

News February, 2012

Volume 17, Number 1

OUT! 

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.

# NWHP Chair's Report

I wish a happy and prosperous 2012 to all our members and Through all the tragic friends. financial and disastrous events suffered here in Nevada, I'm sure you are all feeling empathy for those who have suffered and grateful for your own blessings.

As an organization, the Nevada Women's History Project documents the many early Nevada women who also suffered losses of loved ones, homes and financial loss. I think our mission of sharing the lives and stories of strong women in Nevada history from the past teaches the important role Nevada women have to once again rebuild a prosperous great state of Nevada. I admire so many of our members who step up to help their families, friends and their communities.

On a happy note, we have lots New to NWHP, of good news. Rachel Sa-onoy, a UNR Market and Management major, joins us to expand our marketing abilities and take us into the next century. Ms. Rachel Sa-onoy graduates in May 2012. She is a part-time marketing coordinator for Laughton Company and she previously worked as a marketing and web strategist at Custom Business Solutions. Her Social Media expertise will be launching us in the Social Network world and access to other marketing opportunities. Her youth and energy is refreshing and her talent, kindness, generosity and caring about women and NWHP make us very fortunate to have her support. She's a "Mover and Shaker," of a new group of young people.

We have lots of learning and fun where NWHP is involved, e.g. International Women's Day, "Alice's Amazing Adventure" lecture and luncheon, Annual Meeting and a new election of officers, annual Pink Tea and more.

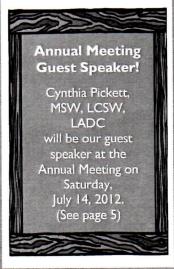
Thank you to all those members who have already renewed and thank you to our exceptional Executive Committee for their tireless efforts.

Onward. Lisa-Marie Lightfoot



Rachel Sa-onoy

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Membership Application

### NWHP Nominating Committee

The NWHP nominating committee (Kathy Noneman, Grace Davis, Kay Sanders, Patti Bernard, Carrie Townley Porter and Marcia Cuccaro) met to discuss a slate of officers for 2012-2013

Mona Reno was contacted by the nominating committee and she has agreed to serve as Chair. Lynn Bremer has agreed to serve as Vice-Chair. The committee thought perhaps there were other members who might be interested in serving on the executive committee so although a backup slate of officers has been identified, we would be very encouraged if there were members who might like to on the Executive serve

Committee in any one of the following positions:

**Treasurer** - Maintains a current record of expenses, assets and liabilities; bank deposits; and financial reports.

Recording Secretary - Records, transcribes and delivers copies of the minutes of every regularly scheduled and special meeting; maintains an official Minutes Record Book containing copies of the minutes.

Membership Chair - Maintains membership lists, solicits and accepts annual dues.

Program Chair - Oversees scheduled programs and ensures reporting is submitted in a timely fashion. The program chair is not responsible for developing and organizing each meeting. Two people could co-chair this position.

If you are interested in one of the above positions or have questions about one of these positions, please call Marcia Cuccaro (883-1454) or email her at <a href="mailto:vergatol@sbcglobal.net">vergatol@sbcglobal.net</a> by February 29th, 2012.

# Nevada Women's Fund New Director & CEO

Nevada Women's Fund announces the selection of their new Director and CEO - Isabelle Rodriquez Wilson

After a very aggressive and thorough search and selection process, the Nevada Women's Fund is pleased and honored to introduce our new president and CEO, Isabelle Rodriguez Wilson. Isabelle comes to the Fund from the Boys & Girls Club of North Lake Tahoe where she served as Executive Director for the past seven years. Prior to her moving to Reno in 2005 she lived and worked in Washington, D.C.

Isabelle brings to the Fund over 30 years of experience and



Isabelle Rodriguez Wilson

expertise in management and administration, public affairs, public relations, marketing, media strategies and major event planning for corporations and national non-profit organizations.

She has enjoyed a fascinating

career working with international dignitaries, members of Congress, high-level federal and state government officials, corporate and special interest groups and entertainment celebrities.

Isabelle started her career in our nation's capital as a legislative analyst developing and implementing marketing and advocacy strategies to lobby the Legislative and Executive branches of government. She then served the White House as Senior Advisor to the President of the United States. In this role she directed the elaborate details associated with the domestic

(Continued on page 3)



Saturday, April 14, 2012
Luncheon and Chautauqua
presentation: ALICE'S
AMAZING AUTO
ADVENTURE

Where: Bartley Ranch, Reno, NV Time: TBA

Come help us greet Alice Huyler Ramsey as she stops off in Reno to visit with us a bit on her way to the west coast, as she continues her journey to publicize her book Veil, Duster and Tire Iron. Hear her recount the stories about her 1909 automobile trip across the United States when she became the first women to drive cross-country from New York to San Francisco - a journey of 3,600 miles and of which only about 150 of those miles were paved.

She will entertain you with her experiences in traversing roads with washed-out bridges, roads that were pot holed and muddy; and as road maps were pretty much non-existent West of the Mississippi, roads that had to be navigated by the use of local landmarks. Hear her describe how she and her friends surprised find were themselves surrounded by a Native American hunting party, complete with drawn bows and arrows, in Eastern Nevada, You will gasp with amazement at the many resourceful methods that were needed to keep her Maxwell Touring Car running in

### Save the Dates

order to race across the country in 59 days with only 11 flat tires, and marvel at her spunk in even attempting this endeavor.

In addition to hearing Alice you will enjoy a delicious Italian lunch of pasta, salad and delicious deserts.

As it is yet unknown the exact time when Alice will arrive in Reno from Ely, information on program time and luncheon price will be announced at a later date.

# May 19, 2012, Saturday: LIVING HISTORY FAIRE

Mark your calendars for Saturday May 19, 2012. Nevada Women's History Project along with other history groups will be partnering with the Ist The Living History Faire, sponsored by TRAMP. Traditional American Music Project, and the City of If you're interested in Reno. helping or need more information, please contact Lisa-Marie Lightfoot at 849-2050, lightfeet@charter.net or Carrie Porter 322 - 1830. a t tpareno@charter.net

# June 23, 2012, Saturday: ANNUAL PINK TEA

Mark your calendars for Saturday, June 23, 2012 for the annual NWHP Pink Tea at the Governor's Mansion. Details will be coming. If you're interested in helping or need more information, please contact Mary Anne Convis at 888-9867.

July 14, 2012, Saturday: ANNUAL MEETING (See page 5.)

(Continued from page 2)

#### **NWF New Director & CEO**

and international event activities, travel, protocol and media for President Clinton and First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Isabelle has also produced several major national events such as the dedication of the William J. Clinton Presidential Library in Little Rock, Arkansas; the Million Mom March; THE MARCH: Coming Together to Conquer Cancer; and Children's Defense Fund, STAND FOR CHILDREN March to name only a few.

Isabelle will start at the Fund on February 13 and will soon be reaching out to introduce and familiarize herself with the community. Please join the NWF board and staff in welcoming Isabelle to the Fund.

Malena S. Raymond Development Coordinator Nevada Women's Fund

The Nevada Women's History Project, which is a program of the Nevada Women's Fund, joins in welcoming Isabelle Rodriquez Wilson. We look forward to continuing our historic cooperative relationship with the Nevada Women's Fund under her leadership.



# Year End Membership Report

# Membership as of December 31, 2011

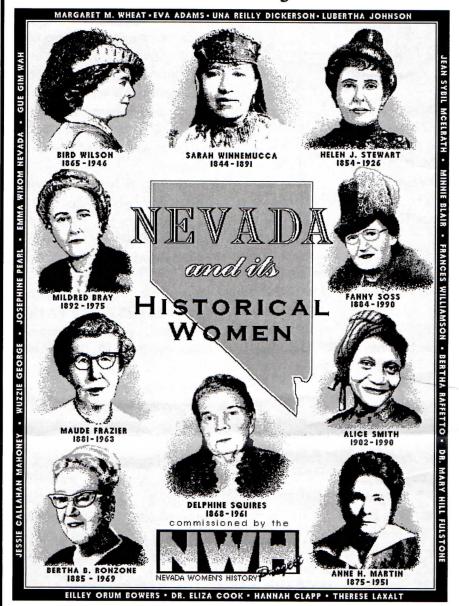
Individual Members	119
Organizational Members	7
Corporate Members	I
Honorary Members	10
Honorary NWF Members	30
Museums & Libraries	21

New & Rejoined Members

- · Carol Ann Cooke,
- Bonnie Drinkwater
- Linda Sekiguchi
- · Barbara Wall

submitted by Grace Davis

## NWHP Coverlets For Sale



Multi-colored - Size: 48" x 68"

COST: \$50.00 plus \$10.00 if mailed

May be picked up at the NWHP office (by appointment)

	ORDER FORM:		
Number @ \$50.00 each	@ \$50.00	Total Amount enclosed	
If mailed, @ \$60.00 each	@ \$60.00	Total Amount enclosed	•
Name:			
Address:			
City . State and Zip Code:			

Remit checks to: NEVADA WOMENS HISTORY PROJECT 770 Smithridge Dr., Suite 300, Reno, NV 89502-0708

#### Donations

Reminder: Since the NWHP runs strictly on dues and small fundraisers, our organization is always very, very happy when someone makes a donation in excess of luncheon costs or dues. Every penny counts and sometimes it seems we are really counting those pennies. Remember if you donate to the NWHP you receive a donation letter for your taxes so it's a win-win situation. Donations can be sent to our office: NWHP 770 Smithridge Dr., Ste. 300, Reno, NV 89502 Simply note "donation" on your check in the memo line and you will soon receive a letter which will allow you to use the donation as a deductible expense on your taxes.

#### DONATIONS RECEIVED FROM OUR MEMBERS - THANK YOU!

- Faye Anderson
- Karen Benna
- Kathleen Brown
- Marcia Cuccaro
- Helen De Marco
- Marsha Sidwell Fronefield
- Martha Gould
- Nancy Hudson
- Cherry Jones
- Mary Lee

- Lucina Lea Moses
- NASDAR (Nevada Sagebrush Chapter)
- Enid Oliver
- Billie Pickett
- Kay Sanders
- Maggie Thomsen
- Patricia Tripple
- Peggy Twedt
- Sharon Zadra

### Treasurer's Report

The yearend 2011 financial report for the NWHP shows a net loss of \$3,767.03 for the whole year. Total income for the year was \$13,062.74 which included \$4,200.00 in dues and \$5,773.00 in program income. Other income sources are donations and a small amount of interest income.

On the expense side the significant items include rent which is \$3,600.00 for the whole year. This expense used to be shared with the south. webtech expense \$1,221.00 . Meetings and expense totaled program \$6,001.22. We spent \$1,674.00 to purchase the woven throws which will provide us with some income next year. Total expenses for the year were \$16,829.77

Our bank account balance at the end of the year is \$25,237.21.

Linda Wycoff Treasurer

# Annual Meeting—July 14, 2012

Cynthia Pickett, will be our guest speaker at the Annual Meeting, place to be announced. Cynthia Pickett is a Licensed Social Worker (LCSW) and a Licensed Addictions Counselor (LADC) with a thriving psychotherapy practice in Reno. She assists in healing adolescents, adults and families who are struggling with a variety of mental illnesses and environmental difficulties. She is an expert in drug/alcohol addictions, domestic violence and sexual trauma. Cynthia is currently writing a book and speaks to groups. More details will be ;provided when the place and time are announced.

If you know of anyone who might be willing to come speak to our group please call or e m a i l Marcia Cuccaro:

883-1454 vergato l@sbcglobal.net

### Featured Historic Nevada Woman:

#### Wilhelmine Heidtman Springmeyer

At a glance:

**Born:** 1847, Halle, Germany **Died:** 1928, Carson Valley,

Nevada

Maiden name: Wilhelmine

Heidtman

Married: Herman Henry

Springmeyer

Children: 10, all but one

survived

Primary city and county of residence and work: Carson

Valley, Nevada

Major fields of work: mother,

wife, ranch owner

My grandmother, Wilhelmine Heidtman, was born in 1847 in the small town of Halle. Germany. In school she met Herman Henry Springmeyer, a stubborn, red-haired boy three years older than her who sometimes helped her with her lessons. After he grew up, he joined the Hussars, fought in the Austro-Prussian War, and survived to come home to Halle and to Wilhelmine. When he told his family that he planned to marry her, they forbade it because of the social difference between them. (The Heidtmans were landless woodcutters; the Springmeyers were landholding peasants.) Herman's response to this family edict was, "She's a damn sight finer than I am." This family opposition to their

This family opposition to their marriage was one of the primary

reasons for the young couple's decision to emigrate to America. Their destination - the Carson Valley in the new state of Nevada - because the brother of one of Herman's friends had written that this was a good place. Altogether there would be five on this journey to the New World, Wilhelmine, Herman, and three of his friends. In 1868 they sailed first to New York, then to Nicaragua, where they crossed the isthmus. Wilhelmine later called it a "hard journey," and coming as it did from a stoic young woman who rarely took notice of adversity. that laconic phrase undoubtedly conveyed many difficulties. Reaching the Carson Valley at last, the two of them worked on the ranch belonging to H. F. Dangberg, the brother of Herman's friend, until Herman had learned the country and decided where he would buy his own

Family tradition holds that the landowner's son and the woodcutter's daughter married at a simple ceremony in Virginia City. In the spring of 1871, they moved to their own ranch, which combined fine, level land bought from Dangberg and Nesmith in the heart of the valley (the present Mack Land and Cattle Company south of Minden). Wilhelmine began keeping house in a primitive cabin with uncurtained windows. She was there alone, her husband out



Wilhelmine Heidtman Springmeyer & Herman Henry Springmeyer (Zanjani Collection)

working in the fields, when the Washoe Indians appeared suddenly at the windows, clad only in rabbit skin blankets and breech cloths. Wilhelmine was frightened. They peered in at her, laughing uproariously at every move she made and lifting up their children to see the hilarious spectacle of a young housewife doing her domestic chores. Later they would pitch their rabbit skin tents on an unused tract of land near the river; the men would work for H.H. (as Herman had become known); and their children would play with the young Springmeyers. A few years later a spacious white frame house in a yard shaded with apple trees replaced the early cabin. Working together for the next forty years, H. H. and Wilhelmine developed the Springmeyer Ranch

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

#### Historic Nevada Woman

into one of the finest in the valley, with a dairy, alfalfa fields, and Hereford cattle (the first in the valley). The fields filled with horses and the house with children, blue-eyed children with brown or red or chestnut or golden hair. Once when the midwife was late, Herman delivered the baby, with his trusted German medical book open on the bed beside Wilhelmine. All their ten children save one lived and thrived to grow up and marry and have children of their own. Edna, the youngest, blondest, brightest, prettiest child had skipped across their lives like a little fairy and died in a shotgun accident.

Wilhelmine, assisted by her daughters, spent most of her day cooking for the family and supervising the preparation of meals for the hired men in the cookhouse. Sometimes, when the perpetually unreliable cooks left without notice, she had to cook for about twenty men, both local boys and itinerant workers, including a roving band of Civil War veterans who came tramping up the lane in spring when the season of heavy work began. In time life became easier for her. The hard, early days in the cabin were past; the older children were grown; and she no longer carried a baby in her arms as she had done for almost twenty years of her life. But suddenly she, who had never sickened nor faltered in all those years, became seriously ill with quinsy. H. H. took her posthaste to Dr. Black in Carson City. The doctor took one look and declared that her tonsils must be removed immediately. Having no instruments with him, the doctor sharpened his knife on a grindstone in the backyard of his friend Mr. Ardery. Then, under the apple tree, he cut out her diseased tonsils without benefit of anesthesia. Although Wilhelmine had lost a good deal of blood and felt violently ill, she would never have thought of pausing to rest and recuperate so far from the ranch. Shaken but determined. she sat beside her husband in the open spring wagon for the drive of more than sixteen miles back to the ranch. Never before and never again would that drive seem so long. When they crossed the alkali flats near the Cradlebaugh Bridge and the afternoon wind began to blow, she, with the open wound in her throat, had to breathe the acrid white dust billowed around the wagon. Later, with her sons and daughters clustered around her bed, she whispered, "I would rather give birth to ten more children than make another trip like that one."

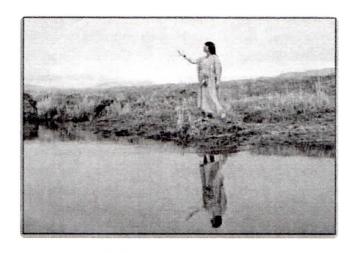
Later she was remembered not only for the pioneer spirit that brought her to a new land so different from everything she had known, but also for her sweet nature. Her son George wrote that when he was growing up on the ranch his mother was "full of the joy of life and living." After nearly forty years on the ranch, Wilhelmine and H. H. retired to a little turreted lacobean house painted charcoal gray on the shady back streets of Carson City, where they lived with their daughter Ann. The ranch remained in the good hands of their daughter Clare and her husband, Maurice Mack, Wilhelmine died in 1928 from pneumonia, and the car that carried H. H. to visit her grave each week could not go fast enough to suit him. In a short time, he lay where he had been for all their years together - beside her.

Researched and written by Sally Zanjani, granddaughter of Wilhelmine Springmeyer. Posted to NWHP Web site April 2009.

Articles for the June 2012 newsletter are due to Newsletter Editor, no later than April 23, 2012.

E-mail her at:
hovava@juno.com

## Dianna Maria de Borges As Sarah Winnemucca Hopkins



Sarah Winnemucca Hopkins

1844 - 1891

A Northern Paiute Indian Woman whose many accomplishments includes: 1<sup>st</sup> Female Native American Author: *Life Among the Paiutes-Their Wrongs and Claims (1883)*, a Human's Rights Activist, Lecturer and Promoter of Peace.

Her statue graces the Nevada State Capital Building in Carson City, as well as the Nation's Capital Building in Washington DC. She is a symbol of our State of Nevada's true 'Battle Born' spirit.

Listen as she speaks a tale of bravery and courage. What can 'One Little Indian Woman' accomplish in the face of her nation's struggles and her fight for peace in a time of conflict? Her strength of spirit speaks of love: Her love of people, her love of family and her love of home.

Encouraging and Inspiring.

Great presentations for visitors to the California and Nevada areas, also for membership drives, social & historical groups and age appropriate for schools.



Dianna Maria de Borges 775-783-0015 Post Office Box 5905 Stateline, Nevada 89460 dianna@sleighride.com

### 2012 Performances

March 25 - 2pm - 4pm Douglas Co. Museum Woman in History

> March 27 – 7pm Gold Hill Hotel, Virginia City Dinner 5:30pm

### Register for International Women's Day Thursday, March 8, 2012 6:00 - 10:00pm

When:

Thursday March 8, 2012 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM PST Add to my calendar

Where:

Harrah's Auto Museum 10 S. Lake Street Reno, NV 89501



"It is possible, reading standard histories, to forget half the population of the country. The explorers were men, the landholders and merchants men, the political leaders men, the military figures men. The very invisibility of women, the overlooking of women, is a sign of their submerged status."

HOWARD ZINN, A People's History of the United States



More info: Joy Orlich Chair, International Women's Day Zonta Club of Greater Reno joyorlich@sbcglobal.net You're Invited to celebrate Women's History Month and International Women's Day at Harrah's Auto Museum!

Enjoy an evening of cocktails and hors d'oeuvres,

a game of "clue", silent auction, live entertainment and dancing to the world music sounds of Jahzilla.

Including appearances by:

**Alice Huyler Ramsey** - first woman to drive an automobile across the Untied states (portrayed by Kathleen Noneman)

**Helen J. Stewart** - "First Lady of Las Vegas" (portrayed by Carrie Townley Porter)

Julia McCann Scrugham - First Lady of Nevada 1923-1927 (portrayed by Barbara Finley)

You'll also meet modern day pioneering women who will discuss how opportunities have changed since the passage of Title IX.

Proceeds go toward college scholarships for local women. Consider sponsoring one or more students to attend

\$65 - Includes admission to the Museum and one free drink

\$100 - Sponsor-a-Student - One Adult + One student.

\$500 - Title IX Sponsor - 5 adults or 10 students

(Other sponsorship opportunities are also available)

\$50 - Exhibit Table

Donate a silent auction gift basket valued at \$150 or more and receive free exhibit space!
Contact Jennifer Massie <a href="massie@unr.edu">jmassie@unr.edu</a> or Maribeth Stumpf <a href="massiemassie@unr.edu">m-stumpf@nvdetr.org</a> for details.

#### **Register Now!**

I can't make it, but I'd like to make a donation

Invite your friends
This will be a night to remember!

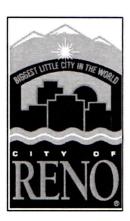
What is Zonta?

Founded in 1919, Zonta International is a global organization of over 30,000 executives and professionals in 63 countries working together to advance the status of women worldwide through service and advocacy.



The Living History Faire is a FREE educational event sponsored by the City of Reno. At this fun and entertaining event, there will be dozens of performances, demonstrations and informational booths. Learn about the many cultures and traditions here in northern Nevada.

Musical Performances
Japanese Drumming
Hispanic Music & Dance
Cowboy Music
Barbershop Quartet



#### Bring history to life!

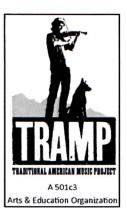
Stimulate interest in cultural diversity! Explore your own cultural heritage!

Dozens of Live Demonstrations
Magician
Blacksmithing
Dutch Oven Cooking
Spinning & Weaving
Traditional Musical Instruments
Reno Balloon Race

To learn more, visit the website:

http://www.livinghistoryfaire.org
Or send an email to vicki@kwilliams.org
Or call 775-626-4319
This event is sponsored by
The City of Reno
and
The Traditional American Music Project, Inc.

Historical Re-enactors
Civil War Battles
Gunfighters
Wyatt Earp
Sarah Winnemmucca



# Oral History Committee Update

Martha Gould graciously agreed to co-chair the oral history committee with me. My area of interest remains Nevada Native American women and the First Ladies biographies/web page. Martha's area of concentration is obtaining additional women's oral histories. She recently completed local attorney and Part-Time Family Court Master Kathy Noneman's oral history, which is now in its transcribing phase. Audio recordings of many of our oral histories can be heard at our lean Ford Research Center in Reno. For a listing of our oral histories, please contact the center at 786-2335.

Editing the Patricia A. Tripple oral history tapes into a "Patricia A. Tripple Retrospective" book form is nearing completion. We are hoping for a publication date sometime in the fall. Pat was the first Dean of the University Of Nevada School Of Home Economics who also was elected to serve in the 1995 Nevada State Legislature. Additional information about the book will be forthcoming in a future Newsletter.

NWHP member Julie Forbes and I traveled to Carson City last fall to interview First Lady Kathleen Sandoval. Her biography will be written and added to our First Ladies web page. She is the first woman to

continue in her professional career as a program director with the Children's Cabinet in Reno, in addition to meeting responsibilities associated with being First Lady. Unlike our other First Lady biographies, hers will be one that will be labeled "in progress". Our interview occurred within months of the Sandoval's moving into the Governor's Mansion. Mrs. Sandoval discussed adjustments the family was making in order to retain as normal a family life routine as possible while living in the much less private Governor's Mansion. She also spoke about the challenges in maintaining a balanced life as she assumed her new First Lady role. She was firm in her commitment that her family always came first but she was enthusiastic about the opportunity she has been given to make an impact in her new role within our state. organization's goal is to also interview Mrs. Sandoval at the end of her First Lady tenure to obtain a first-hand "before" and "after" set of First Lady Interviews.

> Patti Bernard Oral History Co-Chair

2011 - 2012 NWHP Leadership **Steering Committee:** Lisa-Marie Lightfoot: Chair Marcia Cuccaro: Vice-Chair Patti Bernard: Secretary; Editor First Ladies Biographies Linda Wycroff: Treasurer Holly Van Valkenburgh: Newsletter & Project Review TBD Program Chair Lisa-Marie Lightfoot: Webmaster TBD: Marketing and Publicity Grace Davis: Membership Kay Sanders and Carrie Porter: lean Ford Research Center Carrie Porter: Archivist Kay Sanders: Editor Web Site **Biographies** Martha Gould: Oral Histories

#### Some NWHP News Contacts

Holly Van Valkenburgh Tel: 775-884-4246 E-mail: hovava@juno.com

NWHP — State Office 770 Smithridge Dr., Suite 300, Reno, NV 89502-0708

Tel: 775-786-2335 - Fax: 775-826-6865

E-mail: NWHP@pyramid.net

NWHP is a program of the Nevada Women's Fund



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Dues must be current the continue to receive the continue to receive the NWHP Newsletter.

Nevada Women's History Project 770 Smithridge Dr., #300 Reno, Nv 89502

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

Individual Membership: Dues \$30	Application (Calendar Year) 0/Year • Student Membership: Dues \$15/Year \$50/Year • Corporate Sponsor: Dues \$250/Year
Name: Individual or Student	
Mailing Address	Committee and committee of
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Home Phone	E-Mail
Please send newsletter digitally to a	above e-mail address. DO NOT MAIL.
Organization or Corporate Sponsor	The state of the s
President or Director	
Mailing Address	<u> </u>
City/State/Zip Code	The second section of the second
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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