October NWHP Event
Toni Lowden - Artist in Action

Antonia Lowden’s artwork is included in 3 permanent collection locally: the Nevada Museum of Art, The City of Reno, and the University of Nevada’s Pennington Science Building. She was awarded the Governor’s Arts Award in 2000 for Service to the Arts. She continues to share her interest in textiles by teaching in the Museum School during summer, and in the Verdes Art League in Arizona in winter.

My work is a personal journey of exploration into the world of color and texture. I approach my day in the studio with meditation, music, and a beginner’s mind. Sketches, journal notes, and images from travel inspire my next series, many taking many months to expand at their own pace, sandwiched between family and community involvement.

Like creating any artwork, it begins with a challenge. A “what if …?” A question without an answer. It ends with the success of creating something original. The part in between involves happy accidents, fun, and work inspired by a treasure trove of found objects that carry you through lost hours of delight. Boundless possibilities of expression will always exist.

-Antonia

Saturday, October 12, 2019
Toni Lowden Studio
1080 Meadow View Lane (off Plumas St.)
11:30-1:00
Refreshments will be served.
NWHP-members $20, Non NWHP-Members $25

Send check to PROGRAMS-NWHP
at 770 Smithridge Drive, Ste. 300, Reno, NV 89502
National Suffrage Database

Three years ago, in 2016, the NWHP was contacted by Dr. Joanne Goodwin, UNLV Professor of History, about a national suffrage database being spearheaded by Dr. Thomas Dublin as SUNY, Binghamton. His goal was to post a free access database of biographies from all across the nation of women active in the equal suffrage effort. That database now exists. [https://documents.alexanderstreet.com/c/1009677121](https://documents.alexanderstreet.com/c/1009677121)

It is titled “Biographical Database of NAWSA Suffragists, 1890-1920.” The NAWSA is the National American Woman Suffrage Association and is the publisher of the database. This is an excerpt from the introduction to the database.

“In this process we sometimes discovered that there was already an organized statewide effort to commemorate the 2020 centennial of the passage of the 19th Amendment, and that we could coordinate our efforts with those already underway in particular states. In this way we joined state efforts in Pennsylvania, Virginia, Texas, Wyoming, Nevada and New Jersey and we are sharing work and double posting the resulting biographical sketches. We are also coordinating with the Schlesinger Library and the National Park Service, discussing ways that we might collaborate to disseminate the biographical sketches more broadly.”

NWHP is proud to have made Nevada a role-model in the commemoration efforts, through our Nevada Suffrage Centennial website [www.suffrage100nv.org](http://www.suffrage100nv.org). We thank the Nevada Humanities for the initial grant to create that website in 2013.

Nevada submitted 40 biographies to the database, representing all 16 existing counties in 1914. Not all of our biographies are loaded on the database yet. They will all be up by 2020. Members of NWHP wrote 21 of the biographies! Dr. Dana Bennett was the other major contributor, having written 13 biographies.

Many thanks to those who participated to this wonderful project.

Suffrage Website grant

In early 2018 the NWHP received a grant from the Estelle J. Kelsey Foundation to enhance the Nevada Suffrage Centennial...
website. This grant is being used to add the biographies written by the NWHP for the national suffrage database. We will also link to the database for the biographies written by others.

The grant is also being used to add full text of primary analytical articles. This includes articles written by Anne Martin, Mary Austin, Dr. Anna Howard Shaw, Sara Bard Field and other contemporaries of the 1914 movement. The Out West Magazine, August 1914, has an extensive collection of articles titled “The Clash in Nevada” which has several photos of active Nevada women that will be added.

Articles written by Nevada scholars in the years since will also be added. Phillip I. Earl, Jean Ford, Dr. James Hulse, Gail Duwe, and Austin E. Hutcheson all have valuable works to add.

We will also add sections for the Nevada Men’s Suffrage League and for the anti-suffrage effort in Nevada.

Patti has been researching original sources to identify the people in the picture with Governor Boyle while he is signing the resolution for ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, to grant woman suffrage.

She has most of the people identified. This will be a significant contribution to other agency projects as you will see below.

**Nevada Day Parade**

NWHP will have a presence in the 2020 Nevada Day Parade. We are keeping our entry a secret for now, but we will need over 100 people to participate in this entry. It will be very fun. You must be able to walk the entire parade route. We will also have a float that people can ride on. Please plan to be with us to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of national women suffrage.

**Nevada Commission for Women**

The Nevada Commission for Women has formed the Nevada Women’s Suffrage Celebration Committee. NWHP Past-Chair Mona Reno is a member of this committee.

To follow the activities of this committee please see [https://nv19thamendmentcentennial.com/](https://nv19thamendmentcentennial.com/)

One of the first activities of this Committee is to recreate the photo of Governor Boyle signing the ratification legislation. Governor Sisolak will sign a commemoration proclamation in the recreation photo. The State Museum is locating the original furniture and the photo will be taken in the old Supreme Court chambers in the Capitol Building on February 7, 2020. This photo will then be placed with the original 1920 photo in an exhibit at the Nevada State Museum, to commemorate the suffrage centennial. NWHP has requested to have two women in the recreation photo.

Sue Davis has been very involved in another of the Suffrage Celebration Committee activities. She and Patti Bernard are on the Essay and Art Contest subcommittee. The theme of these contests is “How Did Women’s Suffrage Change American Society?” The Essay Contest is for Grades 6-8 and 9-12. The Art Contest is for Grades K-2, 3-5, 6-8 and 9-12. There are $100 1st Place cash prizes for each category and $50 2nd Place cash prizes for each category. Entries must be postmarked by Monday, December 9, 2019. Application and Guidelines are at [https://nv19thamendmentcentennial.com/essay-and-art-contest](https://nv19thamendmentcentennial.com/essay-and-art-contest) The Nevada Secretary of State Advisory Committee on Participatory Democracy will judge the entries. The contest theme is “How did Women’s Suffrage change American Society?”
2019 NWHP Annual Meeting
By Patti Bernard

The NWHP Annual meeting was held at the Toiyable Golf Club on a clear, summer, Saturday, overlooking beautiful Washoe Valley. A short business meeting recapping the past years accomplishments and goals began the meeting. Officers Patti Bernard, NWHP Chair, Kathy Noneman, Vice-Chair; Marcia Cuccaro, Recording Secretary, Michelle Gardner, Treasurer; and Sue Davis, Membership; were then affirmed for the 2019-2020 year.

A delightful Chautauqua presentation of Annie Hudnall Martin followed. Author and local historian Cindy Southerland did a magnificent job portraying this woman who lived at the same time as suffragist, Anne Henrietta Martin. Although similar in names, each held diametrically opposite views on the subject of suffrage. Annie became the 1st kindergarten teacher in the state, owned and edited a newspaper in Carson City (one of the very few Nevada women to do so). Her editorials often opposed the prospect of suffrage. She later, was appointed Superintendent of the U.S. Assay office in Carson City and became the first woman nationally to hold that federal position.

The group enjoyed the expertise of Cindy in her presentation of this multi-talented woman and whose biography can be read on our website www.nevadawomen.org.

The Washoe Valley setting seemed quite appropriate as the historic Virginia & Truckee’s train track, came very close to the present-day golf club as one of its several northern Nevada railroad routes. Annie routinely took the train from Carson City to Reno both for business and pleasure.
Jean Ford
Annual Wildflower Hike
By Marcia Cuccaro

NWHP members traveled to the two sites of the Donner Party tragedy - Alder Creek, where part of the Donner group first camped in the winter of 1846-47 due to an early and severe snowstorm and the fact the Donner party arrived late to the Sierras because of poor planning and poor decisions by the party leaders. The interpretive materials located along this gentle 1/3-mile trail pay powerful tribute to the strength of the Donner women, who died here while most of their children survived. The group also looked for flowers but found very few.

Janice Hoke, Gordon Bremenkampf, Patti Bernard, Lisa-Marie Lightfoot, Carolyn Wilson, Bruce Lightfoot

Equal Rights Amendment Status in 2019
By Marcia Cuccaro

During the 2019 session the Virginia Senate passed an ERA resolution but advancing the resolution to the floor of the House of Delegates the resolution fell one vote short. This fall every seat in the Virginia Senate and House of Delegates is up for election. On November 5, 2019, each and every registered Virginia voter has the opportunity to cast his or her vote for candidates who will ratify the Equal Rights Amendment.

One more state is needed to reach 38, the number required to ratify the amendment to correct the historical exclusion of women from the Constitution. Virginia is widely expected to be that state! The VAratifyERA campaign is working overtime to ensure Virginians are aware of the importance of this November’s election and to know which candidates support ratification.

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NWHP – Membership Report
September 2019

As of September 5, 2019, we have 126 members in good standing, 10 honorary members, 3 life members, 6 organizations and send our newsletter to 100 Nevada libraries and museums.

NWHP has a new Best Friend Forever.
Thank you Vida D. Johnson-Keller.

We welcome a new organization, the Zonta Club of Greater Reno.

Thank you,
Sue Davis, Membership

NWHP – Financial Report
September 2019

The Year to Date, as of September 9, 2019 financial report shows a bank and PayPal balance of $67,129.05, fixed assets of $429.75, liability of $0.00 and a net year to date income of $768.15. The total equity plus liability of the NWHP is $67,555.77.

Michelle Gardner, Treasurer
Featured Historic Nevada Woman:

TERRY LEE WELLS

Reno philanthropist remembered for lifelong volunteerism

At a glance:

Born: March 9, 1941
Died: July 4, 2002
Maiden Name: Terry Lee Wells
Race/Nationality/ethnic background: Caucasian
Married: William Floyd (1963)
Children: W. Randall Wells
Primary city and county of residence and work: Reno, Washoe County, Nevada
Major Fields of Work: Volunteerism and philanthropy

People traveling on South Center Street in Reno see the sign: Terry Lee Wells Nevada Discovery Museum. They might bring their kids for a visit, or drop in themselves to view a science exhibit.

Most of them probably don’t know who Terry Lee Wells was or why her name is attached to the Discovery. But those who knew Terry Lee as a child attending Reno schools, or later in life when she devoted much time to philanthropic endeavors, remember a woman who was fun-loving, a little outrageous and generous.

“She was a friend from the time we were 9 years old; we met in Mount Rose school,” said Terry Lee’s long-time friend Mimi Patrick. “The first time I met her, she offered to punch me in the nose. She got me on the side of the nose. I’ve no idea why. I think she was trying to dominate me, but it did not work, and we became friends instead.

“She went to college, I was gone from Reno for a while, then came back, and we picked up our friendship again,” Patrick said.

Terry Lee Wells was born March 9, 1941, in Reno to Howard A. and Lucia Wells. Her father was president of Wells Cargo, a Reno trucking company. She attended Mount Rose Elementary School, Billinghurst Intermediate School and graduated from Reno High School in 1959.

In 1955, at Billinghurst, she became a member of the newly-founded Junior Miss Auxiliary of the Washoe Medical Center Women’s League. This early example of her volunteerism involved feeding hospital patients, delivering flowers and running errands between hospital departments.

After college at Washington State University, and back in Reno, she volunteered for organizations such as the Reno Service League, which became the Junior League of Reno. She was a member of the Assistance League of Reno and a board member of the Nevada Self Help Foundation. Wells also helped create the Nevada Diabetic Association for Children and Adults.

She married William Floyd of South Carolina in 1963. The couple made their home in Reno. After their divorce, she married a second time. Terry Lee had one son, Randall Wells, who died in 1994 at age 27.

Lifetime friends recall Terry Lee as fun-loving, slightly mischievous and generous.

“We met when we were in second grade at Mount Rose School. We were in Brownies together,” said Marilouise Brayer. The friends belonged to the Reno Junior Ski Program and skied at Sky Tavern every Saturday morning during the winter.

When the girls were in about fourth grade, they decided they wanted to make some
spending money. So they went door-to-door in their neighborhood, asking people if they had any work that needed done.

“At a house near me – I think it was a boarding house – the woman there said we could do dishes,” Brayer recalled. “You should have seen the pots and pans.” After about two hours working “like little demons,” the woman handed each girl a single quarter.

“Terry had a great sense of humor,” Brayer said “We stayed friends all through high school. At reunion times, I remember her being there. We were a close-knit group.”

After graduating from the University of Nevada, Brayer married William Floyd and lived away from Reno for more than 45 years. But she and Terry Lee saw each other when Brayer visited Reno.

“I was living in Plumas County (Calif.) when Terry Lee died, but I was at her funeral,” Brayer said. “I wish I could have spoken about her because I was her first really close friend.”

“Terry Lee was flamboyant in her clothes and jewelry,” Patrick said, “and she gave parties.”

“We were very close,” Patrick said. “She could be extremely generous. Then turn around and be stingy as hell. That was part of the flamboyance, I guess.”

Later in life, Wells and Patrick sometimes traveled together, including a trip to Ireland.

“I think it was in Limerick; there were many hotels related to the railroads,” Patrick said. “We were staying in a hotel with a big skinny bathtub. I took a bath and told Terry how great it was. She went in and was in there a long time.”

Patrick recalled hearing whooshing noises coming from the bathroom. “Then I heard a funny little voice saying, ‘I’m stuck.’”

Terry Lee was “a large lady,” Patrick said. “I had to help her out. If I hadn’t gone in, she’d have still been in the bathtub.”

Janet Lerude met Terry Lee in high school.

“Mostly, I think of her later years,” Lerude said, “when she was sick with diabetes. She loved tapioca, so I made that for her, with very little sugar.”

When Terry Lee died, Lerude chose a picture that hung in Terry Lee’s bedroom to remember her.

“It’s a picture of Notre Dame and a bridge over the Seine River. It’s a nice oil painting. I think of her when I look at it.”

Terry Lee was always ready for a party, despite her health problems, Lerude said.

“She was full of fun and loved to have fun,” Lerude said.

Wells founded the Terry Lee Wells Foundation in 1999, according to the Discovery Museum website. After her years of supporting Nevada organizations focused on the underprivileged, especially women and children, the foundation was designed to carry on that legacy and to fulfill her dreams of “reaching out, touching hearts, changing lives.”

“It began as a small foundation,” said Eloise Esser, an original Foundation board member along with Terry Lee and her cousin, actress Dawn Wells. After Terry Lee’s death, the foundation inherited about $13 million and enhanced its charitable work.

The concept for the Nevada Discovery Museum came from Chris Riche, said board member Lynn Atcheson. According to the museum website, in 2004, Riche, a local entrepreneur, ran a feasibility study and determined that Reno needed an educational organization like the Discovery, so he formed a board and began raising the funds.

“He had an incredible business plan,” Atcheson said. “He kept me in the loop as he was progressing. I was not on the foundation at the time, but recommended to (board member) Charlotte McConnell that they look at this. The foundation then gave a small gift.”

After Atcheson joined the board, “we talked for quite a while and decided that the Discovery Museum would be something that fit for her. They needed a large gift. We committed to $4 million and asked that it be a naming gift.”

So Terry Lee’s name was added to the Nevada Discovery Museum name. “The museum was something Terry Lee, with her determination to contribute to things for children and families would have loved,” Esser said. The foundation donations proved to motivate other donors, she said.

“We donated right along since then,” she said.

Continued on page 8
The foundation also contributed to a variety of non-profits, including diabetes organizations, groups that helped women and children, and scholarships.

The foundation “was to give money wisely to projects that made a difference to women and children,” Atcheson said. “We set a five-year goal. It timed out about right with the gifts we gave.”

“Terry Lee had innocence about her,” Esser said. “She was wonderful to be around. She was a good spirit.”

In May 2018, the foundation was dissolved, but its legacy is represented by its partnership with the museum, which opened in 2011. The Terry Lee Wells Foundation has given more than $8 million to the museum, providing support for a variety of museum programs and initiatives.

Researched and written by Susan Skorupa Mullen

Sources of Information can be reviewed with her online biography.
https://www.nevadawomen.org/research-center/biographies-alphabetical/terry-lee-wells/

**Terry Lee Wells Foundation Grant Will Fund Legacy Page**

By Patti Bernard

A $10,000 Terry Lee Wells Foundation grant, in part, will finance a Nevada Legacy page that will be added to our website by the end of 2019. The public will be able to upload histories-memories-obituaries of any deceased individual, female or male, who was a Nevadan by birth or by choice. There will be a one-time fee for this web hosting. We are looking forward to having this component added, and it is our hope that this web feature will ultimately contain much ‘unofficial’ history by highlighting the accomplishments of citizens who have made unheralded contributions to our state.

**New Life Member**

NWHP is very pleased to welcome a new Best Friend Forever, Vida Johnson-Keller.

Vida was interviewed by the NWHP in 2016 for the Women of Nevada Highway 50 project, through the John Ben Snow Memorial Trust grant.

Vida is a Real Estate Agent in Silver Springs, Nev. and is a past and current Lyon County Commissioner. Her first term as commissioner was from 2011-2014 and she was re-elected to District 2 in 2018.

https://www.nevadawomen.org/keller-vida-silver-springs-lyon/

Thank you Vida for your life membership and for the confidence in the NWHP it represents.

**Elizabeth Beale-Clancy**

Elizabeth Beale-Clancy will be the first legacy posted on the upcoming Nevada Legacy page funded by the Terry Lee Wells Foundation grant. Her family has submitted her story and pictures. The website will allow others to post their legacy stories of loved ones with a connection to Nevada.

Gwendolyn Clancy has produced the video for our interviews for the last several years. She is a talented and creative videographer. Her mother was an inspiration to her. In Mrs. Clancy’s obituary we learn that she had a business in Reno for many years, “Photography by Elizabeth,” and that she “was a passionate and talented photographer, teaching her children darkroom developing skills and the mysteries of light hitting film.” Gwen certainly learned these lessons well.
Investigating Women’s History Can Make for Wonderful Surprises

By Patti Bernard

One of the tasks that I do is researching documentation for the writing biographies of women we would like to add to our website www.nevadawomen.org. This activity is part of our mission to write about Nevada women’s accomplishments, for both the enjoyment of our readers, as well as providing documented information for writers of Nevada’s history. Sometimes we start out with one goal in mind, (e.g., to document suffrage involvement, professional activity, or simply importance to family and community), but information leads us down another pathway of why the woman should be included. A perfect example of this is the accomplishments of Miss Emma Vanderlieth.

Since 2020 is the centennial of the passage of the 19th amendment (Nevada passed suffrage in 1914), members of the project have been working on researching and producing biographies of women active in this time period, and adding information to our website www.suffrage100nv.org

Little specific documentation about Emma’s suffrage activities could be found outside of her name being listed in several newspaper suffrage articles. But her name was prominent in many articles dealing with a program of the Nevada Federation of Women’s Clubs, called the Student Loan Fund. The NFWC was an organization of statewide suffrage importance, as it was instrumental in planning the February 7, 1920 special legislative session that met and ratified the 19th amendment. But what did the Student Loan Fund have to do with suffrage? I, and our bio writer, Marcia Cuccaro, set out to investigate this student loan fund.

What we found amazed us and gave super credence to why this woman, lost in Nevada’s history, should be added into the state’s historical record. First, a bit of background.

In the early 1900s if a child was lucky enough to go to college, the male child was the one the family directed all effort and financial assistance to. Expectations for females lent themselves just to finding a suitable husband and providing a happy environment for her husband and children. She could engage in social activities outside the home like entertaining and women’s clubs.

But what if the female in the family also wanted a higher education, and the family didn’t have funding for both? Emma’s answer to that quandary would prove to be monumental for women (later men) of this state.

In 1909 she proposed to the organization that they start a “student loan fund” that would give financial assistance to women that didn’t have the means to pursue their dream. As the NFWC was a statewide organization, the State Board approved such a project and funding activities of the clubs, community organizations, and individuals began immediately. Even the state of Nevada lent their financial support to this project. The fund was a no interest loan given, with no specific repayment timeline, but with the expectation that the loan would be paid back as soon as the woman was financially able to do so. Very few did not meet that expectation in those early years.

For the next 19 years the student loan project became Emma’s life, and the loan fund continued on for decades after her death. She died in 1920 just months before seeing all women gain the right to vote and thus to have some say in determining the course of their lives.

So, what was Emma’s real importance to the people in the state of Nevada? Her main activity didn’t fit squarely under “suffrage” such as a legislator or protest marcher, but this woman’s dream had indirect influence on suffrage, through enabling women to gain a college education, with all the resulting opportunities such a diploma provided. Emma’s influence in Nevada’s history was monumental. Her biography has just been added to our website. I urge readers to gonevadawomen.org and read about Emma https://www.nevadawomen.org/research-center/biographies-alphabetical/emma-vanderleith/
**15 Countries That Gave Women the Right to Vote Before the United States Did**

From the website [2020centennial.org](https://2020centennial.org)

1893: New Zealand  
1906: Finland  
1908: Australia  
1913: Norway  
1915: Denmark

The Russian Revolution and World War I, directly and indirectly, led to these other countries passing full women suffrage.

1917: Russia  
1918: Lithuania  
1918: Canada  
1918: Austria  
1918: Latvia  
1918: Georgia  
1918: Germany  
1918: Poland  
1918: Hungary  
1918: Estonia

For more information see the full article at Reader’s Digest [https://www.rd.com/culture/countries-gave-women-right-to-vote-before-u-s/](https://www.rd.com/culture/countries-gave-women-right-to-vote-before-u-s/)

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**Saturday Events**

There will be NWHP events coming soon.

We haven’t got detailed event plans yet, so look for more information coming in the near future.

Facebook, our website, your email or your mailbox will have information as we complete the next group of programs.

If you’d like to help us with events we would love to have you on board!
Thank you for your ongoing support of the Nevada Women’s History Project. You are vital to maintaining our educational website of women’s biographies and interviews, having special events and to offset the operational costs of the NWHP.

Please notice that we have added a lifetime membership category, Best Friend Forever. Membership comes with an event discount and a newsletter. All levels of membership may be tax deductible since NWHP is an educational non-profit.

Membership Levels

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I also enclose an additional donation for the NWHP.

________________________ General Fund
________________________ Endowment Fund

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Send this membership form to:
Nevada Women’s History Project
770 Smithridge Drive, Suite 300, Reno, NV 89502

Thank you for your Membership

2019-2021
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NWHP now on Amazon Smile

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We much appreciate your support!