

Our Mission

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.

Featured Historic Nevada Woman: Marcia de Braga

At a glance:

Born: April 14, 1937, Los Angeles, California

Died: March 24, 2010, Fallon, Nevada

Maiden name: Marcia Smith Murdock

Married: Lyle de Braga, February 11, 1955

Ethnic group: Caucasian

Principal city and county of residence and work: Fallon,

Churchill County, Nevada and Carson City, Nevada

Major fields of work: Rancher, District 35 Nevada Assemblywoman, Newspaper Columnist

Other role identities: wife, mother, grandmother, civic leader, political activist, political poet, Silver State International Association Rodeo co-founder, Nevada State High School Association Rodeo secretary, author and bird watcher

room Stillwater schoolhouse.

Members of the Bahai faith, "our parents taught us the values of tolerance, acceptance, equality for all and compassion", Marcia wrote in her autobiography.

She graduated from Churchill County High School. At age 17 she married her best friend, Lyle de Braga, on February 11, 1955 and moved to a Stillwater District ranch. She was able to enjoy the birds and wildlife that frequented the marsh and wetlands and belonged to the Stillwater ornithology organization.

Adopting her husband's ranching lifestyle, she loved children: her own,



Photo credit: Courtesy of the Lahonton Valley News

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Remembering Marcia de Braga (1937-2010)

their friends and others. *In Focus*, the Churchill County Museum publication, described her family life: "Settled in their nest, they began a family. Their first child was Lael de Braga (Casey); Francis Gail was born too early, too small, and passed away Christmas Day. A few years later Jaime de Braga (Dellera) came along. Next to join the clan was Joe de Braga and finally Mitzi de Braga (Corkill)." (Married names are in parenthesis.)

On weekends, she might switch hats to go to rodeos, 4-H activities or other school and sports activities. She and her husband co-founded the Silver State International Rodeo for youth who failed to qualify for the National High School Rodeo. She was also State High School Rodeo secretary for 21 years.

As her children matured, Marcia broadened her horizons, first as a newspaper columnist for the *Lahontan Valley News*. In "Solemn Column", a weekly humorous depiction of a rural Nevada family's life, she amused and eulogized them to her readers. She loved history and wrote "Dig No Graves – a Churchill County History —1964" where readers could see her political satire gift. She loved to read her political poetry especially at Democratic gatherings such as the Jefferson-Jackson dinners. As a remembrance for her family, she wrote an autobiography emphasizing important events.

She realized the importance of local level politics and began organizing other campaigns either as a campaign manager or assistant. She spoke on Democratic issues at small or large local gather-

ings at friends' homes or at larger local county conventions. One of her last forays in this area was as Northern Nevada rural campaign manager for Jack Carter, son of U.S. President Jimmy Carter, who challenged Sen. John Ensign (R-NV) in 2005.

Marcia entered the state political arena in 1991 when she became a District 35 Democratic candidate and won a Nevada Assembly seat. She became the voice of the "cow counties" both on radio and on the campaign trail as she did her homework on agriculture, mining and other pertinent issues while chairperson of the Assembly's Committee of Natural Resources, Agriculture and Mining. During her 10 years in the Assembly, she sponsored many bills to help rural Nevada. Yet de Braga reached across the aisle to push for legislation to benefit her district. Sen. Mike McGuiness (R-Fallon) and she sponsored a bill requiring sky diving businesses to obtain business licenses in the 1999 session.

Bipartisan oriented on a statewide level, she and Sen. Dean Rhoads (R-NV) instituted land use summits to gather mining companies' and mining associations' information. Assembly Bill 380 passed in the 1999 session after much opposition from federal lobbyists and legislators including Sen. Harry Reid (D-NV). The bill affirmed previous Nevada's interpretation of the priority date of water rights, clarified surface water rights and set specific ways to prove water rights were not abandoned. It settled decades of infighting among various Truckee River water user groups.

Joe Dini, 1999 Nevada As-

sembly speaker, commented that "de Braga was not afraid to stand up for what she thought was right."

She received the 2001 National *Good Housekeeping* 'Women in Government' award as a "Nimble Negotiator". Other awards from organizations on national, state and local levels would follow.

In 2001 she co-sponsored AB 267 to place a Sarah Winnetucca statue in the National Statuary Hall in Washington, D.C. Nevada Women's History Project members requested she sponsor legislation and they raised funds for the sculpture. She also presented bills preventing state government from "borrowing" employees retirement funds and protecting children from parents who abused each other.

In 2001 she proposed a bill allocating \$500,000 for environmental and biological testing in Fallon to seek the causes of the children's leukemia cancer. The bill was approved by an Assembly committee prior to U.S. Senate cluster hearings on April 13, 2001. Our U.S. Senate delegation plus Sen. Hilary Clinton (D-NY) held a U.S. Environmental and Public Works hearing. The group discussed the need for a non-fee Nevada cancer registry and agreed to seek federal funding for research. Although she was defeated in the 2001 election, she still fought for "her kids" behind the political scenes. Leukemia had sickened 17 Fallon children and killed three.

Thanks to her persistence, in November 2002 the late Gov. Kenny Guinn announced that nearly \$7 million in state loans and grants

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Nevada's First Ladies and Dat-So-La-Lee Presentation

Patti Bernard and Grace Davis were recently invited to give presentations to the Sagebrush Chapter of the Nevada DAR.

In Patti's presentation she spoke about the importance of obtaining biographies of Nevada women. She introduced the group to our NWHP Web site by showing a biography of one of the Nevada women from our "Biography" page. She then highlighted the web section of our ongoing First Lady project and spoke about the difficulty of finding information about this special group of women. Sadly, we often know more about an inaugural gown than about the woman who wore it. She showed that by utilizing Web site sources that included newspapers and state and

national census information, an informational bibliography has been compiled about each Governor's wife. She provided the audience with some examples found on our Web site.

Grace spoke about the history of Louisa Keyser, who was better known as Dat-So-La-Lee. She talked about the numerous contradictions that various historical sources have given us about this woman. Dat-So-La-Lee came from a culture with no written history at a time when her Washo culture was being destroyed. Almost all of what we know about her is from the white culture's viewpoint. Some sources estimated the Washo population at about 1,200 in 1800 and only about 400 by 1892, so we are very fortunate to have

had even a small bit of her history preserved. Today, Dat-So-La-Lee is considered by many to have been one of the greatest of American Indian basket weavers.

Both discussions addressed the lack of women's histories in the history books we and our children read. The presentations illustrated the importance of preserving women's histories for future generations and how oral histories can play a vital part in preserving the past.

Grace Davis

(Continued from page 2)

were approved to help Fallon meet federal arsenic and tungsten level water supply standards by building a water treatment plant. Later in 2003, Sen. John Ensign (R-NV) and Sen. Reid announced a \$100,000 distribution in federal funds to supply children with bottled water until the treatment plant was completed.

On March 27, 2010, Sen. Reid announced more research is needed to find possible environmental causes and effects of tung-

sten exposure. "Marcia de Braga and the parents just wouldn't give up," Reid said. "They wouldn't back down in their efforts to help these children. Marcia wouldn't quit pushing."

It is ironic because Marcia had battled cancer for many years and died peacefully March 24, 2010.

Researched and written by Carol Clanton. Posted to Web site November 2010.

Articles for the June 2011 newsletter are due to Newsletter Editor, no later than May 27, 2011.

***E-mail her at:
edwardsqueenbee@
yahoo.com***

Program Director

A big Welcome to Donna Clonz. She has taken over the position of Program Director.

Save the Dates

March 8, 2011 International Women's Day Dinner

March 25, 2011 A Nevada Women's Rally - Celebrate, Challenge, Change – Reno City Hall Plaza

May 7, 2011 Pink Tea at the Governor's Mansion. 2:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.

June 4, 2011 Annual Luncheon will be on Saturday June 4, 2011.

State Membership Report

At the end of the year, our membership included:
 135 Individual Members
 10 Organizational Members
 1 Corporate Member
 10 Honorary Members
 33 NWF Honorary Members
 It is through your ongoing support that our organization continues to preserve women's histories. Thank you to all our members for both your hard work and financial support!

Nevada Day Parade

I am happy to say that we received **first place** in the Historical Category of the Nevada Day Parade 2010! And I want to thank everybody for making this so much

fun! Here are some photos



showing Heidi and Kathy in the Rhino and Maggie on the left, two of the 99's in their airplane costumes, and Lisa-Marie and Kathy Noneman and



New & Rejoined Members

Please welcome our newest members:

- Carolyn Chapman
- Cathy Fulkerson
- James Hulse
- Nancy Luther
- Patty Wallace

MEMBERSHIP REMINDER

Your dues must be current to receive the next NWHP Newsletter.

"mystery girl", sorry I can't remember her name, she's so cute!

We really showed Carson City "Nevada Women in Aviation", and were recognized along with the High Sierra 99's!!! Thank you to everybody!

Heidi Englund

First NWHP Luncheon

The first NHWP luncheon was held on January 15, 2011 at The Atlantis Hotel-Casino. 57 NWHP members and guests (many from AAUW and the Washoe County School District) attended this event. Dr. Mariah Evans from the University of Nevada, Reno gave a very interesting presentation regarding the number of books in the home and their relationship to children developing a love of reading and a path to higher education. Simply put, more books in the home equals more education. Many attendees shared experiences regarding their favorite childhood books and related how reading became such an important aspect in their adult lives. President Lisa-Marie Lightfoot coordinated a book drive in conjunction with the luncheon and 290 books were collected for distribution within the Washoe County School District.

In lieu of a February luncheon, the NWHP will participate in the March 8th International Women's Day 2011 Scholarship Fundraiser.

Marcia Cuccaro

State Treasurer's Report

At the end of 2010, the NWHP had \$29,181.65 in the bank. Yearly net income was \$3,753.71, this included \$2,557.36 from the November Author's Luncheon. The yearly budget will be finalized in the first quarter of 2011.

Newsletter Report

The December newsletter was published and mailed out shortly thereafter. Committee members Lori Edwards, Marcia Cuccaro, Carrie Porter, and Joyce Cox ably assisted in the proofing of the contents. Margee Richardson applied labels produced by Grace Davis, and mailed them out from the post office.

The next newsletter is anticipated after the Pink Tea. Deadline for assignments will be June 6, 2011. A reminder to those working on the newsletter will be sent out before the June meeting. Volunteers are needed to help with the publication, so if any of you are interested in helping please call Lori @ 775-297-3605

Note for Newsletter Articles

Please send articles as part of an e-mail, not as an attachment. My computer transfers them better that way. A plea for help! Volunteers are needed to help with the publication. Call Lori @ 775-297-3605

Please let Marcia know if you want a digitized copy rather than a paper copy.

Lori Edwards

Save This Information for Missing Newsletters

For missing printed newsletters, please contact Grace Davis @ 853-3200 or kandgdavis@pyramid.net.

For missing digital newsletters, please contact Marcia Cuccaro @ 883-1454 or vergato1@sbc.global.net. One of the most common problems with the digital newsletters comes when an e-mail address is changed.

International Women's Day Scholarship Fundraiser Dinner - March 8, 2011

Plan to attend this March 2011 Nevada Women's History Project program---the fifth annual International Women's Day Scholarship Fundraiser dinner--- on March 8, 2011 at the Atlantis Casino Resort, 3800 S. Virginia Street, Reno, from 5 to 8:30 PM. Tickets are \$40 in advance and \$50 after February 25, 2011. Please use the registration form in this issue of the NWHP newsletter and mail your check to UNR before the deadline. Feel free to pass the registration forms on to anyone you think may be interested in attending as all proceeds go to fund women's scholarships at UNR, TMCC and WNC.

We are still looking for volunteers to help at the event and for donations of raffle baskets or items to put into baskets. If you can help with the event or have community

contacts that might donate to the event, please contact Donna Clontz at donnanorml@yahoo.com or phone (775) 240-2745.

This year, March 8 is also Mardi Gras, so we'll celebrate the 100th anniversary of International Women's Day in Mardi Gras style to the music provided by the Spanish Springs High School Jazz Band during the cocktail hour from 5 to 6 PM. One of our keynote speakers is Dr. Linda Curcio-Nagy of UNR's History Department, who specializes in Latin American culture. We are still working to add a professor from TMCC to our lineup for the evening.

We are working again with the Northern Nevada International Center (NNIC) to bring international guests to each table to discuss international issues with their table-

mates. This year, we are trying something new: thirty local women will be chosen as International Women Citizen Ambassadors via a nomination process at NNIC. Nominees must have lived or hail from another country and have interesting and exciting information and stories to share about their country. Simply submit their names and 100 words or less about why they should be a Citizen Ambassador.

You may nominate yourself or someone you know who is willing to share her stories during dinner. Citizen Ambassadors will receive a free dinner and a plaque and will be honored at the event. Please see the nomination form in this issue of the newsletter or visit NNIC's Web site at www.nnic.org

Donna Clontz

International Women's Day 2011 Scholarship Fundraiser Dinner

Tuesday, March 8, 2011 - 5:00 to 8:30 P.M.
Atlantis Casino Resort, 3800 S. Virginia Street, Reno
Tickets: \$40 in advance / \$50 after February 25

Please make your check to "Board of Regents" with "UNR Women's Studies" on the memo line, and mail it and your registration form to Gender, Race & Identity Program, UNR, Mail Stop 0046, and Reno, NV 89557 **by February 25 to avoid late charges.** Questions? Call or e-mail Michelle at (775) 784-1560 or michellek@unr.edu.

DINNER REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____

Address _____

E-mail/phone _____

Vegetarian Meal Requested _____

I cannot attend, but am sending a donation of \$_____ to support the event.

Please send my portion of the proceeds to (check only one):

_____ Truckee Meadows Community College

_____ Women's Studies University of Nevada Reno

_____ Western Nevada College

2011 Pink Tea at the Governor's Mansion, May 7, 2011

The Nevada Women's History Project will hold their annual Pink Tea at the



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

The opposition – men – could be very disruptive at meetings where the constitutional amendment was being discussed. The women knew that men would not be interested in attending teas so they came up with the idea of using the color pink in their decorations. No macho man would

attend a frilly pink, femininely-decorated affair. However, should the men attend, discussion of strategies for gaining the vote would cease, and the women would turn it into a full-blown tea.

Governor's Mansion on May 7 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. It will be in honor of Governor Kenny Guinn. He was Nevada's most popular Governor serving from 1999 to 2007. Prior to being elected Governor he was the Chairman and CEO of Southwest Gas, prior to that he was Superintendent of Schools for Clark County. He also served one year as President of UNLV for the salary of \$1.00 per year.

Early in the 1900s, women in America were determined to get the right to vote. There was a lot of opposition to the proposed constitutional amendment to allow women to vote.

In 1920 women gained the right to vote and obtained full participation in our political process, 72 years after the first women's suffrage convention was organized in order to achieve equality.

Ten years ago, the Nevada Women's History Project decided to honor the dedicated women who worked diligently to get the right to vote by recreating the "pink



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



Former Governor and First Lady Kenny and Dema Guinn at the 2003 Pink Tea.

tea." The first tea was so successful that the Pink Tea at the Governor's Mansion became an annual tradition. The tradition of wearing period costumes is encouraged.

The 2011 Pink Tea at the Governor's Mansion will be on May 7, 2011, from 2:00 to 4:00

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NWHP Woman of Interest

Mary Peck Butterworth (July 27, 1686 - February 7, 1775) was born in Rehoboth, Massachusetts, when it was part of the Plymouth Colony. This was during the conflict known as King Phillip's War, which was one of America's bloodiest wars. It was a time of resistance and great bravery on the part of the Massachusetts Indians and the settlers. In 1711, she married John Butterworth, Jr. This was a time of mixed political loyalty and by the time of her marriage she, along with other members of her family was counterfeiting money. She used her fine needlework skills,

attention to detail and organization acumen to counterfeit at least eight types of bills. By 1716 she had perfected a method of counterfeiting the 5 pound bills of Rhode Island. Her new money was made by placing fine muslin on a genuine bill, transferring the image using a very hot iron to clean paper. The muslin was then quickly destroyed. One of her brothers made the pens from crow feathers for lettering the bills. Other brothers and their wives were part of the kitchen workshop industry. Friends in Rehoboth, including the town clerk and

members of the county court bought her bills for half the face value. When one of the accomplices confessed to the governor, Mary's house was searched but nothing was found. The confessions of the accomplice were impugned and charges were dropped. Today we do not praise counterfeiters, but Mary Butterworth's actions led to a few days in jail; no bloodshed, and no conviction. Mary Butterworth lived to be 89 and died in Rehoboth in 1775.

First Lady Biography/Bibliography Project up on NWHP Web site!

The web page facet of our First Lady Project is off and running. The information was uploaded onto our Web site in November of 2010. The web page has three main areas: an initial introduction and overview of the project, an index page where each First Lady is listed alphabetically, and a specific women's entry page.

The following information is listed for each woman. An "At a glance" section gives basic vital statistic information and a photo-

graph start each entry. Her biography, if it has been written follows, for those women who died before 1925 and whose biography has not yet been written, a copy of their obituary has been printed. Newspaper obituaries after that period cannot be published until we receive copyright permission and the reader is informed of that fact. The concluding feature of each woman's entry is an extended bibliography of informational sources thus found. Each bibliography will be updated

periodically as new sources are uncovered.

Our decision to upload our First Lady project onto our Web site was to provide information to the public about our First Ladies in order to encourage the writing of in-depth biographies for each woman. In publishing this information, our hope is that it can be utilized not only by researchers but that it also provides a listing of sources for use by students at all levels for school reports.

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First Lady Biography/Bibliography

We have already fielded inquiries from individuals requesting additional information. We are continually searching for new information and welcome all potential writers to submit biographies on those women whose biographies are missing. We urge all our newsletter readers to go to this new section of our Web site www.nevadawomen.org and view this new addition.

Patti Bernard

Donations

"Thank you" to all of you for your generous donations to support the Nevada Women's History Project.

- Marcia Cuccaro
- Helen De Marco
- Marshal Fronefield
- Patrick Hickey
- Cherry Jones
- Nancy Hudson
- Cynthia Pickett
- Pat Tripple
- Holly Van Valkenburgh

And a special thank you to the Sagebrush Chapter of the Nevada DAR.

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2011 Pink Tea

p.m. and Governor Kenny Guinn will be honored. For reservations for this wonderful event send a check for \$30.00 with the form below.

Isabel Espinoza



Heidi Wood portrayed Mrs. John Mackay.

Pink Tea Reservation Form

Enclosed is my check for \$_____ for _____ persons attending the Pink Tea. (\$30.00 per person)

Please make the check payable to the Nevada Women's History Project and mail to Isabel Espinoza, 122 Lake Glen Dr., Carson City, NV 89703.

If you cannot attend, a donation to the Nevada Women's History Project will be greatly appreciated.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone number: _____ E-mail: _____

Attendance is limited so please get your reservation in early!

Attendance is limited so please get your reservation in early!

Five New Biographies Added to NWHP Web site

Since January of 2010 we have uploaded fifteen new biographies to the NWHP Web site. We invite you to check them out. Those added include: Myrtle Beatrice Anker, Dessie Lola Bailey, Edith Naomi Bernard, Kittie Wells Bonner, Marcia de Braga, Charlotte Rowberry Ellsworth, Maude Frazier, Theresa Smokey Jackson, Molly Flagg Knudtsen, Emma Wixom Nevada, Maria Garifalou Pavlakis, Jesusa Guridi Saval, Alice Lucretia Smith, Nancy Elnora Sparks, and Hazel Bell Wines.

One of the primary missions of the NWHP is to do research and writing on Nevada women. Anyone who would like

to join us in this quest, is welcome to do so. Please give me a call and I will give you some tips on how to proceed. Also, there are forms on our Web site in the Biography section that can be downloaded for your information and guidance. My e-mail address is: kay.sanders@live.com; phone number, 747-1740.

In addition to a general Biography section, we added one to include only Nevada's First Ladies. Patti Bernard is the editor of this section. Thus far, it contains the names and general information on most of Nevada's First Ladies. Four of them have complete biographies: Liz Pittman, Marjorie Russell, Gail

Sawyer, and Nancy Elnora Sparks.

A total of ninety-one Nevada women's biographies are included in the general biography section. A doable goal for 2011 would be to add nine more to bring the total to 100 by the end of this year. Let's work to make this goal a reality.

My thanks to all of you dedicated researchers, writers, and proofers for the time and talent you have spent over the years to make the history of our women available to everyone. Anyone with experience who would teach other members how to work with Ancestry.com, please call Kay Sanders at 775-747-1740.

Kay Sanders

Celebrate, Challenge, Change - A Nevada Women's Rally - March 25, Reno City Hall Plaza

The 2011 national Women's History Month theme is "Our History is Our Strength". As part of the Nevada Women's History Project's celebration of Women's History Month in March 2011, we are collaborating with the International Women's Day Committee of Northern Nevada, Truckee Meadows Community College Performing Arts students and other talented performers in Northern Nevada to stage a one-hour women's rally on the Reno City Hall Plaza on Friday, March 25 from 12

noon to 1 PM. The event is free and open to the public with special outreach to all workers on their lunch breaks to join in the festivities at the City Hall Plaza located on First Street between Virginia and Center Streets.

The production of songs, poetry, instrumental music, and improvisational skits will feature TMCC's Musical Theater Touring Company and NWHP members portraying several historic Nevada women. The event will showcase Nevada women's accomplishments

throughout history and will touch on contemporary women's issues via appearances by top Nevada women leaders.

This rally will also provide an opportunity for the public to donate online to Northern Nevada non-profit organizations of their choice via the Community Foundation of Western Nevada, UNR Foundation, TMCC Foundation and WNC Foundation.

Donna Clontz

If you are a citizen of another country or have lived abroad for a significant amount of time, you (or someone you nominate) could be one of the 30 women we will invite to share their stories with their tablemates at the International Women's Day dinner on March 8. Women Citizen Ambassadors will receive dinner at the Atlantis on March 8 and will be honored at the event. If you have stories and interesting information to share about your life abroad, have traditional dress

that you are willing to wear to the event, and in 100 words or less can describe below why/what makes you (or the person you are nominating) a citizen ambassador, please submit the form below to the Northern Nevada International Center, 821 N. Center Street, Reno, NV 89501 **by February 25, 2011**. You can also e-mail your nomination to nnic@unr.edu. For more information, please check the NNIC Web site at www.nnic.org or contact Corazon at 775-784-6847.

Women Citizen Ambassador Nomination Form

Name

Country_____

Reason for Nomination (100 words or less)

Contact phone number

Contact e-mail

NWHP

Leadership

Steering Committee:

Lisa-Marie Lightfoot: Chair

Marcia Cuccaro: First Chair

Mary Anne Convis: Past Chair

Patti Bernard: Secretary

Lynda Wycroff: Treasurer

Holly Van Valkenburgh:

Project Review

Heidi Englund: Programs

Lisa-Marie Lightfoot: Webmaster

Lori Edwards, Marcia Cuccaro, Joyce Cox, and Carrie Porter: Newsletter

TBD: Marketing and Publicity

Grace Davis: Membership

Education, Outreach and Review

Kay Sanders and Carrie Porter:

Jean Ford Research Center

Carrie Porter: Archivist

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E-mail NWHP@pyramid.net

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

Membership Application (Calendar Year)

Individual Membership: Dues \$30/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 _____

☐ Please send newsletter digitally to above e-mail address. DO NOT 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 \$ _____

Total Amount sent \$ _____

Mail to NWHP: 770 Smithridge Dr., Ste. 300, Reno, NV 89502

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