the whole nation, Anna and George made a dramatic change. They moved to the small town of Rawhide, Nevada, popula-

tion approximately 100. George worked for the state highway department, and Anna spent all of her time prospecting. Because of the Depression, their move was a good economic solution. They lived very inexpensively in a two-bedroom cabin, and miners could make enough money to buy food when most people in the country couldn't even find a job.

People who chose mining had to be hardy. Conditions in such a small mining town were primitive -- no phone, no gas station or grocery store. Water was scarce and most people saved every drop when it rained and hauled the rest from Dead Horse Wells nearby. Evidently, Anna thrived living with just the basics. From then on, Anna was a prospector and a miner. Her daughter, Rees, described Anna's optimism, always believing that she would strike it rich: "She just knew that she was going to find it. It kept her going."

When tragedy struck, Anna must have been glad that she had a way to earn a living. First her husband had a stroke, which left him hardly able to walk for several years before he died in 1938. Her son,

George, died in 1937 after never fully recovering from a burst appendix. Her two daughters, Rees and Fern, were grown and gone, leaving Anna as the sole provider for her son, Walter ("Pal"), and her brother, Walter, whose spirit had been broken by financial problems from the Depression.

During World War II, Anna mined tungsten, which was considered a strategic metal for the war effort. She worked underground, blasting with dynamite and mucking (shoveling) the ore to be hauled out of the mine. By the 1950s, with nuclear testing and atomic energy on the way, uranium was in demand, and Anna searched for that. She also mined, polished and sold turquoise. Anna drove an old pickup truck when she went prospecting and often slept on a mattress in the bed of the truck. When Alvin Nelson offered to help her with her mines and buy her a new truck, she married him, but quickly divorced him when she discovered he really wanted her to become a housewife. In Rawhide, Anna's house was the social center. Neighbors and friends stopped to visit and play chess. Often they discussed political ideas. She was vocal on her views, especially on rights for women. She believed women should not have just two choices, either to work for low wages or to marry in order to support a family. She was for equal pay, government operated free daycare and the right to choose any work that interested a woman.

In the 1960s, Anna was the last resident of Rawhide. She loved her home and refused to leave. Finally her family moved her to Fallon for her own protection, because dangerous people were beginning to roam the desert. She died on August 21, 1967, having lived the life

(Continued on page 9)

Sarah Winnemucca Curriculum

Last November I received board approval to write a curriculum on Sarah Winnemucca. I was impressed by the movie that Gwendolyn Clancy had produced called: "Sarah Winnemucca, In Her Footprints". This was previewed last September at the Pyramid Lake Paiute Cultural Center Tour sponsored by the Northern Region.

I have made two trips to Reno and Carson City in May and June to work on this. I talked with Dorothy Ely, a Winnemucca relative, Gwendolyn Clancy, and author Sally Zanjani, who wrote Sarah's biography.

I researched at the Nevada Historical Society in Reno, the Nevada State Library in Carson City, and the Nevada State Museum in Carson City. I was looking for the photographs that were used in the movie. I was able to meet with Mona Reno at the State library who had done a tremendous job in cataloging materials. I found exciting newspaper arti-

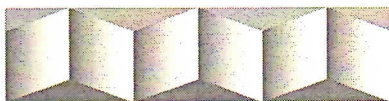
cles and other documents which will add to the curriculum. I also received help from Bob Nylan in collecting photographs.

When completed, the curriculum will have primary source documents plus activities that will help students better understand the contributions of Sarah Winnemucca. I am also hoping to have a Nevada Council for History Education conference around this topic in Reno in 2009 or 2010.

Dr. Linda Miller,
Past President Southern Region

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.



Anna Frances Elleser Rechel

(Continued from page 8)

she chose. She lived in her beloved desert and worked at prospecting and mining, which she loved. Although she never discovered her big bonanza, she was an early example of a Nevada woman who made her own choices in life.

(Biographical sketch by Victoria Ford)

Sources of Information:

Zanjani, Sally. *A Mine of Her Own, Women Prospectors in the American West, 1850-1950*. Lincoln, Nebraska: University of Nebraska Press, 1997.

In Memoriam

Alice Gottschalk Downer

1913 – 2008

Lovelock native, inspiring teacher, roll model, and long time NWHP member Alice Downer passed away on May 21st in Reno. Last March she celebrated her 95th birthday at a party in Carson City with friends and family. Alice and her daughter, Kay Sanders, had worked together for years researching their Cornish and Scandinavian family histories, including those of Alice's mother Martha who was born in Bodie, California in 1881 and moved to Reno in 1882. Kay had taped memories of her mother's experiences growing up in Lovelock, special holiday remembrances, and the years during WWII when her husband, Bob, was in the U.S. Navy serving mainly in the South Pacific. During the war years Alice taught at the old Anderson School in Reno. Altogether she taught for 25 years, mostly in California in El Dorado and Alpine Counties.

A dedicated community activist, Alice was a member of several organizations and worked tirelessly as a volunteer. At age 94 she attended and voted at her 2008 political caucus at Jack's Valley School near her home in Carson Valley. Current events, mostly involving politics and the environment, were of great interest to her. She kept up with the news on a daily basis. She was a 1934 Normal School graduate of the University of Nevada and earned a Bachelor's Degree in Education at California State University at Sacramento.

She is survived by a daughter, two sons, five grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, and numerous nieces and nephews. She is greatly missed.

Kay Sanders

An Invitation to Our NWHP Members

Sometimes it bears repeating that all members are most welcome to our NWHP North Steering Committee meetings that are held throughout the year.

If you have a concern or just wish to watch your officers in action please feel free to join us. Because of our organization's small office space, we often meet at a committee member's house so we would ask that you let one of your "committee" members know you will be attending the meeting so you can be given the meeting location, date and time. You may call one of the North Region Committee members whose names are listed on the back of the NEWSLETTER or call or email the State office to leave a message for someone to contact you regarding said meeting location and time. The NWHP telephone number is 786-2335 and the e-mail address is NWHP@pyramid.net. Meetings are held approximately every two months.

As in any organization the greater the member involvement, the more effective that organization can be in carrying out its mission. To expand the exposure and awareness of NWHP, your steering committees are looking for members to actively help in the following areas:

- Writing biographies
- Research
- Newsletter
- Membership
- Oral Histories
- Fundraising
- Computer literacy
- Education (presentations, workshops etc.)
- Office/Archival assistance (cataloging photos, records etc. in preparation for future digitalizing)

- Living History (Chautauqua, drama presentations)
- Program Planning/Tours/Fieldtrips
- Any other skills/talents you have that might be used to further our mission

A questionnaire requesting member input was previously sent to you but we thought we'd again include it in this newsletter to keep our needs in the forefront. If you returned your questionnaire, you may rest assured we have your name and the project(s) you volunteered for. If you didn't return your questionnaire, please consider volunteering for one or more of the above projects. Send in your questionnaire, call 786-2335 and leave a message or e-mail NWHP@pyramid.net and let us know what project(s) you will help us with.

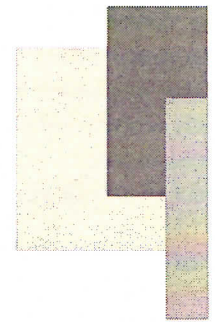
Since our 1996 NWHP inception we've had a great track record of promoting the importance of gathering, disseminating and publicizing the histories of Nevada women. Our organization has published three women-related books, promoted public women's awareness through NWHP speakers/Chautauqua presentations and school programs/seminars, held bus tours and conferences on Nevada women related topics as well as successfully lobbying, and fundraising for the three Sarah Winnemucca statues that reside in the Washington D.C. Capitol Rotunda, the Nevada State Capitol and the Las Vegas City Hall.

Our latest project in obtaining visibility for women of Nevada was having an inscription placed on Nevada's flag stanchion at the National Women's Military Museum in Washington D.C. The inscription recognizes the support pro-

vided to our nation by the women of Nevada who served in the Military or a Military related support service during times of war. Our Web site @ www.nevadawomen.org is our most visual tool in reaching the general public on various areas of women's history. This source includes biographies of many Nevada women and is constantly being updated and added to. In addition there is a "how to" section on writing a biography to encourage the general public to record their personal histories.

Current projects include fund raising to obtain a Helen J. Stewart statue in the Southern Region and obtaining oral histories of Nevada women in the North to add to our women's biography collection in the Jean Ford Research Center. We are a total volunteer organization. All of these projects have taken countless hours of volunteer effort. That volunteer spirit and effort is as important to us now as it when we were formed. As Jean Ford would say, "there is still much left for us to do." And now we are asking you once again, in what way can you contribute to our mission?

Patti Bernard
North Region Secretary



Patty Cafferata 2008 Roll of Honor Award Recipient

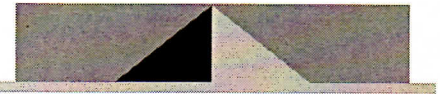
Author, columnist, teacher, lawyer, Nevada State Treasurer, District Attorney for three rural Nevada counties, Nevada State Assemblywoman, and historic researcher, Patty Cafferata has an amazing list of accomplishments. She received the NWHP Roll of Honor award at our March 2008 conference for making a difference in the gathering of Nevada women's history.

Books she has authored include, *The Goldfield Hotel: Gem of the Desert*; *Mapes Hotel and Casino: The History of Reno's Landmark Hotel*; and *Lake Manion: Home to Reno's Founding Families*. She also co-authored her mother's memoirs, *Barbara F. Vucanovich: From Nevada to Congress and Back Again*.

Patty wrote a short biography on Martha Barlow, former Mineral

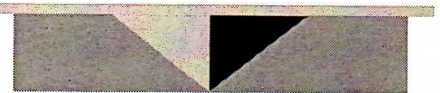
County Clerk, for the NWHP Web site. She researches women in her stories, focusing on a building to write the history. Two of her articles, one on recall elections and one on minority office holders, were published in the Nevada Secretary of State's *Political History of Nevada: 2006*.

In September, 2007, Patty was appointed as the Executive Director of the Nevada Commission on Ethics. She is married to Dr. Treat Cafferata and the mother of two daughters and one son. NWHP is proud to include her in our Roll of Honor and look forward to her future publications increasing our knowledge of women's roles in Nevada's history.



If you are looking for some more interesting reading - don't forget to check the NWHP Web site!

- Biographies
- Letters From Nevada's Daughters
- Informative Links



Potpourri

Thanks: to Marlena Hellwinkel and the Douglas County Historical Society for donating a copy of their Women's History Remembering Project collection of biographies of Douglas County women. Five local women were featured in the event which took place in 2007. Our Jean Ford Research Center contains each year's collection and appreciates the effort this group of dedicated volunteers has made to honor those selected and publish the biographies.

Congratulations: to Dene Chabot-Fence, NWMP member and presenter at the 2008 State

Conference, for winning the 1st place gold medal at the Air Race Classic '08, a race from Montana to Massachusetts. The Air Race Classic is an all-women transcontinental air race that began in 1929. Chabot-Fence is 75 and her co-pilot Gloria Maes is 79.

Condolences to: Marilyn Dousharm, an NWHP member whose husband Al passed away on July 13, 2008 in Reno.



New & Rejoined Members

Patty Aragona
Becca Doyle
Stefani Evans
Joan Fragakis
Terry Gialketsis
Henri B. Hale
Dianne Romano
Ruby M. Rowan
Helen Studwell
Elsa Torgerson
Mary Wycoff



Project News

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Visit the Nevada Women's History Project Online at www.nevadawomen.org

Membership Application

Individual Membership: Dues \$25/Year Student Membership: Dues \$15/Year
Organizational Membership: Dues \$50/Year
Corporate Sponsor: Dues \$250/Year

Name: Individual or Student _____

Mailing Address _____

City/State/Zip Code _____

Home Phone _____ E-Mail _____

Organization or Corporate Sponsor _____

President or Director _____

Mailing Address _____

City/State/Zip Code _____

Phone _____ E-Mail _____

Name of Representative to NWHP _____

Make a Donation to NWHP: Amount sent

Mail to NWHP: North members – 770 Smithridge Dr., Ste. 300, Reno, NV 89502
South members - 4755 S. Pearl St., Las Vegas, NV 89121-6007

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QUESTIONNAIRE

August 2008

Name: _____ Address: _____

Question 1: Would you prefer to receive the NWHP Newsletter digitally?

☐ YES

☐ NO

Rationale: Due to increased costs of production, the NWHP Newsletter Committee is considering recommending that members download and print the digital version available on our Web site. Members who do not have computer and printer access would continue to receive paper copies via mail.

Question 2: Volunteer opportunities: Please check all areas of interest to you.

- ☐ Office assistance
- ☐ Membership
- ☐ Newsletter
- ☐ Program planning
- ☐ Fundraising
- ☐ Archives (papers, records, photos, etc.)
- ☐ Education (conferences, seminars, workshops, presentations)
- ☐ Living history, Chautauqua, drama
- ☐ Oral history: tapes, manuscripts, videos
- ☐ Research and writing biographies
- ☐ Tours, field trips
- ☐ HerStory, Pink Tea
- ☐ Other: _____

Question 3: Ideas and suggestions for consideration by the officers and committee members of the Nevada Women's History Project.

Thank you for your participation.

Please fill out and return this form to:

NWHP, 770 Smithridge Drive, Suite 300, Reno, NV 89502

